



Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz

Reports to the People of the 81st Assembly District

DECEMBER 2018

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Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz 2019 Election Reform Agenda: THE TIME FOR REFORM IS NOW!

Dear Friend,

With the 2018 election season now behind us, I am shifting my focus to the 2019 legislative session. With a new majority conference controlling the State Senate I am more optimistic than ever before that we can finally pass into law a number of election reform measures that I have sponsored and co-sponsored for a number of years. I wanted to share with you a selection of those reforms that I have been most interested in.

In New York State our elections like most are impacted by a number of things. The influence of big money, impediments to the polls, and antiquated voter registration methods are reasons why some feel disenfranchised. For years, my colleagues and I in the Assembly Majority have repeatedly passed reforms that would ensure greater voter participation ensure transparency, and to combat the influence of money in politics. We are more optimistic than ever that these bills may soon become law.

I will continue to work to enact the reforms you will read about inside and I encourage you to stay active and demand better elections in NYS.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Dinowitz
Member of Assembly, 81st A.D.



Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz
debating legislation in the Assembly Chamber.

FREE Notary Service

Our office provides free notary service during regular office hours, **10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday**. Please bring two forms of identification, at least one with your photo and signature, if you would like your signature notarized.

Voter Registration Reform

I have sponsored and cosponsored a number of reform measures in recent years that would make it easier for voters to get registered. There has been a variety of approaches and some of the luxuries enjoyed by New York City Voters (automatic registration transfer among the five boroughs) are not currently law in the rest of New York. I have sponsored legislation (A.9826) this session that would make a voter registration transfer automatic from county to county outside of NYC. This common-sense reform is already law in the City of New York and should be extended to the rest of New York State.

I have also cosponsored legislation (A.6283) that will require various state agencies to make voter registration a part of their mission as they are the face of state government and often interact with more citizens. Like most election reform measures I have supported, this bill would lead to more voters becoming eligible to vote and therefore give them more of a voice in the process. New Yorkers deserve the right to vote and there should be as few road blocks in place to being allowed to vote as possible. This bill is a good step in the right direction.

Early Voting

According to the National Conference of State Legislators, there are currently 37 states with some form of pre-election day voting. New York remarkably is not one of those states. I have been a vocal proponent of making it easier to get to the polls. The time for change in our voting laws is long overdue. The Assembly has passed legislation I cosponsored (A.9608B) that would establish a 7 day early voting period. The legislation would require a minimum amount of polling locations by county to ensure that there is an opportunity to get to a poll in the week ahead of Election Day.

This Election Day we saw unbelievable turnout at almost every polling location. Aside from the long lines created by malfunctioning machines, this is also a product of having one single day to vote. In today's world there is no reason to keep voting so restrictive and New York should join the majority of the country and pass early voting into law.



Closing the LLC Loophole and Lowering Campaign Contribution Limits



I am a strong proponent of keeping large corporate donors out of politics. When it comes to corporations influencing our elections there is no way they can without motive. With this in mind, I have cosponsored legislation (A.9758) that closes what is known as the “LLC Loophole” in New York. This year the Assembly passed legislation that would limit LLC campaign contributions to the same \$5,000 aggregate contribution limit that exists for corporations. The legislation would also require the disclosure of all direct and indirect owners of the LLC

and that all contribution by an LLC be attributed to each member in proportion to their ownership stake in the LLC.

Current law has been interpreted to allow for an individual to donate multiple large contributions to the same candidate or committee by using separate LLCs making it difficult to determine where the contributions are actually coming from and circumventing individual contribution limits as intended. Closing the LLC loophole will ensure that LLCs federal, state, and local no longer an option to avoid campaign contribution limits.

In addition to working to close the LLC loophole, I have and will continue to work to lower campaign contribution limits to both candidates and party committees. For far too long New York State has allowed some of the highest contribution limits in the country. I have supported legislation (A.2266) that would lower these limits and help to lessen the influence of money in politics. It is my hope that with the new majority in the Senate we can achieve reforms like these.

Consolidated Primary

I have been advocating for a singular primary day in New York State since the federal government enacted the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act that required New York to move its federal primary date earlier in the election calendar. Through continuous legislative efforts, our conference has passed legislation that would combine the state, federal, and local primary elections into one day.

This legislation would save New York taxpayers an estimated \$25-50 million every election year.

In a year where election turnout was among the highest in recent history, it is my hope that my colleagues and I will enact this common-sense reform to continue to promote voter participation by simplifying the election calendar and holding federal, state, and local primaries on one day.

Legislative Update



This section features a few bills that I have also supported that I hope with a new Senate Majority can become law and help to improve the quality of our elections in New York State:

A.9609 Relates to voter pre-registration

Currently, ten states and the District of Columbia allow 16-year-olds to pre-register to vote, and five additional states allow 17-year-olds to pre-register to vote.

This bill would add a section to the New York voter registration form allowing 16- and 17-year-olds to pre-register to vote. The boards of elections would store this information and use it to register the applicants when they reach the age of eligibility following verification of their qualifications and address. (Reported from Election Law Committee)

A.5382A Enacts the “Voter Enfranchisement Modernization Act of 2018”

This bill would bring New York into the 21st century by allowing the use of modern technology to register to vote online. New York still predominately relies on antiquated paper registrations. (Passed Assembly)

A.5547 Authorizes computer generated registration lists; relates to the list of supplies to be delivered to poll sites

This bill would update the Election Law to recognize that many counties have the technology to employ computer generated registration lists at the poll sites, to make their use uniform, to update the list of supplies to be delivered to the poll sites and to make certain gender neutral corrections to the Election Law. (Passed Assembly)

A.7623 Authorizes ballot by mail by removing cause for absentee ballot voting

This bill would amend the state Constitution to allow any NYS voter to request to vote by mail without declaring any reason for doing so. (Passed Assembly)

A.9607 Enacts the voter friendly ballot act; repealer

The Voter Friendly Ballot Act will provide a remedy for New York’s hard to read ballot by setting forth specifications that will create a ballot layout that is straightforward. At the same time it provides Boards of Election with the flexibility to ensure good ballot design, regardless of the particular limits of their voting technology, or the number of contests and candidates that must be placed on the ballot in any particular election. (Passed Assembly)

Malfunctioning Ballot Scanners

Widespread malfunctions at ballot scanning machines, which affected numerous polling precincts all throughout my district this past election day, is unacceptable and scandalous. I have said for years that these voting machines needed to be replaced and that we should be investing in state-of-the-art technology to help people cast their votes. These problems should have been prevented. Rainy weather and high voter turnout should not be impediments to a functional election system.

Some people left their polling places, not casting a ballot, because lines to scan ballots were so long. Multiple polling sites saw all or most of their scanners broken. New York should be making it easier to vote in every possible way. This includes scrapping the scanners and getting new voting

machines that are reliable even in large turnout and inclement weather. I wish we could go back to the old lever voting machines, but we cannot.

While the Board of Elections does not deserve all of the blame for the Election Day fiasco, they must act expeditiously to make necessary technological upgrades in order to ensure this never happens again. People felt their votes were being suppressed by long lines, and it is simply inadequate to chalk that up to bad weather or high turnout. New York needs to be better prepared for potential problems beginning with the very next election.

Democracy in Action: A Northwest Bronx Town Hall Series

Neighborhood Priorities

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**Jeffrey
Dinowitz**

Congressman
**Adriano
Espaillat**

NYC Councilmember
**Andrew
Cohen**

State Senator-elect
**Alessandra
Biaggi**

Thursday | November 29 | 7pm
Vladeck Hall
74 Van Cortlandt Park South

Legislative Priorities

Assemblyman
**Jeffrey
Dinowitz**

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Engel**

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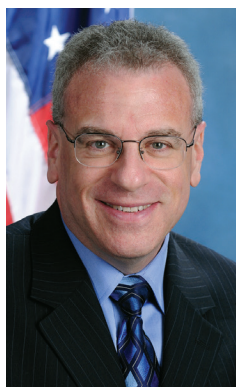
State Senator-elect
**Alessandra
Biaggi**

Thursday | December 6 | 7pm
Riverdale Temple
4545 Independence Avenue

Co-sponsored by:
**Association of Riverdale Cooperatives
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Special thank you to Amalgamated Housing Corporation and Riverdale Temple for being our wonderful hosts.

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3107 Kingsbridge Avenue • Bronx, NY 10463



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**Jeffrey
Dinowitz**

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