

June 30, 2023

The Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor of New York State  
Executive Chamber  
State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

RE: The New York Early Mail Voter Act (S7394/A7632)

Dear Governor Hochul:

We write this letter in strong support of the New York Early Mail Voter Act (S7394/A7632) and urge you to promptly sign this important legislation into law.

The New York Early Mail Voter Act creates a process where any registered voter in New York State can cast a mail ballot. With this legislation, New York can join 35 other states that allow any registered voter to vote by mail, without the need to provide a specific reason or excuse.

This system will enable all eligible New Yorkers to enjoy the convenience and efficiency of mail voting. Mail voting is a common-sense and secure solution that has been used for decades in other states, and provides voters a way to vote in the privacy and security of their own home. Elderly voters, those who work busy schedules, and those with childcare responsibility will no longer be forced to vote in-person in order to have their voices heard.

Through this bill, any voter who needs or simply prefers to vote by mail will now have that opportunity. By giving voters more ways to vote in a safe, secure, and accessible way, this bill will increase voter turnout in New York – especially among harder to reach populations like young voters and voters of color.

Expanded access to mail voting will also benefit election officials. Allowing all voters to use a mail option reduces polling place lines and places a lower administrative burden on election officials. Other states have found that an increase in the number of voters casting mail ballots is strongly associated with decreased total costs for administering elections.

This legislation is particularly important for the 2024 election cycle. With the COVID exception for absentee voting expiring at the end of 2022, there is currently no vote by mail option open to all New Yorkers. This legislation addresses that crucial issue, ensuring that all New Yorkers have the option to vote by mail if they wish in 2024 and beyond.

By signing this bill, you can ensure that all New Yorkers have access to mail voting and enjoy a safe, accessible, and secure method of casting their ballots in 2024 and future elections. We strongly urge you to promptly sign this bill and allow election officials to begin implementation as soon as possible in advance of the 2024 primary elections.

Sincerely,

Actors Equity Association  
Alliance of Families for Justice  
Bethlehem Morning Voice Huddle  
Bronx NYPAN  
Brooklyn Voters Alliance  
Center for Law and Social Justice at Medgar  
Evers College  
Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC)  
Citizen Action of New York  
Citizens Union  
CCoHOPE Indivisible  
Dutchess County Progressive Action  
Alliance  
Elmont Cultural Center  
Generation Vote  
Indivisible Brooklyn  
Institute for Responsive Government  
LatinoJustice PRLDEF  
Long Island Activists  
Make the Road New York  
Metro New York Health Care for All

National Action Network  
New York Immigration Coalition  
New York Progressive Action Network  
Northwest Bronx Indivisible  
NYPAN of the Southern Finger Lakes  
NYPAN Greene  
Progressive Action Lower Manhattan  
Progressive East End Reformers (PEER)  
Public Citizen  
Retail, Wholesale and Department Store  
Union (RWDSU)  
SMART Legislation  
Stand Up America  
Third Act, NYC  
Ulster Activists  
Westchester for Change  
Women Creating Change (WCC)  
The Workers Circle  
Working Families Party of Nassau County  
YMCA of Greater New York