



GET NEW YORK VOTING AGAIN! SUPPORT EARLY VOTING

Voter participation in New York State has declined dramatically over the past half century and now stands near the bottom as compared to other states. In 2016, New York ranked 41st in the nation in voter turnout. New York has failed to take actions undertaken by other states to increase participation by making it less complicated to register to vote and to cast a ballot.

New York can take a significant step towards increasing voter participation by adopting Early Voting in this year's budget.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- The majority of states—**37 plus the District of Columbia**—allow early voting without voter “excuse” or explanation, but New York limits eligibility to voters with a permitted “excuse” by absentee ballot.
- New Yorkers are being left out of the democratic process. Voters who cannot make it to the polls on election day for any number of reasons—work, school, personal commitments, inability to arrange travel assistance, etc.—are not afforded any flexibility in finding a time to vote.
- New Yorkers should be able to exercise their basic democratic rights with fewer constraints.
- Early voting would improve the administration of elections by relieving congestion and giving election administrators more time to address problems that may arise at the polls.
- The Governor's Budget Proposal would provide \$7 million in funding for the administration of early voting.

We urge the Legislature to enact Early Voting in the 2019 Executive Budget