



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Anna M. Kaplan

Senator Kaplan Introduces Legislation to Let Great Neck Public Schools Move Elections

SENATOR ANNA M. KAPLAN March 15, 2021

| ISSUE: **VOTING RIGHTS, SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS, GREAT NECK**



CARLE PLACE, NY (March 15, 2021) - Today, **Senator Anna M. Kaplan** (D-Great Neck) introduced legislation, [S.5669](#), that would allow the Great Neck Public School District to move their annual meeting and election from May 18, 2021 to May 11, 2021 so as to not conflict with the religious holiday of Shavuot. The effort follows outcry from members of the community who were rightly concerned that Jewish voters in the community could be disenfranchised in the upcoming election without further action being taken.

"Voting is a sacred pillar of our democracy, and no voter should be prevented from exercising their constitutional right to have their voice heard. When I heard that the Great Neck school elections were scheduled to take place during Shavuot, I immediately began working with the school district to find solutions to this problem so that no one in our community would be disenfranchised," said **Senator Anna M. Kaplan**.

In 1997, a state law was enacted to give school districts across New York the ability to move their annual elections from the third Tuesday of May to the second Tuesday of May if the original date conflicted with religious observances.

This year, school districts throughout New York with a significant Jewish population made requests under this provision to move their annual meeting and election so as to not conflict with the observance of Shavuot. Unfortunately, the Great Neck Public School District did not request a date change by March 1 as required by the law, necessitating enactment of new legislation to permit the district to make this important change.

The bill, [S.5669](#), introduced today by Senator Kaplan,

- Allows the Great Neck Public School District to move their annual meeting and election from the third Tuesday of May as required by Section 2002 of the Education Law, to May 11, 2021 so as to not conflict with the religious holiday of Shavuot. Such meeting shall be held in the same manner and location as specified pursuant to section 2002 of the Education Law.

With resolution of this matter being time-sensitive, Senator Kaplan has also formally requested assistance from the Commissioner of the State Education Department in the event that there is a solution that can be found that does not require enactment of new law, a process which, under normal circumstances, can take months.

Senator Kaplan concluded "we need to fix this problem urgently and I'm pursuing every possible solution to ensure **all** Great Neck residents can have their voices heard this May."

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RELATED LEGISLATION

2021-S5669

Voting Rights, School Board Elections, Great Neck

- Introduced

- - In Committee Assembly
 - In Committee Senate

- - On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate

- - Passed Assembly
 - Passed Senate

- Delivered to Governor

- Signed By Governor

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Permits the Great Neck union free school district to move the date of their annual meeting and election for the 2021 year so that it does not conflict with religious observances

March 15, 2021

Signed by Governor

Sponsored by **Anna M. Kaplan**

Do you support this bill?