



Senator Daphne Jordan wants you to get the FACTS!

The Senate Democratic Majority recently advanced a series of proposals (Senate Bills S.1048, S.1049, S.1099, S.1100, S.1101, S.1102 and S.1103, respectively) related to early voting, electoral and campaign finance reforms. Keep reading to get the FACTS on why I opposed the Senate Democratic Majority's measures that could cost you and hurt our democracy.



Senate Bill S.1048: SAME DAY REGISTRATION

I voted in opposition to the elimination of the 10-day minimum voter registration deadline because the previous allowance of 10 days provided time for verification and printing poll books. Zero time for verification can lead to voter fraud on Election Day. Safeguarding the integrity of our electoral process is critical and same-day registration does not accomplish this. Also, for this to be same day, all election districts (EDs) would have to be provided with electronic poll books for instantaneous information to be available in all EDs. For that to be effective, there must be statewide broadband, of which there isn't.

What others are saying:

But critics argue some elements of the plan are vague, already covered under state and federal laws and could lead to voter fraud. "First and foremost, the same-day registration component is a gateway for fraud," said Tony Daunt, executive director of the Michigan Freedom Fund, a nonprofit that advocates for constitutional rights. Voter registration is submitted to the Secretary of State so the office can run a number of checks to verify the identity of the voter. "This completely does away with the ability to do that," Daunt added. "On Election Day, when someone comes in to register to vote, the logistics are impossible to ensure that there isn't fraud going on. That completely undermines the vote of everyone else."

Source:

The Detroit News

Christine Ferretti, Same Day Voter Registration Sparks Fight, Detroit News, October 29, 2018.

Read more: <https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/politics/2018/10/29/same-day-voter-registration-sparks-fight/1437203002/>

Senate Bill S.1049: NO-EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING

Numerous cases of criminal fraud and abuse have occurred in other states where individuals have attempted to manipulate this process for their own preferred candidate. If New York State does enact "no excuse absentee voting," we must put in safeguards that maintain the integrity of our election system. The Senate Democrats' legislation failed to provide guarantees to protect against the potential harvesting of votes, which is fraud. Since the proposal is a constitutional amendment, there should be more time to carefully address these and other concerns to better protect our elections. If safeguards are included, the next time this bill comes to vote, I will gladly support no excuse absentee voting as an excellent means of early voting.

What others are saying:

In affidavits offered by the state Democratic Party, voters described a woman coming to their homes to collect their absentee ballots, regardless of whether they had been completed properly. State law bars this kind of “harvesting” of absentee ballots, which must be submitted by mail or in person by the voter or a close family member. If the allegations are accurate, “this is the biggest absentee fraud in a generation or two in North Carolina,” said Gerry Cohen, an election law expert and former longtime legislative staff attorney. “North Carolina has a long history of this kind of thing, particularly in rural areas.”

Source:



CBS News, Ballot fraud allegations complicate North Carolina congressional election results, December 4, 2018.

Read more: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ballot-fraud-allegations-complicate-north-carolina-congressional-election-results/>

Senate Bill S.1099: LIFTING TRANSFER RESTRICTIONS

New York State election law currently allows a registered voter who moves within a county or within New York (City) to vote in his or her new election district without re-registering. Boards of Elections automatically transfer such a voter’s registration when they receive notice of a change of address or when a voter completes an affidavit ballot envelope attesting to a new address. However, voters who move within the state, in or out of New York City, or from one county to another outside of New York City, are barred from voting on Election Day unless they update their registration by the registration deadline (i.e., 10 days before Election Day). This bill amends the law to allow a voter who moves anywhere within the State to vote in his or her new election district. Boards of Elections would automatically transfer registrations for such a voter, as they currently do for voters who move within their county or within New York City. Affidavit ballots would be verified using the statewide voter file. This bill would lift all transfer restrictions, meaning voters from New York City could move to Columbia County on Election Day and vote. Implementation of this measure would pose a significant administrative burden for Boards of Elections.

Senate Bill S.1100: PRE-REGISTRATION

New York State already allows voting pre-registration for 17-year-olds. Why should New York State have the County Boards of Elections hold onto registrations for two years when a lot of address changes for these young people can happen in that time?

Senate Bill S.1101: LLC LOOPHOLE

I welcome discussion about comprehensive campaign finance reform to reduce the power of wealthy special interests on our democracy. However, the plan advanced by Senate Democrats infringes upon freedom of speech and could allow Political Action Committees (PACs) and independent expenditures to have an even greater influence than they do now. That would be a huge mistake.

A better alternative would be to eliminate all soft money from LLCs, corporations and unions. Democrats are hypocrites when it comes to closing the LLC loophole and they can't be trusted. Governor Cuomo took a whopping \$40 million from LLCs – more than every other member of the state Legislature combined. Senate Democrats accepted hundreds of thousands of dollars in contributions driven through the LLC loophole during the last election. Now that Democrats have raised this money from LLCs, they want to close the door behind them. I support closure of the LLC loophole but the bill needed to go further by limiting monies from PACs and unions.

Senate Bill S.1102: EARLY VOTING

Senate Democrats put the cart before the horse by providing zero funding for their early voting measures. Absent the money to pay for it, their proposals amount to another multi-million dollar Albany unfunded mandate imposed on our local governments. The New York State Association of Counties said estimates to implement early voting provisions could cost between \$500,000 and \$1 million per County outside of New York City. With 57 counties outside New York City, early voting costs could run from \$28.5 million to \$57 million. Where is New York supposed to come up with the \$28.5 million to \$57 million necessary for early voting?

I oppose Albany unfunded mandates that hurt local governments and taxpayers. If Albany wants localities to do something, then Albany should pay for it. The Senate Democrats failing to provide any funding for their early voting unfunded mandates speaks volumes. The Senate Democrats want someone else to pay. That someone is you.

Along with serious concerns about early voting's enormous cost to taxpayers, reputable studies question assumptions that early voting automatically increases turnout. In some cases, it has been found to actually suppress voter turnout. Consider:

- According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, (NCSL) Nevada's change to early voting actually caused their citizens to participate less in elections. In 2016, voter turnout there was 3 percent lower than the national average.
- The Boston Globe reported that Massachusetts found early voting has either had no impact or decreased participation.
- Researchers at the University of Wisconsin have found that creating one special day (Election Day) is key to building "social pressure" to get people to the polls.

What others are saying:

"Outside of New York City, election costs are the mandated responsibility of county governments through local boards of elections. The operational budgets for these local boards have been enacted at the close of 2018. Additional costs associated with staffing and securing early voting locations, printing and counting additional ballots, ensuring elections are safe from cyber security threats, and meeting other legal election requirements have not been fully calculated by the state and counties. Estimates for these new provisions suggest that it could cost between \$500,000 to \$1 million per county outside of New York City, depending on its size. Under a two percent property tax cap, counties cannot afford additional new costs associated with early voting and other election reforms."

Source:



NYSAC
NEW YORK STATE
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

Statement in Response to Passage of Early Voting Legislation, New York State Association of Counties, January 14, 2019.

Read more: http://www.nysac.org/blog_home.asp?display=809

Senate Bill S.1103: PRIMARY CONSOLIDATION

The question is not about consolidating the primaries, but when it should be done. Holding primaries in June conflicts with the calendar of the New York State Legislature.

Consolidating the state and federal primary in June puts the petition process for state offices smack dab in the middle of the State Budget process, forcing many legislators (especially those in New York City, where the primary is the election) to choose between campaigning for office and doing the work in Albany they were elected to do. Adriano Espailliat, a former State Senator, stopped coming to work and neglected his constituents twice just so he could campaign for a congressional seat. In 2014, he missed 891 votes, more than any other state Senator; in 2016, he missed many more. Campaigning and governing simultaneously is an invitation to corruption. Regarding changes to the designating petition process, it is extremely difficult to collect signatures on petitions in upstate during this timeframe largely due to the weather.