

True voting rights must not be artificially restricted to the two establishment parties:

Many candidates run unopposed in elections, and rarely are there more than two choices in an election in NY. In spite of this dearth of participation, New York has actively moved to make alternatives more difficult.

Procedures and thresholds for 4 years of ballot access for alternative parties were established prior to the last gubernatorial election, and those thresholds were met by the Libertarian and Green party candidates. Rather than having to campaign against these uprisings by the “little people”, the state has changed the rules during the 4 year cycle.

After voting themselves taxpayer money for their own elections, the establishment has moved the bar through part ZZZ of the budget. As the LPNY blog explains:

“Part ZZZ is the rider to the New York State budget, passed in April under cover of the pandemic, that increased vote and petitioning thresholds required for minor parties in New York State to obtain and maintain automatic ballot access.”

The matter may yet be settled in court, as there is a lawsuit underway, but the legislature and the public should be aware of the situation, and should not be allowed to feign concern for voting rights while squashing alternative viewpoints and candidates.

Russ Penner  
Hubbardsville