

**Written Testimony
for hearing on
Election and Voting Rights in New York State**

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Thank you for offering the public an opportunity to address Election concerns. New York has come a long way in updating and improving election law, but there is more we can do to assure that all eligible voters can and should vote easily.

1. Election Day a Public Holiday - I have been wanting to say this for years. Election Day should be a Public Holiday whether it be a state or federal holiday. What better way to tell our citizens that elections are essential, that they are the cornerstone for a democracy to function as a voice of the people.

Advantages

- It would also be easier to recruit poll workers other than just retirees.
- It would create a teaching opportunity in our schools.
- It would free up schools to be used as poll sites.
- It could be an opportunity for community unity and activities.
- Whole families could go to the polls together.
- Churches and organizations could have Election Lunches or Dinners.

2. More and better trained Poll Workers -

Half days - I have been a poll worker for years and recently we do not have enough trained poll workers. I suspect older people don't want to do a long 16 hour day. Accommodating poll workers with a half day choice may be a good solution.

Unequal Party Representation -The 2020 election was poorly staffed here in Oneida County and the recruiting of poll workers was chaotic with more Democrats working than Republicans. The concern is if you have more poll workers from one party than the other, any mistakes made could be construed to look like a political misdeed and blamed on the party who had more poll workers.

How do we get more poll workers? One way is to make election day a holiday.

3. Voter Registration through the DMV. I am from Oneida County and voter registrations through the DMV has been problematic for years. I have seen many people discover at a polling site that they are not registered even though they swear they registered when they applied for a driver's license. I brought the issue to the attention of both the County Clerk's office and the BOE who assured me there was no problem. Now I know I was lied to which makes me very angry.

I don't know about other counties, but in Oneida County, we lost a lot of votes due to a flawed process of registrations not getting from DMV to the BOE and then on to the poll books. It is a serious issue that needs fixing. Fortunately we have new commissioners and hopefully they will be more ethical. My question is who are the commissioners answerable to so this doesn't happen again?

4. Same Day Registration - This year my party did a pretty good job convincing people to vote only to find out they were too late to register. We lost a lot of votes due to that flaw in the law. Same Day Registration will be a welcome change. Lets hope it passes.