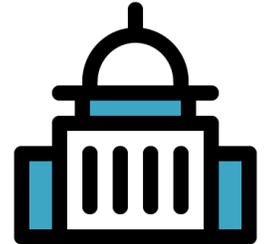


2021 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

FAIR ELECTIONS & VOTING RIGHTS

We believe that the state government will never be adequately responsive to voters, especially low income voters & communities of color, as long as election campaigns & policymaking are strongly shaped or outright controlled by wealthy donors & corporate interests.

Under 2019 legislation, the Campaign Finance Reform Commission was established to set up a system of public financing in New York State. The recommendations were finally passed as a part of the 2020 budget.



WE SUPPORT

The Fair & Timely Implementation of Landmark Fair Elections Legislation

The 2020 budget agreement created a matching funds program for all State Assembly, State Senate & statewide races. The matching funds program will go into effect after the November 2022 election.

Until then, Governor Cuomo & the State Legislature will need to hit certain benchmarks in order for the system to be ready for its launch date. They include:

- The Governor appointing a commissioner to run the system
- Providing the \$7.3 million in seed money necessary to create the technology & infrastructure for the program at the State Board of Elections

Extending the Right to Vote & Making Voting Easier

More needs to be done to build on the historic voting rights reforms passed in 2019:

- Pass constitutional amendments to establish Same Day Voter Registration
- Pass constitutional amendments to No Excuse Absentee Voting
- Fully fund the State Board of Elections to allow the agency to improve on Early Voting & other 2019 reforms

We also support legislation to ensure the right to vote for people on parole.

(For more information on parolee voting, please see our plan on Ending Mass Incarceration & Transforming the Justice System.)

We support a series of structural democracy reforms concerning party ballot qualification & thresholds & improvements to the fusion voting system in New York.

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WHY WE SUPPORT

Fair & Timely Implementation

When the state is not prepared for election-related changes

voters suffer the consequences

In 2020, in NYC alone, miscommunications & lack of oversight led to **tens of thousands of absentee ballots being disqualified** on technicalities, & delays of over a month to call some congressional primary races.



Extending the Right to Vote & Making Voting Easier

Obstacles to voting disproportionately

suppress the vote of marginalized communities;

create unnecessary **administrative errors & delays;** and

undermine public trust in the election process

Tax the Rich & Take Money Out of Elections

By pouring their money into politics & buying politicians' loyalty, the rich have drowned out the voices of everyday New Yorkers. It's no accident that legislators have been reluctant to reform the election system. It's time to hold the rich accountable for their outsized influence on the electoral process. We must redirect their money into programs that create a democratic, inclusive New York.

The Invest in Our New York Act is a package of six state bills that raises \$50 billion to ensure that we rebuild our economy by taxing the wealthiest New Yorkers. The full bill package & more information can be found at www.investinourny.org.

Contact: Michelle Ming | mming@citizenactionny.org
<https://citizenactionny.org/democracy> | [@citizenactionny](#)   

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