



Date: March 4, 2021

Dear Governor Murphy, Senate President Sweeney and Speaker Coughlin:

We write to urge you to pass and sign legislation that will alter our voter registration deadlines and allow for same-day registration, including on Election Day (A4548/S2824). New Jersey's three-week arbitrary registration deadline disenfranchises voters year after year. It is long past time for New Jersey to join the over 20 states that allow voters to register on the same day that they vote up to and on Election Day. As our Democracy in a Day campaign advocates, making voting easy and accessible to voters is a key way to expand democracy in New Jersey.

Because of your leadership, New Jersey has made significant progress in the last few years reforming our antiquated and burdensome voter registration processes. Automatic Voter Registration, Online Voter Registration and restoring the right to vote to people on parole and probation have positioned New Jersey as a national leader in the voting rights space. However, each of these reforms is currently undercut by an unnecessary voter registration deadline, dampening our state's efforts to ensure that every eligible citizen can participate in our democracy.

Enacting same-day voter registration can help make these reforms more impactful, and ensure that those most likely to be disenfranchised are not shut out of elections. Same-day registration can lead to a 5% voter turnout increase, with as much as a 10 percentage point turnout increase among 18 to 24-year-olds.

In addition, same-day voter registration is an effective way to remedy inaccurate voting rolls. As we have seen in past elections, voters are disenfranchised because of errors or outdated records, causing them to not receive their mail-in ballots or for them to be turned away from the polls. Same-day registration allows for voters to securely fix these errors at the polls, and cast a ballot.

Same-day voter registration is secure. Same-day registrants are required to provide identification and their eligibility is verified before counting their votes. The process is just as secure as, if not more secure than, traditional voter registration. It is also low-cost and can be implemented using existing election infrastructure.

Same-day registration is important for all voters, but it is also a racial justice issue. Young people are more diverse in New Jersey than older generations, as over half of millennials in the state are people of color. Generation Z is even more diverse. Black and Brown voters are often purged from voter rolls at higher rates. Young people are also purged from rolls at high rates - partly because they move at higher rates. Last year, New Jersey finally allowed people on parole and



probation to vote in elections - a right we've denied in some capacity since 1844. However, over 400 people released from prison after the voter registration deadline - but before Election Day - were still disenfranchised.

There are many reasons to enact same-day registration, but the most important is that it will promote democracy. During these pivotal times when we've been reminded of the consequences of voter suppression throughout the country, it is imperative to combat all systems that intentionally or inadvertently erode democracy. We must work to ensure the ballot box is accessible to all. An arbitrary three-week voter registration deadline is an antiquated requirement that undermines our collective goal of strengthening our system.

Respectfully,

A. Philip Randolph Hudson County Chapter

All of Us or None South Jersey

All of Us or None - Northern NJ

American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey (ACLU-NJ)

American Friends and Service Committee Prison Watch

American Reentry Initiative

Anti-Poverty Network of New Jersey

Beyond Day Zero

BlueWaveNJ

CAIR New Jersey

Campaign to End the New Jim Crow of Mercer County

Clean Water Action

Dare Academy

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.

Dept of Civic Engagement & Community Partnerships, Middlesex College

Disability Rights New Jersey

Dominicanos USA (DUSA)

Emmett's Place

Environment New Jersey

Essex Rising

F.O.R.T.E. House

Fair Share Housing Center

Faith In New Jersey



Garden State Equality
Good Government Coalition of New Jersey
Hustlelution
Indivisible Cranbury
Latino Action Network
LatinoJustice PRLDEF
League of Women Voters of New Jersey
League of Women Voters of the United States
LUPE Fund, INC.
Lutherans Engaging in Advocacy Ministry NJ
Make the Road New Jersey
Morris County Human Relations Commission
NAACP
NAACP Camden County East Youth Council
NAACP Metuchen Edison Piscataway Branch
NAACP New Jersey State Conference
NAACP Oranges & Maplewood Unit
National Association of Social Workers - NJ Chapter
National Council of Jewish Women, Essex County Section
NB NAACP
New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice
New Jersey Institute for Social Justice
New Jersey LCV
New Jersey Policy Perspective
New Jersey Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC-NJ)
NJ 11th For Change
NJ Citizen Action
NJ Restorative Justice Network
NJ Working Families
Nu-Entry Opportunity Specialists
Our Revolution Essex County
Our Revolution New Jersey
Our Revolution Trenton Mercer
Parent Impact
Planned Parenthood Action Fund of New Jersey
Progressive Democrats of New Jersey
Project 555: Youth Voter Engagement



Project Ready
Ramapo College Student Government Association
RepresentUs/New Jersey
RepresentUs
Rutgers - Camden Student Governing Association
Rutgers - Newark Student Governing Association
Rutgers Law School International Human Rights Clinic
Rutgers University Student Assembly
Salvation and Social Justice
SEIU 32BJ
SOMA Action
South Ward Environmental Alliance
STAND Central NJ
The Mark Montclair
The New Jersey Black Issues Convention
The Progressive Democrats of Rutgers-Newark
Transformative Justice Initiative
Victoria Foundation
WATERSPIRIT
West Orange Young Dems
YWCA Princeton

cc: Assemblyman Raj Mukherji
Senator Sandra Cunningham