



## MEMO OF SUPPORT

### [S6168 \(Comrie\) / A6764 \(Cunningham\)](#)

*Requires Better Notice to Voters Who Are Purged or Put on Inactive Status*

February 23, 2024

#### **TITLE OF BILL**

An act to amend the election law, in relation to notices to voters of registration cancellation or inactive status.

#### **SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS**

Section 1 adds a new subdivision 6 to NYS Election Law §5-213 to provide that placing a voter in inactive status, boards of election (BOEs) shall notify the voter via first-class mail both at the voter's previous address and the address where the voter is now believed to reside, and must also attempt to contact the voter via any email addresses and telephone numbers on file. Section 2 adds the same requirement for cancellations to EL §5-402 subdivisions 2, 3, and 5, also providing that BOEs must explain the reason for the cancellation. Section 3 adds the same requirement to EL §5-712 in subdivisions 2, 3, and 5, also providing that if a first notice is returned as undeliverable, the BOE must make a second attempt. Section 4 provides that the act takes effect immediately.

#### **STATEMENT OF SUPPORT**

Reinvent Albany supports this bill because we believe it will protect the right to vote.

Prior to the 2016 primary election, [over 200,000 voters were purged](#) from New York City's rolls. Many went to the polls on Primary Day expecting to be able to vote, only to find they were no longer eligible. Regardless of the NYC BOE's intentions, there was widespread suspicion that the purge had been done to disenfranchise certain voters.

Requiring BOEs to notify voters of their inactive status will provide more voters time to re-register and exercise their right to vote. We urge the Legislature to pass this bill, and the Governor to sign it.