

# MEMO OF SUPPORT

## S178 (Gianaris) / A181 (Carroll)

*Amends State Constitution to Allow Same-Day Voter Registration*

February 9, 2024

### **TITLE OF BILL**

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY proposing an amendment to section 5 of article 2 of the constitution, in relation to the ten day advance registration requirement.

### **SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS**

Section 1 amends Article 2 §5 of the New York State Constitution to eliminate the requirement that New York residents register to vote 10 days before an election to be eligible to vote. This will enable New York residents to register then vote on Election Day. Section 2 provides that the resolution must be voted on again, then approved by voters.

### **STATEMENT OF SUPPORT**

We support this constitutional amendment because we believe it will reduce barriers to voting without creating an undue burden on election administrators.

Hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers are not registered to vote but are eligible to – as of November 2022 elections, nearly 900,000 eligible New Yorkers were not registered to vote.<sup>1</sup> Oftentimes, busy New Yorkers do not think about registering until just before or on Election Day, and they are not able to do so because of constitutional restrictions that prevent them from registering fewer than 10 days before Election Day.

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<sup>1</sup> See data from the US Election project, which shows 14,026,187 eligible voters in New York, and NYS Board of Elections enrollment data showing 13,129,900 total registrants as of the November 2022 elections. <https://www.electproject.org/election-data> and <https://elections.ny.gov/enrollment-county>

By enabling voters to register and cast their vote on Election Day, we invite people into the democratic process who may not otherwise participate. Research has shown same-day registration can boost voter turnout several percentage points, [with some studies showing increases as high as 7 percent](#) among youth.

We urge the Legislature to pass this resolution.