



## MEMO OF SUPPORT

### S612-D (Mayer) / A1244-D (Jacobson)

*Prohibits conflicts of interest among BOE employees*

July 30, 2024

#### **TITLE OF BILL**

An act to amend the election law, in relation to prohibiting conflicts of interest among board of elections employees.

#### **STATEMENT OF SUPPORT**

Reinvent Albany supports this bill because it will help prevent conflicts of interest at the BOE.

In 2018, NYC BOE Executive Director Michael Ryan [was fined \\$2,500](#) for sitting on the advisory board of a company that sold voting machines to the City. Such behavior is obviously unacceptable and harms public trust in the BOE.

This bill clearly establishes that our election officials must hold themselves to higher standards. While we support further restrictions on the political activities of Board of Elections employees and board members, this bill is an important step to eliminate financial conflicts of interest for staff.

We ask the Governor to sign the bill.

#### **SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS**

Section 1 adds a new §3-304 to the Election Law providing that no Board of Elections (BOE) employee shall engage in any business that creates an actual or potential conflict of interest, including by maintaining a direct financial interest in a company servicing candidates (through printing, direct mail, etc.) or in a company servicing the board (through voting machines, electronic poll books, etc.).

Subdivision 2 provides that no BOE staffer shall remain a paid employee of the board while a candidate for political office (unless for an unpaid party position). Candidacy becomes official upon the filing of papers, nomination, or acceptance of a nomination.

Subdivision 3 clarifies that it shall not be considered a conflict of interest for BOE employees who are county or state committee members, judicial district delegates, or national party convention delegates to endorse or support candidates for party positions or public offices.

Section 2 states that the bill takes effect a year after becoming law.