



March 18, 2022

Dear Governor Murphy, Senate President Scutari and Speaker Coughlin:

In March 2021, we wrote to you requesting that you pass and sign legislation that will allow for same-day registration, including on Election Day. In the year that has passed, we have seen democracy come under attack both across the country and around the world. State after state has passed laws restricting the right to vote – most often impacting Black and other voters of color. It is crucial for New Jersey to step up as a leader in democracy. This is not possible until we pass a measure that 20 states and DC already have – same-day registration. We write once again to urge you to pass and sign A1966/S247 so that New Jersey can be a beacon of democracy.

In the past few months, the sponsors, the Governor’s office, the Secretary of State’s office and advocates have worked on amendments to the legislation to simplify the process and address concerns raised by election officials. The bill, with the amendments, uses existing infrastructure and will have minimal – if any – costs. We should make it as easy as possible for people to vote, even when it’s a burden to the government. However, when there is no burden there is no excuse not to expand voting rights.

Because of your leadership, New Jersey has made significant progress in expanding and strengthening our democracy. Early voting, automatic and online voter registration, restoring the right to vote to people on parole and probation and ending prison gerrymandering are a testament to your commitment to making our democracy accessible for all. Unfortunately, however, many of these reforms are undercut by our arbitrary voter registration deadline that needlessly disenfranchises voters every election.

Same-day registration has been shown to increase turnout for Black and Latina/Latino voters, and in particular young people. Same-day voter registration is also 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 As we have seen in past elections, voters are disenfranchised because of errors or outdated records, causing them to not receive their mail-in ballots to be turned away from the polls. Same-day registration allows 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. In 2020, 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.

We urge you to prioritize passing and signing into law A1966/S247 so that we finally stop disenfranchising voters for missing our arbitrary three-week registration deadline. With your leadership, New Jersey can be a national leader in democracy. New Jersey is one of the most diverse states in the nation. We need to show that we are not afraid of democracy here – we embrace it.

Respectfully,

AAPI Montclair
Action Together New Jersey
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 Service Committee Prison Watch
Andrew Goodman Foundation
Bayard Rustin Center for Social Justice
CAIR New Jersey
Campaign to End the New Jim Crow
Central Jersey Progressive Coalition
Chatman Counseling & Consulting LLC
Clean Water Action
Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest
Creative Scenarios, LTD
Delaware-New Jersey National Lawyers Guild
Dominicanos USA (DUSA)
Environment New Jersey
Fair Elections Center



Fair Share Housing Center
Faith in New Jersey
Food & Water Watch
FORTE House
Greater New Brunswick Area NAACP
Indivisible Central NJ
Indivisible Cranbury
Integrated Justice Alliance
Irvington NAACP
La Casa de Don Pedro, Inc.
LAN Foundation
Latino Action Network
Law Office of Rosemarie Moyeno Matos LLC
Lawrence Citizen Activists
Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
League of Women Voters of New Jersey
LUPE Fund, Inc.
Lutherans Engaging in Advocacy Ministry NJ
Make the Road NJ
March for Our Lives New Jersey
Mass Incarceration Task Force
Meet Her At the Gate
Memorial Day Nursery
Morris County Human Relations Commission
NAACP Metuchen Edison Piscataway Area Branch
NAACP New Jersey State Conference
Nassau Presbyterian Church, mass Incarceration Task Force
National Action Network South Jersey Chapter
National Association of Social Workers - NJ Chapter
National Council of Jewish Women, Essex County Section
NeighborCorps Re-Entry Services
New Brunswick Area NAACP
New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice
New Jersey Institute for Social Justice
New Jersey League of Conservation Voters
New Jersey Policy Perspective
New Jersey Prison Justice Watch



New Jersey State Conference NAACP Youth & College Division
New Jersey Working Families Party
Newark Community Street Team
Newark Water Coalition
NJ 11th For Change
NJ Citizen Action
Northern New Jersey NOW
Not In Our Town Princeton
Our Revolution Essex County
Our Revolution New Jersey
Our Revolution Somerset County NJ
Our Revolution Trenton Mercer
Palestinian American Community Center
Paterson Alliance
Paterson Habitat for Humanity
PDA NJ Chapter
People's Organization for Progress
Planned Parenthood Action Fund of New Jersey
Prevention Links
Project Ready
RAC-NJ (New Jersey Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism)
Ramapough Lenape Nation
Returning Citizens Support Group
Rutgers Law School International Human Rights Clinic
Salvation and Social Justice
Seeds & Berries
Social Justice Matters, Inc
Stand Up America
The New Jersey Chapters of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
The Progressive Democrats of New Jersey
The Progressive Democrats of Rutgers Newark
Transformative Justice Initiative
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Monmouth County Social Justice Committee
UU FaithAction NJ
Victoria Foundation
Waterspirit
Wind of the Spirit



Women Who Never Give Up
YWCA Princeton