

June 1, 2021

Andrew Cuomo  
Governor  
Executive Chamber  
Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12234

Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
Majority Leader  
State Senate  
Legislative Office Building  
Albany, NY 12247

Carl Heastie  
Speaker  
State Assembly  
Legislative Office Building  
Albany, NY 12248

Robert Ort  
Minority Leader  
State Senate  
Legislative Office Building  
Albany, NY 12247

William Barclay  
Minority Leader  
State Assembly  
Legislative Office Building  
Albany, NY 12248

**Re: Support legislation to expand youth voting by requiring college campuses be locations for polling sites.**

Dear Gov. Cuomo, and Legislative Leaders Stewart-Cousins, Heastie, Ort, and Barclay,

We, the undersigned organizations, write to express our strong support for legislation to greatly expand youth voting by requiring that college campuses be locations for polling sites, including during the early voting period (see Senate bill 4658/Assembly bill 454-A).

It has been 50 years since the historic first votes cast by college students and other 18-20 year olds in 1971. Young voters were among the last to gain the vote—following Black people, women, non-property owners and others whose rights to vote were either not recognized or frustrated by local, state and federal governments.

As has been the case when fundamental rights are affirmed for new groups—which threatens the status quo—securing the legal right to vote did not mean that casting a ballot would be easy for young voters. A key battleground has been the right of students to vote in their college communities. Despite the fact that college students are considered residents of college communities for the federal census, efforts to limit the student vote have persisted. After years of court battles, boards of elections in New York are now required to allow students to register to vote from their campus addresses if they so choose.

Now, New York should support voting by students on campus. The above legislation would promote student access to the polls by having a polling site on campuses located in communities with election districts where students are a majority of the voters.

Florida hosted early voting sites on college campuses for their 2018 general election and witnessed massive turnout from their young voters. Of the 60,000 voters who participated in early voting on college campuses, 22,000 were between the ages of 18 and 22, the age range of most college students.

## **Support S.4658/A.454-A, Page 2**

As shown in Florida, young people are more likely to turnout if voting is easily accessible. College students are constantly on or around their campuses. Distant and unfamiliar polling locations discourage young people from exercising their voting rights. Now that the state offers early voting, legislation should include designating campuses as early polling sites and allowing students to cast their ballot on-campus – even if they are not living in the dorms.

Our organizations urge you to act on legislation consistent with what we are supporting and that such legislation be in place in time for the upcoming General Election this November.

Sincerely,

NYPIRG

Student Activities Board, SUNY Cortland  
Student Association, Queens College  
Student Association, SUNY New Paltz  
Student Association, Syracuse College  
Student Government Association, Bronx Community College  
Student Government Association, Bronx Community College  
Student Government Association, Nassau Community College  
Student Government Association, Pratt Institute  
Student Government Association, Queensborough Community College  
Student Government, College of Staten Island  
Student Senate, SUNY New Paltz  
Undergraduate Student Government, Hunter College  
United Students Government, Buffalo State College  
93.1 WBNY, Buffalo State College  
American Medical Students Association, Brooklyn College  
BC Sustainability Club, Brooklyn College  
Be the Match, Hunter College  
Bertha Harris Women's Center, College of Staten Island  
Best Buddies, SUNY Cortland  
Best Buddies at SU, Syracuse University  
Biomedical Informatics, NYC College of Technology  
Black Student Union, Pratt Institute  
Black Student Union, SUNY ESF  
BLM@NAZ, Nazareth College  
BMCC Health and Wellness Club, BMCC  
Buffalo State Cheerleading, Buffalo State College  
Building A Brighter Afrikan Diaspora, BMCC  
Caribbean Student Organization, Nassau Community College  
Caribbean Student Union, Brooklyn College  
Cheese Club, SUNY Purchase

**Support S.4658/A.454-A, Page 3**

Chemistry Forensics Club, SUNY Buffalo State  
Chi Alpha Epsilon, Bronx Community College  
Circle K International, Hunter College  
Clean Cats College Recovery Community, Pratt Institute  
CMMB x Hunter, Hunter College  
Cortland Writer's Association, SUNY Cortland  
Council of Organizations, SUNY New Paltz  
CSI Intramurals & Rec., College of Staten Island  
Economics Student Association, Syracuse University  
Economics, Equality and Environment Club, BMCC  
Entrepreneurship Club, SUNY Cortland  
Environmental Alliance, SUNY New Paltz  
Environmental Sustainability Club, Queensborough Community College  
EOP, Buffalo State College  
EOP, Nassau Community College  
ESA SEEDS, Hunter College  
Fashion and Sustainability Club, Pratt Institute  
Female Force, SUNY Cortland  
Film In Color, Pratt Institute  
Fine Arts, Pratt Institute  
FIT Club, SUNY Cortland  
Gender Resources at CCNY, The City College of New York  
GenVote@NYU, New York University  
GLASA, Queens College  
Green Campus Initiative, SUNY ESF  
Guitar Club, State University of Buffalo State  
Hillel, SUNY Cortland  
Honors Advisory Board, Syracuse University  
Humanitarian Student Union, Fordham University  
Hunter K-Pop Club, Hunter College  
InterAct!, Nassau Community College  
Jerk Magazine, Syracuse University  
Jump Nation, Syracuse University  
Know Your Roots, SUNY Cortland  
La LUCHA, Syracuse University  
Las Naranjas, Syracuse University  
Latinx Student Alliance, Pratt Institute  
Men's Rugby, SUNY New Paltz  
Men's Club Basketball, Syracuse University  
Muslim Students Association, BMCC  
NAACP Unit 2905 Syracuse University, Syracuse University  
National Society of Collegiate Scholars: CSI, College of Staten Island

**Support S.4658/A.454-A, Page 4**

National Student Speech-Language Hearing Association, SUNY Cortland  
Nautilus Society, SUNY ESF  
New Paltz Chapter of United Nations Association, SUNY New Paltz  
New Paltz College Democrats, SUNY New Paltz  
New Paltz Dance Association, SUNY New Paltz  
Newman Club, SUNY Cortland  
NP Nachle/SACA, Suny New Paltz  
NTSO, SUNY Cortland  
NYC Men Teach, CUNY Queens College  
Palestine Solidarity Alliance, Hunter College  
Peer Health Exchange, Hunter College  
Personal Finance Club, SUNY Cortland  
Photography Club, Nassau Community College  
Pratt Health Promotion, Pratt Institute  
Pre-Health Diaries Blog, Hunter College  
Pre-PA Society of Hunter College, Hunter College  
Psi Chi, Hunter College  
Psychology club, SUNY Cortland  
Queens College Muslim Students Association, CUNY Queens College  
Queer Pratt, Pratt Institute  
Renew Democracy Initiative Hunter, Hunter College  
Rotaract Club, Buffalo State College  
Science Club, BMCC  
Sigma Alpha Epsilon Pi, CUNY Queens College  
Sigma Epsilon Chapter of Kappa Sigma, Hunter College  
Social Justice/Social Practice Minor, Pratt Institute  
Society for Conservation Biology, ESF Chapter  
Society of Physics Students & Cosmic Club, SUNY New Paltz  
Spanish Club, SUNY Cortland  
Speech, Drama, and Debate Club, Bronx Community College  
Sports Management Club, SUNY Cortland  
Student Political Society, Buffalo State College  
Student Run Pre-Health Organization, CUNY Hunter College  
Sustainabiliteam Committee (Undergraduate Student Association), SUNY ESF  
Syracue Hillel, Syracuse University  
Taiwanese Student Association, Hunter College  
The Accounting Society of Hunter College, CUNY Hunter College  
The Banner, The College of Staten Island  
The BMCC Writers Guild, Borough of Manhattan Community College  
The Buddhist Meditation Association, Hendricks Chapel. Syracuse University

**Support S.4658/A.454-A, Page 5**

The Dominican Students Association, The City College of New York  
The Prattler, Pratt Institute  
The Yoga Collective, SUNY New Paltz  
United Nations Association, SUNY New Paltz  
Unlabeled Part 2, Hunter College  
Wall Street Club, Nassau Community College  
Women in Computer Science at CCNY, The City College of New York  
Women's Students' Association, Nassau Community College  
Young Democrats, SUNY Cortland