



New York City Campaign Finance Board
100 Church Street, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10007
212.409.1800 | www.nyccfb.info

Rose Gill Hearn
Chair

Art Chang
Richard J. Davis
Courtney C. Hall
Mark S. Piazza
Members

By Email
and Regular Mail
February 18, 2015

Amy M. Loprest
Executive Director

Sue Ellen Dodell
General Counsel

Carl E. Heastie, Speaker
New York State Assembly
LOB 932
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Speaker Heastie:

Congratulations on your election to the speakership of the New York State Assembly. As you assume this important leadership role, we urge you to consider making election and campaign finance reforms a central part of your agenda for our state.

The CFB's NYC Votes voter education and engagement campaign advocates for reforms to make it easier for New Yorkers to participate in our elections. Our message for lawmakers is clear and simple: it is time to modernize voting in New York so that more New Yorkers can cast a timely, informed ballot.

We've all seen the dismal statistics. Too few New Yorkers have been voting in recent elections. We believe lawmakers can help to reverse the trend by adopting these common-sense measures:

- Early voting
- Preregistration of 16/17 year olds
- Online voter registration
- Improving ballot design
- Instant run-off voting

Our Voting Reform Advocacy Day team volunteers, comprised of students, community organizations and good government groups, will be traveling to Albany to ask lawmakers to support these changes during the 2015 session. We greatly appreciated meeting with your staff during our Advocacy Day trip last year. Can we count on your support again this year?

We also believe that campaign finance reform is crucial to restoring public trust and accountability in New York State government. For too long, the news out of Albany has been filled with reports that discourage voters and dampen their faith in their elected officials.

We believe that instituting a state campaign finance program, one that includes the same independent structure and safeguards as New York City's program, will help turn the tide. We've watched it happen in the five boroughs over the past 27 years. Our program has amplified the small-dollar contributions from city residents, while increasing transparency. Most importantly, public campaign finance has provided taxpayers with the confidence that city elections are decided by voters, not large contributions from special interests.

February 18, 2015

At this pivotal moment in New York's history, we hope you will lead your fellow lawmakers to seize this opportunity to make the lasting, fundamental changes our state so desperately needs. Our state's election and campaign finance laws are woefully behind the times. Calls for real change have gone unheeded for too long.

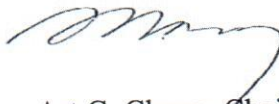
Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. We look forward to working with you to make those changes a reality.

Sincerely,



Amy M. Loprest

Sincerely,



Art C. Chang, Chair
Voter Assistance Advisory
Committee