

## **Support A03480, The Automatic Voter Registration Act:**

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

I am writing to urge you to cosponsor A03480, the Automatic Voter Registration Act. A03480 is intended to create clean and complete voter rolls. This will reduce electoral fraud and ensure that every eligible voter can vote. It requires certain agencies of the state of New York to transmit names and addresses of all New York residents to the state board of elections who will then register those persons automatically.

Even with the large number of voter registration drives, presently nearly 18% of all eligible voters in New York are not registered to vote and are effectively shut out of the political process. Having so many unregistered citizens hurts voter turnout and causes great problems in elections. The large number of voter registration requests in the months leading up to an election inevitably lead to lost or incorrectly processed registrations and ultimately unregistered voters who are unable to vote on Election Day. Voter registration drives invite fraud. Partisan actions such as a Republican-linked voter registration firm in Nevada allegedly throwing out forms collected from voters registering as Democrats, and accusations of Democratic urban machines registering dead people to vote in cities like Milwaukee and Chicago.

Pointing fingers and name-calling won't help us fix the problem. The way forward is to set a goal of 100 percent voter registration by establishing registration as a mutual responsibility of citizens and their government. Not only does such a process provide nearly 100 percent voter registration, but it also leads to much cleaner voter rolls and less voter fraud. Until voter rolls are clean and every eligible voter is registered to vote, voters will face problems on Election Day.

The Automatic Voter Registration Act will solve many of the problems citizens presently encounter on Election Day. With comprehensive databases and full registration, there is no longer a question of who is registered or not. Everyone is registered. New Yorkers would not have to worry about the status of their voter registration or whether or not their forms were properly processed. And because they would already be registered, they would not need to cast provisional ballots that may not be counted and election officials would not worry about fraud. Moreover, groups that typically face discrimination when trying to register like youth and minorities would likely vote in higher numbers because they would already be registered. Finally lines would run smoother because voter rolls would be clean and complete.

I ask you again to support A03480, the Automatic Voter Registration Act. I look forward to hearing your views on this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

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