Resolution No. 24   February 15, 2017

Urging The New York State Legislature To Adopt Legislation Prohibiting Use Of Board Of Elections Databases When Selecting Individuals For Receipt Of A Jury Summons

WITHDRAWN BY SPONSOR

Referred to: The Laws and Rules, Governmental Services Committee (Chairman Roberts and Legislators Belfiglio, Donaldson, Lopez, Loughran, R. Parete and Rodriguez)

Legislator Chris Allen offers the following:

WHEREAS, voter participation rates and voter enrollment rates in New York State among eligible voters are among the lowest in the Unites States, as data from recent elections in 2015 and 2016 show that voter turnout among registered voters was second lowest in the U.S. out of all states that hold primaries while voter turnout in General Elections was 46th out of 50 states; and

WHEREAS, a primarily stated reason for not registering to vote among eligible voters in New York State is the fear of being called up for jury duty from the computer database of registered voters which is used as one of the sources by the New York State, County and local municipal court systems with which to find perspective jury members; and

WHEREAS, Democracy is best served when voters can feel free to register to vote and participate in free elections when they are not fearful of voter intimidation or other pressures such as the fear of being called up for jury duty; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature urges the New York State Assembly and New York State Senate to draft accompanying bills of legislation that prohibit the usage of voter registration lists from the Board of Elections' Databases from being used as a source of perspective jurors to be potentially called up for jury duty, and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to New York State Senators George A. Amedore, John J. Bonacic, William J. Larkin, Jr. and James Seward, and New York State Assemblymen Kevin A. Cahill, Frank K. Skartados, Brian D. Miller, and Peter Lopez,

and moves its adoption.

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ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: NOES:

Passed Committee: Laws and Rules, Governmental Services on _____.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE