

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS, STATE  
AND FEDERAL LEGISLATION

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CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL  
OPERATIONS, STATE AND FEDERAL  
LEGISLATION

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February 27, 2025  
Start: 10:49 a.m.  
Recess: 11:03 a.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Lincoln Restler, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Gale A. Brewer  
David M. Carr  
James F. Gennaro  
Shahana Hanif  
Vickie Paladino  
Lynn C. Schulman  
Inna Vernikov

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, and  
3 welcome to today's New York City Council vote for the  
4 Committee on Governmental Operations.

5 At this time, we ask that you silence all  
6 electronic devices and at no time are you to approach  
7 the dais.

8 Chair Restler, we're ready to begin.

9 CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: [GAVEL] Good  
10 morning. My name is Lincoln Restler, and I have the  
11 privilege of chairing the Committee on Governmental  
12 Operations, State and Federal Legislation. I'd like  
13 to start off by thanking my Colleagues who have  
14 joined us today, Brooklyn's own Council Member David  
15 Carr, former Chair of this Committee, Gail Brewer,  
16 Forest Hills' own Lynn Schulman, and on the day of a  
17 very exciting rezoning, Council Member Shahana Hanif  
18 of Brooklyn.

19 Today we'll be voting on Intro. 565-A,  
20 sponsored by Council Member Gail Brewer.

21 Oh, and we have Council Member Jim  
22 Gennaro on Zoom. Thanks for being with us, Council  
23 Member.

24 Today, we'll be voting on Intro. 565-A,  
25 sponsored by Council Member Gail Brewer. This bill

1  
2 will require the Campaign Finance Board, the Board of  
3 Elections, and the Office to End Domestic and Gender-  
4 Based Violence to develop procedures for making voter  
5 registration records confidential and for voting by  
6 special ballot. This critical legislation will help  
7 survivors of domestic violence exercise their rights  
8 to vote without fear. I greatly appreciate Council  
9 Member Brewer's leadership in advocating for  
10 survivors and making sure they aren't unfairly  
11 excluded from our electoral process. This was a smart  
12 and creative bill, and it's a really important one,  
13 and I want to thank Council Member Brewer for caring  
14 so much and pushing so hard to get this over the  
15 finish line.

16                   With that, I will turn it over to Council  
17 Member Brewer.

18                   COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very  
19 much, Chair Restler, for hearing this bill. I am  
20 proud to hopefully pass Intro. 565-2024, the Voter  
21 Confidentiality for Domestic Violence Survivors Bill.  
22 The reason this is important is, yes, there is  
23 legislation that was passed in 2021 and signed by  
24 Kathy Hochul in Albany, and that enabled survivors of  
25 domestic violence to request confidential voter

1 registration directly from the Board of Elections by  
2 bypassing the court process. However, that's a  
3 significant step forward, but many survivors remain  
4 unaware of how to access these protections. So, the  
5 intro that we're talking about today requires, as you  
6 heard, City agencies, particularly those serving  
7 survivors, through the Family Justice Centers to  
8 provide clear guidance and resources on how survivors  
9 can ensure their voter registration remains  
10 confidential and how they can vote by special ballot.  
11 This is important because, as you know, many  
12 survivors end up in locations that are hidden from  
13 their perpetrators, and it's important that the  
14 perpetrators, even though there is some kind of  
15 sometimes protection, there isn't enough, and they  
16 need to not have their address listed on their voter  
17 registration. So, I'm delighted that all of the  
18 agencies are supportive of this piece of legislation,  
19 and I look forward to passage.

21 I do want to thank Cynthia Hornig from my  
22 office, who has been working on this for a long time.  
23 Even when we were borough president, we tried to pass  
24 it, so it's exciting to have it be done today. Thank  
25 you very much.

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CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Thank you very much,  
Council Member Brewer.

And with that, we will call the roll.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good  
morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call  
Vote, Committee on Governmental Operations, State and  
Federal Legislation, Proposed Introduction 565-A.  
Chair Restler.

CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Gennaro.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
you. Brewer.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:  
Gutiérrez. Hanif.

COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Schulman.

COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Carr.

COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Vernikov.

COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Aye.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Paladino.  
3 With a vote of seven in the affirmative, zero in the  
4 negative, and no abstentions, item has been adopted  
5 by the Committee.

6 CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: And if it's all  
7 right, we'll hold the vote open for Council Member  
8 Palladino.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:  
10 Continuation of roll call, Committee on Governmental  
11 Operations, State and Federal Legislation, Proposed  
12 Introduction 565-A. Council Member Paladino.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: I vote aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Vote is  
15 now eight in the affirmative, zero in the negative,  
16 and no abstentions. Council Member Restler to close.

17 CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Thanks so much.

18 [GAVEL]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date February 28, 2025