

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATION

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February 4, 2014  
Start: 10:28 a.m.  
Recess: 11:37 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Rm,  
16th Fl.

B E F O R E:  
KAREN KOSLOWITZ  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Inez Barron  
Antonio Reynosa  
Ben Kallos  
Brad Lander  
Rafael Espinal  
Inez Dickens

## A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

Joan P. Gibbs, Esq.

General Counsel

Center for Law and Social Justice

Medgar Evers College

Melvin Faulkner

Community Advocate

Brooklyn, NY

Joy Simmons

2 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: Call the State  
3 and Federal Legislation to order. Good morning and  
4 welcome. My name is Council Member Karen Koslowitz  
5 and I am the chairperson of the State and Federal  
6 Legislation Committee. Today we are meeting to  
7 consider a resolution calling upon our Governor to  
8 call for a special election to fill all vacancies  
9 in the New York State Assembly and New York State  
10 Senate. First, I would like to introduce the  
11 members of the committee that are present at this  
12 time. Council Member Inez Barron. Oh, yeah. Oh,  
13 right, this is your resolution. Council Member  
14 Reynosa and Council Member Kallos and Council  
15 Member Brad Lander.

16 Today we are meeting to consider a  
17 resolution calling upon our Governor... did I read  
18 that already? I read that already. Pursuant to  
19 Public Officers Law Section 42, the Governor in his  
20 discretion may call for a special election to fill  
21 a vacancy in any elective office which cannot be  
22 filled by appointment. There are currently nine  
23 Assembly seats and two Senate seats that are vacant  
24 in the State Legislature and over half of all  
25 vacancies are located in New York City. Currently,

2 our Governor has not called for a special election  
3 to fill these seats. If he does not call for a  
4 special election, this could result in seats not  
5 being filled until the next legislative session in  
6 2015. Lack of representation in Albany could lead  
7 to the effective disenfranchisement of voters and  
8 those districts.

9 At this moment, I would like to open  
10 the hearing to Council Member Barron for her  
11 comments on this resolution. Not you. [laughter]  
12 Inez?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [off mic] Yes.

14 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: You want to  
15 make a statement?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [off mic] Yes.

17 [Pause]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you,  
19 Madam Chair and to the members of this committee.  
20 I appreciate the opportunity to be able to address  
21 you on this issue. These are the... where's Miss  
22 Cook's letter from... [background voice]

23 Okay, thank you. There are presently  
24 11 vacant seats across New York State that do not  
25 have a representative in the State Assembly or

1 State Senate. Six of these districts are in  
2 downstate New York. The 42nd Council District,  
3 which I represent, encompasses 60th Assembly  
4 District, which I represented until my election in  
5 November to this New York City Council, and a  
6 portion of the 54th Assembly District. Since  
7 January 1st, 2014, these six districts in New York  
8 City, composed of predominantly African American  
9 and Latino constituents, have not had a voice in  
10 the negotiations or a seat at the table to ensure  
11 that their interests are included in the  
12 legislation and budget preparation for the ensuing  
13 year. Additionally, there are no services being  
14 provided through local district offices in these  
15 communities. They have been closed since December  
16 31st, 2013. One of the main services provided by  
17 my office was to give assistance to homeowners who  
18 had received foreclosure notices. Of the more than  
19 100 families that have come seeking assistance, my  
20 staff person, Mr. Melvin Faulkner, has been able to  
21 help them maintain ownership of their homes. Not  
22 one family has lost their home.

23  
24 And at this time, I'd like to read into  
25 the record a letter from the Central Brooklyn Black

1           Legislative Coalition. Governor Andrew Cuomo,  
2           Executive Chambers, State Capitol, Albany, New  
3           York. Dear Governor Cuomo, we write to you as the  
4           Coalition of Black Brooklyn Legislators, which  
5           include elected officials on the federal, state and  
6           city levels of government to express our collective  
7           concern that the delay in scheduling special  
8           elections for several State Assembly and State  
9           Senate seats has effectively disenfranchised  
10          approximately 1.5 million New Yorkers.

12                         The issues represented in this letter  
13          affect nine Assembly districts and two Senate  
14          districts across the state of New York. To deny  
15          these communities adequate government  
16          representation is tantamount to an unfair  
17          administration of justice, a violation of their  
18          constitutional rights and quote "taxation without  
19          representation." In Brooklyn in particular,  
20          hundreds of thousands of residents are affected by  
21          the vacancies that are created by three Assembly  
22          districts and one Senate district. In November  
23          2013, New York State Assembly Members Inez Barron  
24          of the 60th District, Rafael Espinal of the 54th  
25          District and Alan Maisel of the 59th District were

1 elected to the New York City Council. A member of  
2 the State Senate, Eric Adams, of the 20th  
3 Senatorial District was elected Borough President  
4 of Brooklyn. As of January 2014, the respective  
5 state government seats that they previously  
6 represented were left vacant. In the case of the  
7 Assembly seats, their offices have been closed.  
8 Under the present political calendar where the  
9 general election is not held until November 2014,  
10 these vacancies can last for essentially one year  
11 'til January 2015. These districts are majority  
12 minority districts, and as a result are subject to  
13 the protections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

14  
15 Each member of the State Assembly  
16 represents approximately 128,000 people. Each  
17 member of the State Senate represents approximately  
18 300,000 people. As a result, there are today in  
19 Brooklyn alone approximately 700,000 New Yorkers  
20 that lack representation in either the New York  
21 State Assembly or the New York State Senate.

22 The 54th and 60th Assembly Districts  
23 each presently comprise a 95 percent Black, Latino  
24 and Asian voting age population constituency. The  
25 59th Assembly District presently comprises a 66

1 percent Black, Latino and Asian voting age  
2 population constituency. The 20th Senatorial  
3 District presently comprises a 55 percent Black,  
4 Latino and Asian voting age population  
5 constituency. These facts support the contention  
6 that the affected districts are predominately  
7 communities of color. As Americans, we recall with  
8 pride that on the cusp of the American Revolution,  
9 James Otis proclaimed that quote "taxation without  
10 representation is tyranny" unquote. Today, the  
11 people of Brooklyn pay their taxes; income taxes on  
12 their wages, sales taxes on products and services,  
13 capital gain taxes, property taxes and the various  
14 fees required to obtain a driver's license or  
15 operate a business, yet hundreds of thousands of  
16 these men and women not represented in the State  
17 Legislature, and are therefore without a voice in  
18 the debate, deliberation, conversations and votes  
19 that determine the future of their communities.

21 As the New York State Legislative  
22 calendar typically ends in June, the delay in  
23 scheduling special elections until June or  
24 September will, in effect, prevent those affected  
25



1 from participating in the form of representative  
2 self-government known to us as quote "democracy."

3  
4 Over the course of your tenure as  
5 Governor, you have prided your administration on  
6 securing on time annual state budgets. We  
7 anticipate that this year's budget will be  
8 completed timely; however, a fundamental difference  
9 will be that the decisions regarding funding of  
10 major social programs, public housing, public  
11 education, health initiatives, business incentives,  
12 state agency programs and budgets and taxes and  
13 fees would be ultimately determined without the  
14 interests of these communities being served by  
15 their duly elected representatives. Not having  
16 representation at this stage renders these  
17 communities vulnerable, defenseless, disadvantaged  
18 and ultimately underserved with respect to the  
19 state budgetary process.

20 We understand that the decision to call  
21 for a special election is within the discretionary  
22 powers of your office; however, this power is not  
23 unfettered. We reject the notion that the decision  
24 to hold special elections would be unduly  
25 burdensome and not cost effective. We believe that

2 the cost of leaving the seats vacant and offices  
3 closed in some of the most vulnerable communities  
4 in our state is too high a price to pay and sets a  
5 poor precedent in the furtherance of our democracy.  
6 When state action or inaction contradicts that of  
7 federal law, a balancing test should be conducted  
8 to determine whether the state's interest in saving  
9 money substantially outweighs the deprivation of  
10 representation in the State Legislature. We  
11 wholeheartedly support our colleagues, Councilwoman  
12 Inez Barron and State Senator Kevin Parker in their  
13 pleas to you to fill these legislative vacancies in  
14 the quote "shortest space of time reasonably  
15 possible" as mandated by the New York State Court  
16 of Appeals in the decision of Roher versus Dinkins  
17 32 New York 2nd, 180th, 188th in 1973.

18 We respectfully urge you to property  
19 schedule special elections for the vacant seats  
20 that currently remain in the New York State  
21 Assembly and New York State Senate in accordance  
22 with the laws of the State of New York and with the  
23 Voting Rights Act of 1965. Regards; it's signed  
24 Honorable Yvette Clarke, member of Congress;  
25 Honorable Karim Camara, member of the New York

1  
2 State Assembly; Honorable Jumaane Williams, member  
3 of the New York Council; Honorable Robert Cornegy,  
4 member of the New York City Council; Honorable  
5 Laurie Cumbo, member of the New York City Council  
6 and myself.

7                   This letter is in formation and  
8 additional signatures are being added for finality.  
9 So with that, it concludes my testimony into the  
10 record and I thank you for the opportunity to  
11 present information on this very critical matter.

12                   CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: Thank you. Any  
13 of my colleagues want to make as statement at this  
14 point? We've been joined by Council Member  
15 Espinal. [background voice] Yes.

16                   COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Thank you,  
17 Madam Chair. I was a New York State Assemblyman  
18 for the 54th Assembly District and I served there  
19 for two years and currently it is vacant and during  
20 this budget process coming up in the State, there's  
21 no one there to represent the districts I represent  
22 and I represent one of the poorest districts in the  
23 entire city of New York and the state of New York,  
24 and I believe we do need a voice there, so I'm  
25 going to vote in the affirmative.

2 [Pause]

3 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: Other of my  
4 colleagues want to make a statement? Okay, we have  
5 two people to testify. I'd like to call on Joan P.  
6 Gibbs from Center for Law and Social Justice,  
7 Medgar Evers College.

8 [Pause]

9 JOAN P. GIBBS: My name is Joan P.  
10 Gibbs. I'm the General Counsel for Center for Law  
11 and Social Justice at Medgar Evers College. CLSJ  
12 is a unit of Medgar Evers College. From its  
13 initial days, the Center for Law and Social Justice  
14 has worked to defend the voting rights of Black New  
15 Yorkers and other New Yorkers of color who are  
16 protected by the federal Voting Rights Act. To  
17 this end, CLSJ has led or co-led a number of  
18 historic voting rights advocacy initiatives in New  
19 York City and litigation. They are included in my  
20 testimony, but for the sake of time, I'm not going  
21 to read that part of it.

22 I'm here today to strongly urge the  
23 City Council to collectively advocate and resolve  
24 that a special election be called promptly to fill  
25 the currently vacant State Legislative seats in New

1 York City and throughout New York State. There are  
2 currently 11 vacant seats in the bodies of the  
3 State Assembly and the State Senate. Of course,  
4 the majority are located within New York City; five  
5 Assembly seats and one Senate seat. Collectively  
6 these six seats represent approximately 1.1 million  
7 city residents. In addition, five of the vacant  
8 Assembly seats are in majority minority districts  
9 with populations that are primarily Black or  
10 Latino. One of the two vacant Senate seats covers  
11 the majority Black district where Medgar Evers  
12 College is located.

14           According to the law, the power to call  
15 a special election rests with the discretion of the  
16 Governor. To date, however, Governor Cuomo has not  
17 set the date for the special election to occur.  
18 Traditionally, special elections to fill vacancies  
19 that occur after a general election in November  
20 have been scheduled for the March of the next year  
21 or sooner. In regards to the timing with special  
22 election, the law is clear from the state's highest  
23 court, the Court of Appeals, which stated, as  
24 Council Member Barron has previously noted, and  
25 Roher vs. Dinkins quote "when a vacancy occurs, the

1 vacancy must be filled by election in the shortest  
2 space of time reasonably possible." The need for  
3 expeditiously scheduled special elections rests on  
4 two very rear and germane premises in a  
5 representative democracy. 1. The basic voting  
6 rights of the district's constituents to elect and  
7 have representatives in New York State's  
8 Legislative bodies. In addition 2. The equal  
9 protection rights of the district residents to  
10 constituent services, which are provided locally  
11 through the district offices of state  
12 representatives. Surely it must be recognized that  
13 state representatives are necessary to advocate on  
14 their constituents' behalf during the crucial State  
15 Executive Budget process, which occurs in the first  
16 quarter of the year. Having no representative  
17 clearly means there is no one in that legislative  
18 body to quote "bring home the bacon," and to these  
19 taxpaying New Yorkers. These constituents in their  
20 districts will suffer due to the loss of vital  
21 state tax dollars to those areas. While the  
22 vacancy exists, it also renders the constituents  
23 voiceless, mute and voteless on all the serious  
24 state policy issues that will be considered and  
25

1 decided during the State Legislative process. For  
2 example, issues such as education, health care,  
3 development, criminal justice and environmental  
4 concerns that will be decided without their weigh-  
5 in. Moreover, the 11 vacancies in the State  
6 Assembly and State Senate are affecting a  
7 significant number of New Yorkers, and particularly  
8 as a result of these vacancies approximately 1.5  
9 million New Yorkers are without representation.  
10 That's a whopping 12 percent of our state's  
11 population. The large number of unrepresented  
12 residents makes a sham of representative democracy  
13 in New York State.

14  
15           Finally, we're aware at this stage that  
16 elections cost money. We are also aware that the  
17 Board of Elections in the city of New York is  
18 underfunded and because of the 2009 Military and  
19 Overseas Voter Empowerment Act under federal court  
20 order, New York State will be holding two primary  
21 elections in 2014, a Congressional Primary in May  
22 and another Primary in September and thereafter, a  
23 general election in November. The additional spent  
24 of holding a special election March, however, does  
25 not constitute a legitimate waiver to the state

1           duties to its voters. The right to vote is a  
2           fundamental right. Elections in this democracy are  
3           not optional. Further, prompt elections are  
4           necessary to protect this right.  
5

6                         In conclusion, the Center for Law and  
7           Social Justice strongly urges the New York City  
8           Council to support the resolution introduced by  
9           Council Member Barron. Further, we request that  
10          the City Council sent a message to Governor Cuomo  
11          strongly urging him to call a special election to  
12          fill all 11 vacancies no later than March 18th,  
13          2014. Thank you for holding a hearing on this  
14          crucial issue. We value the opportunity to appear  
15          before the City Council today. The Center for Law  
16          and Social Justice looks forward to continuing our  
17          cooperative relationship with the City Council.  
18          I'll be happy to answer any questions.

19                         [Pause]

20                         CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: Thank you very  
21          much. I'm going to extend the courtesy to my  
22          colleague, Ben Kallos; to Council Member Ben  
23          Kallos. He has another meeting that he's very late  
24          for and I'm going to extend the privilege of him  
25          making a comment and voting.



1                   COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: I want to  
2 extend my gratitude and thanks to our gracious  
3 chair. It's an honor to serve on this committee  
4 with her and to have her leadership. I will make  
5 an explanation of my vote and then cast my vote.  
6 With nine vacancies in the State Assembly, two  
7 vacancies in the State Senate, City and State News  
8 counts 1,786,166 New York State residents are left  
9 without state representation and I commend this  
10 resolution to remedy this problem. The New York  
11 special election process, however, is deeply  
12 flawed. According to a Citizens Union report on  
13 the special elections process Circumventing  
14 Democracy: the Flawed System for Filling Vacancies  
15 for Elected Office in New York, one in four  
16 legislators was elected in a special election.  
17 These contests have quote "an abysmally low average  
18 turnout of 12 percent" end of quote with an  
19 incumbency re-election rate of 96 percent over the  
20 last decade. Citizens Union states in their report  
21 quote "The continuation of a closed party  
22 nominating process in which party leaders  
23 essentially ordain the candidates whose names will  
24 appear on a special election ballot limits voter  
25

2 participation in our representative democracy" end  
3 of quote. It seems that Governor Andrew Cuomo is  
4 refusing to call up these special elections in  
5 order to avoid this undemocratic process. I had  
6 hoped to vote in favor of this resolution with a  
7 friendly amendment to call on the Governor to  
8 change the special election law to require party  
9 primaries or non-partisan elections. I therefore  
10 vote no on this resolution as written, but  
11 encourage the Governor to amend the special  
12 election law to require party primaries or non-  
13 partisan elections, as was recommended by Citizens  
14 Union, then call a special election to provide  
15 representation to 1,786,166 New Yorkers. Thank  
16 you.

17 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: Thank you. I  
18 would like to call Melvin Faulkner.

19 [Pause]

20 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: You may start.

21 [Pause]

22 MELVIN FAULKNER: I thank you, council  
23 members, for allowing us to testify before this  
24 committee this morning. My name is Melvin  
25 Faulkner, who has been working with homeowners who

1 are sometimes approaching foreclosure status and  
2 many have been attempting to receive budget  
3 modifications for their mortgages. I was formally  
4 a staff member of Assemblywoman Inez Barron, who  
5 has exclusively on helping constituents stay in  
6 their homes. As a senior citizen, a voter in every  
7 election and a coordinator for the Board of  
8 Elections and a very long-standing community  
9 resident, I'm testifying on behalf of people that I  
10 know well. I know that I speak for a sizeable  
11 group of people from East New York communities, who  
12 are without proper representation at the level of  
13 the New York State Assembly. I personally have  
14 taken on the task of having petitions circulated  
15 demanding that we have a special election for the  
16 60th Assembly District, which represent all of East  
17 New York, including all of Starrett City, a little  
18 bit of Brownsville and a little of Canarsie. The  
19 best way to describe the total area is by zip  
20 codes; 11207, 11208 and 11239. All of that is part  
21 of the 60th Assembly District and a small part of  
22 11236, which is Canarsie and 11213, which is  
23 Brownsville. If we add up all of the... at the  
24 time I had nine Assembly seats and one Senatorial  
25

2 seat, but now I understand it's two Senatorial  
3 seats involved in this, but it's over a million  
4 people that actually we're talking in terms of  
5 seeking help for them.

6 We need a special election as Assembly  
7 seat requires. A government that does not put  
8 forth a concerted effort for all of its people  
9 shows lack of sense of responsibility to those same  
10 people. We can and will take leadership to make  
11 sure we do not lose a dime from income scheduled  
12 for this area of Brooklyn in its budget. We are  
13 certain that our demands for fair play will be  
14 heard by other representation in our surrounding  
15 areas because our situation of today could be yours  
16 of tomorrow. We thank you for your time in hearing  
17 this argument on this matter. We thank you very  
18 much and we'll answer any questions you may have.

19 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: Any questions?

20 MELVIN FAULKNER: Thank you.

21 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: Thank you very  
22 much.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: No, just a  
24 comment. I just wanted to acknowledge that this is  
25 the Melvin Faulkner that I referenced in my

1 statement and he's an outstanding person and has  
2 really committed much of his time and even now,  
3 without being paid, is working to assist those same  
4 people that he worked with from my office. I just  
5 wanted to acknowledge you, Mr. Faulkner and  
6 commend...

7 [crosstalk]

8 MELVIN FAULKNER: Thank you.

9 [crosstalk]

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: You for the job  
11 that you do. Thank you.

12 MELVIN FAULKNER: Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: Joy Simmons.

14 JOY SIMMONS: Greetings. I am going to  
15 read a letter that was sent to Governor Andrew  
16 Cuomo from State Senator Kevin Parker. Dear  
17 Governor Cuomo, I write to you concerning the issue  
18 of approximately 1.5 million New Yorkers whose  
19 Senators and/or Assembly members have principally  
20 left their respective legislative bodies since the  
21 November 2013 election. I believe that the 12  
22 percent of New Yorkers represented by the 11 empty  
23 Legislative Districts; example nine Assembly  
24 Districts and two Senate Districts; many of which  
25

1 are majority African American or Latino districts  
2 should not lack representation during the 2014  
3 Executive Budget process and certainly not until  
4 January of 2015. I am respectfully requesting  
5 therefore that you call a special election without  
6 delay so that those New Yorkers represented by  
7 those empty seats have at least the prospect of  
8 being represented in 2014 and during the Budget  
9 process. As you know, once New York's Annual State  
10 Budget is completed and enacted into law, most if  
11 not all of the state's major social programs,  
12 health initiatives, business incentives and state  
13 agency budgets and programs and taxes and fees are  
14 set in stone and largely unchangeable for the year.  
15 Therefore, to be without representation in the  
16 Executive Budget process is literally to be subject  
17 to taxation without representation. Worse,  
18 communities without State Legislative  
19 representatives have no voice in how thousands of  
20 other bills are amended, debated or passed into  
21 law. These communities also have no representative  
22 to provide them with constituent services or to  
23 voice their community's concerns in legislative  
24 oversight proceedings. Compounding the challenges  
25

1 faced by these unprecedented legislative districts  
2 of the nine Assembly seats that are currently  
3 vacant, five districts are quote "majority  
4 minority," principally African American and Latino  
5 districts. Of the two Senate seats vacant, one is  
6 a majority African American district and the other  
7 has large Latino, African American and varied new  
8 American groups that are no longer represented in  
9 the Senate. The absence of legislative  
10 representation in these 11 districts therefore  
11 disproportionately harms New York African American,  
12 Latino and new American communities.

14           The question of whether or not, like  
15 many other constitutional rights and duties, the  
16 Governor's discretionary power to call or choose  
17 not to call special elections is outweighed by New  
18 York's constitutional requirement for speedy  
19 elections has been discussed extensively in the  
20 media over the past month. The media has discussed  
21 this issue, however, as an academic problem that  
22 tilts the balance of power between your office and  
23 that of the legislative conference leaders, almost  
24 completely ignoring the implications of more than a  
25 million New Yorkers being without representation

1           during the budget process and an entire legislative  
2 session.  
3

4                       I am asking you here not to treat this  
5 enormous number of citizens bereft of legislative  
6 representation for up to one year as a purely  
7 academic issue, and to remember and honor the needs  
8 of New Yorkers of the 11 Legislative districts  
9 without representation. It is simply not right and  
10 violates our constitutional values that they be  
11 denied representation during such an important time  
12 due to the failure to call special elections to  
13 fill those legislative seats. As the Court of  
14 Appeals most recently said in 1973, when a  
15 vacancy... and this is quotes "when a vacancy in  
16 elective office occurs, the vacancy must be filled  
17 by election in the shortest space of time  
18 reasonably possible" end quote. See e.g. Roher  
19 versus Dinkins 32 N.Y. 2d 180, 188 1973.

20                       I respectfully request therefore as  
21 noted above, that you hold a special election  
22 without delay so that those New Yorkers represented  
23 by those empty seats have at least the prospect of  
24 being represented in 2014 and during the budget  
25 process. If you have any questions please do not



2 hesitate to contact me. Yours in partnership,  
3 State Senator Kevin Parker.

4 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: Thank you very  
5 much. If there are no other witnesses to testify,  
6 please call the roll.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Kevin Pin, [phonetic]  
8 Committee Clerk. Roll call on the committee on  
9 State and Federal Legislation Pre-considered  
10 Resolution. Council member Koslowitz.

11 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: I vote aye and  
12 recommend an aye vote.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Lander.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: With praise to  
15 Council Member Barron on her first resolution in  
16 the City Council, I vote aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Espinal.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: I vote aye and  
19 would like to be added as a prime sponsor to the  
20 resolution.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Reynoso.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Madam Chair, I  
23 would like an opportunity to explain my vote. So  
24 as a member of New Kings Democrats, I am torn. I'm  
25 a member of an organization that is committed to

2 transparency and as democratic a process as  
3 possible for elections. The state system of  
4 special elections is antiquated. It doesn't allow  
5 for a Democratic Primary. I would like to  
6 encourage our state reps to push for election  
7 reform. Don't make the city reps have to choose  
8 between process and representation. I will vote  
9 aye because I cannot in good conscience allow for  
10 11 communities and over 1.7 million residents, of  
11 which the majority are Black and Latino, go without  
12 representation, so I vote aye.

13 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: I'm going to  
14 leave the vote open for 30 minutes so other  
15 colleagues can vote and I also would like to be  
16 added as a sponsor. [background voices]

17 [Pause]

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member  
19 Dickens. [background voices] Council Member  
20 Dickens.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vote stands at five  
23 in the affirmative and one in the negative, no  
24 abstentions. [background voices]

25 [Pause]

1 COMMITTEE ON STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATION 27

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: The final vote on the  
3 Committee on State and Federal Legislation six in  
4 the affirmative, one in the negative and no  
5 abstentions. [background voices]

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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. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.



Date: 02/05/2014