



Legislation Details (With Text)

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Title: Resolution calling upon the State Legislature to amend the State election law to permit electronic voter registration.

Sponsors: Simcha Felder, Gale A. Brewer, Letitia James, Melissa Mark-Viverito, Darlene Mealy, Larry B. Seabrook, Kendall Stewart, Bill De Blasio, Robert Jackson, Daniel R. Garodnick

Indexes:

Attachments: 1. Committee Report, 2. Hearing Testimony, 3. Hearing Transcript

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11/25/2008	*	Committee on Governmental Operations	Laid Over by Committee	
12/31/2009	*	City Council	Filed (End of Session)	

Res. No. 1251

Resolution calling upon the State Legislature to amend the State election law to permit electronic voter registration.

By Council Members Felder, Brewer, James, Mark-Viverito, Mealy, Seabrook, Stewart, de Blasio, Jackson and Garodnick

Whereas, Voting is a fundamental right of all citizens and every citizen’s eligibility is protected by the Constitution of the State of New York; and

Whereas, A significant barrier to New York State residents’ ability to vote in New York is New York State’s antiquated voter registration system; and

Whereas, Currently in New York, although the voter registration application is available online, an applicant must print and complete the application and mail it to a local Board of Elections or deliver it in person to a local Board of Elections in order for the registration to become effective; and

Whereas, Other states such as Washington and Arizona allow electronic voter registration through information obtained when seeking a State identification or a driver's license; and

Whereas, According to an article titled "Washington starts up online voter registration," by the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, in the first three days that Washington state made an online voter registration application available, the system recorded 1,634 online applications; and

Whereas, Additionally, in Arizona, more than six out of ten new voter registrations are filed online; and

Whereas, More people are using the Internet to conduct their business, including paying bills, registering for classes and filing their income taxes; and

Whereas, The ability to register to vote online would make registering much easier for many people, including military personnel serving overseas, college students and people with disabilities; and

Whereas, The ability to register electronically would make it easier to register to vote and might therefore encourage people to vote and increase voter turnout; and

Whereas, In addition, online voter registration is less costly than paper registrations; now therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon the State Legislature to amend the State election law to permit electronic voter registration.

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