



Legislation Text

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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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