

MOLLY HOLLISTER  
CHAIR

CLAUDE L. WINFIELD, FIRST VICE CHAIR  
AHSIA BADI, SECOND VICE CHAIR



JESÚS PÉREZ  
DISTRICT MANAGER

BRIAN VAN NIEUWENHOVEN, TREASURER  
BEATRICE DISMAN, ASST. TREASURER  
KATHY THOMPSON, SECRETARY  
AMELIA ACOSTA, ASST. SECRETARY

THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD SIX  
211 EAST 43<sup>RD</sup> STREET, SUITE 1404  
NEW YORK, NY 10017

**VIA E-MAIL**

February 20, 2019

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
New York State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
Majority Leader, New York State Senate  
188 State Street Room 907, Legislative Office Building  
Albany, NY 12247

Assembly Member Carl E. Heastie  
Speaker, New York State Assembly  
Legislative Office Building Room 932  
Albany, NY 12248

Senator Zellnor Myrie  
Chair, New York State Senate Committee on Elections  
188 State Street, Legislative Office Building Room 903  
Albany, NY 12247

Assembly Member Charles D. Lavine  
Chair, New York State Assembly Committee on Election Law  
Legislative Office Building Room 715  
Albany, NY 12248

**Resolution in support of new party affiliation change rules in New York State**

At the February 13, 2019 Full Board meeting of Manhattan Community Board Six, the Board adopted the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the New York State Legislature has gathered for the 2019 session and has already passed a “day one” package of voting reform legislation, including measures previously supported by Manhattan Community Board Six;

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature intends to consider additional legislation for changes to rules for allowing voters to switch party affiliation for primary eligibility;

**WHEREAS**, the current rule for changing party affiliation in New York State (N.Y. Election Law Section 5-304(3)) requires requests to be submitted no later than 25 days before the general election of the prior year, which effectively sets the cutoff date many months before the NY primaries, a scenario the board finds undesirable;

**WHEREAS**, the board recognizes public concerns about allowing open primaries and with allowing party affiliation changes very close to the date of a contested primary;

**WHEREAS**, the board suggests reform of the rule of party affiliation changes to make the cutoff date for filing changes 30 days before primary elections, in order to empower the public to file affiliation changes reasonably close to a primary election and enable broader participation in the electoral process (without triggering issues that may be raised by schemes for mass affiliation changes immediately preceding a primary election);

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Manhattan Community Board Six supports the passage of New York State legislation changing the current rules that enable voters to change their party affiliation to be eligible to vote in a party primary election, such that the cutoff date for these changes shall be as close to the date of the primary election as possible, but no sooner than 30 days before the election.

**VOTE: 29 in Favor 3 Opposed 1 Abstention 0 Not Entitled**

Best regards,



Jesús Pérez  
District Manager

Cc: Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President  
Hon. Liz Krueger, State Senator  
Hon. Brad Hoylman, State Senator  
Hon. Richard Gottfried, Assembly Member  
Hon. Harvey Epstein, Assembly Member  
Hon. Dan Quart, Assembly Member  
Brian van Nieuwenhoven, Chair, CB6 Ad Hoc Budget Committee