July 23, 2026

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of the State of New York
Executive Chamber
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul:

We write in light of the stunning admission by New Jersey Governor Mikie Sherrill that roughly 6,600 individuals were registered to vote in New Jersey after they indicated through the State's Motor Vehicle Commission that they were not U.S. citizens. Even more concerning, approximately 400 of these non-citizens cast a ballot in an election.

These revelations are deeply troubling and raise legitimate concerns for New York. Recently, New York Democrats passed similar lenient voter registration procedures that warrant an immediate review to ensure that only eligible citizens are registering to vote.

In 2019, Democratic majorities in the State Legislature passed, and former Governor Cuomo signed the Green Light Law. Our conference opposed that legislation because we were concerned that allowing illegal immigrants to obtain a driver's license could create vulnerabilities in New York's voter registration system that would lead to non-citizens being registered to vote.

This legislative session, our conference offered a legislative amendment on the floor of the Senate that would require voters to show a valid ID when they cast a ballot. This measure, which is supported by an overwhelming majority of Americans, was unanimously rejected by the Democratic Majority of the Senate.

We urge you to work with our conference to pass common sense election reforms that will ensure our elections are secure without placing burdensome barriers on New Yorkers who are lawfully entitled to vote in our elections. These election reforms include:

- Repeal the Green Light Law - Senate Bill No.3489, sponsored by Senator Stec;
- Enact a voter ID requirement - Senate Bill No.2574, sponsored by Minority Leader Ortt;
- Conduct a complete audit of New York's voter rolls to ensure only eligible U.S. citizens are registered to vote; and

- Veto any future legislation that would create vulnerabilities in our election process, such as Senate Bill No. 88-A, sponsored by Senator Gianaris. This legislation passed the Senate this legislative session along party lines and would automatically enroll Medicaid recipients to vote. This is extremely problematic since non-citizens 65 years and older are enrolled in the State's Medicaid program and the Medicaid program is rife with fraud.

These are reasonable and widely supported measures that will protect the integrity of our elections without placing burdensome barriers on eligible voters.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Robert G. Ortt
Senate Minority Leader
62nd District

Senator Andrew Lanza
24th District

Senator Tom O'Mara
58th District

Senator George Borrello
57th District

Senator Jim Tedisco
44th District

Senator Daniel G. Stec
45th District

Senator William Weber
38th District

Senator Steve Rhoads
5th District

Senator Dean Murray
3rd District

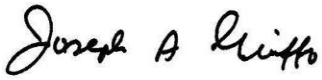
Senator Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick
9th District

Senator Anthony Palumbo
1st District

Senator Jake Ashby
43rd District

Senator Mark Walczyk
49th District

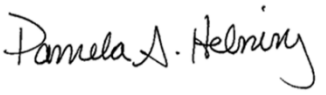
Senator Alexis Weik
8th District



Senator Joseph Griffo
53rd District

Senator Mario Mattera
2nd District

Senator Peter Oberacker
51st District



Senator Pam Helming
54th District