



CHELSEA REFORM DEMOCRATIC CLUB

May 15 , 2025

RESOLUTION

Chelsea Reform Democratic Club (CRDC) Resolution in Support of Charter Revision Ballot Fairness Bill

Senate Bill S9935, Assembly Bill A5661A

[LINK](#)

Sponsors: Liz Krueger, Tony Simone

Relates to the city charter referendum process; repeals certain provisions regarding adoption of new or revised city charter proposed by charter commission which limit submission of questions to city's electors.

WHEREAS, the Municipal Home Rule Law currently allows the Mayor of New York City to appoint a charter revision commission at any time and, by doing so, block other charter amendments proposed by the City Council or by public petition from appearing on the ballot (known as the "bumping" rule); and

WHEREAS, this "bumping" mechanism has been used by multiple administrations, including those of Mayor Giuliani and Mayor Adams, to prevent voters from considering reforms such as council oversight of mayoral appointments, campaign finance changes, and other critical democratic initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the ability to suppress duly initiated charter proposals undermines democratic principles, silences community-driven reforms, and concentrates undue power in the hands of the executive; and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation would repeal the "bumping" provision, require that any charter revision commission be formed at least 180 days before submitting proposals for the ballot, mandate that proposed revisions be made public at least 30 days before filing, and clarify existing law to resolve conflicts between multiple ballot measures fairly; and

WHEREAS, these reforms would promote transparency, protect the integrity of the ballot process, respect the legislative and petition processes, and ensure that voters are

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given a meaningful opportunity to consider a full range of charter reforms without manipulation;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chelsea Reform Democratic Club (CRDC) enthusiastically supports the Charter Revision Ballot Fairness Bill;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CRDC urges the New York State Legislature to promptly pass the bill and calls on Governor Kathy Hochul to sign it into law to safeguard democratic participation and restore balance and trust to New York City's charter revision process.

Sincerely,

CRDC Executive Committee

By Unanimous Vote

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