

BALLOT DESIGN BILL

December 12, 2024

Upon initial review, NJWFA maintains that, both from a policy and constitutional perspective, several provisions of the A-5116 are simply unacceptable. Below is a short and non-exhaustive assessment of objections related to the various provisions.

Computerized Drawings

As recognized by testifying experts and acknowledged by the federal District Court and the Third Circuit, ballot order matters, and candidates can gain an advantage/disadvantage based on the primacy effect when listed first. This principle carries to office block style ballots as well, such as the “golden arm” example that emerged in the Essex 2024 primary ballot where a disproportionate number of all candidates running on the same platform/slogan for a contested office miraculously secured first ballot position across the office ballots, a statistical anomaly, such that they were lined-up across candidate races.

Democratic — Democrático

Choice for President and Delegate to the Senator for the National Committee For the President and Delegate to the National Committee For the President and Delegate to the National Committee For the President and Delegate to the National Committee	For United States Senator For the United States Senator For the United States Senator For the United States Senator	For Member of the House of Representatives For the Member of the House of Representatives For the Member of the House of Representatives For the Member of the House of Representatives	For Sheriff For the Sheriff For the Sheriff For the Sheriff	For Registrar For the Registrar For the Registrar For the Registrar
Delegados para Presidente y Deputado a la Comision Nacional For the President and Delegate to the National Committee For the President and Delegate to the National Committee For the President and Delegate to the National Committee	For United States Senator For the United States Senator For the United States Senator For the United States Senator	For Member of the House of Representatives For the Member of the House of Representatives For the Member of the House of Representatives For the Member of the House of Representatives	For Sheriff For the Sheriff For the Sheriff For the Sheriff	For Registrar For the Registrar For the Registrar For the Registrar
Joseph B. SMITH, JR. For the President and Delegate to the National Committee For the President and Delegate to the National Committee For the President and Delegate to the National Committee	Andry KIN For the United States Senator For the United States Senator For the United States Senator	Malibu SHERMAN For the Member of the House of Representatives For the Member of the House of Representatives For the Member of the House of Representatives	Amir JONES For the Sheriff For the Sheriff For the Sheriff	James M. RIVERA, JR. For the Registrar For the Registrar For the Registrar
Yarvis BUCOVANAG For the President and Delegate to the National Committee For the President and Delegate to the National Committee For the President and Delegate to the National Committee	Andry KIN For the United States Senator For the United States Senator For the United States Senator	Malibu SHERMAN For the Member of the House of Representatives For the Member of the House of Representatives For the Member of the House of Representatives	Amir JONES For the Sheriff For the Sheriff For the Sheriff	James M. RIVERA, JR. For the Registrar For the Registrar For the Registrar

All testifying witnesses who addressed this issue spoke out in favor of computerized draws to be used in connection with random draws, and none spoke against it. There is simply no reason to not have computerized draws, and to instead rely on an arcane system akin to picking names out of a hat. This is particularly true where such a system has yielded longtime allegations of manipulation and where expert evidence quantifies how the golden arm demonstrates foul play and contributes to an obvious lack of public confidence in elections that can easily be avoided. See, e.g., Mochary v. Caputo, 100 N.J. 119, 122-23 (1985) (when general election ballot draws favored one party 40 times in 41 years of draws, “few persons of reason will accept the explanation of blind chance”). Further, in his Feb. 14, 2024 expert report that is before the Committee and filed on the public docket in the Kim matter, Dr. Pasek found that hand draws in

primary elections overwhelmingly favored the “county line” endorsees. The “county line” endorsees were in first ballot position so often that there was only a 2 in 1000 possibility that this distribution could be explained by chance. *Id.* at 68 & n.9.

Now more than ever, it is critical to restore the public trust in election administration for fair ballot design. The New Jersey Working Families Alliance urges the committee, and the legislature, to mandate, without delay, actual randomization on the ballot. This can be done via an auditable computer process or other mechanism that ensures true randomization and that the fix is not in.¹ Another way to ensure randomization is to mandate ballot rotation, as accomplished in other jurisdictions, to ensure that each candidate for each office appears in an equal number of order positions in the office block.

Restrictions on Using the Names of Political Parties in Slogans

We heard many witnesses call for the outright abolition of slogans on the primary ballot, consistent with the vast and overwhelming majority of ballots used in other states. Putting aside the notion of outright abolition of slogans altogether, the Bill adds to the current slogan rules a new and egregious restriction on what specific words candidates can use in their slogans in a primary election. Specifically, it requires the consent of a county political committee of a party to use or refer to the name of a political party as defined in N.J.S.A. 19:1-1. The plain effect of this provision is that the only candidates that can use the word “Democrat” or “Democratic” in their slogan in a primary election (or “Republican” in that party’s primary) are the candidates endorsed by the county party leadership’s faction of the county’s Democratic or Republican organization.

It is important to understand that a political party (as defined in the above statute) only endorses the winner of the primary election. Prior to that decision being made by the voters, there are no endorsements by “the party” (whether it be municipal, county, or state). Rather, what occurs pre-primary is that a “wing or faction” (in the words of N.J.S.A. 19:23-17) of the party endorses a particular candidate. Just because an endorsing “wing or faction” happens to coincide with party leadership does not make that wing or faction’s endorsement with respect to a primary election any more legally significant than another wing or faction’s endorsement. Fair ballots mean equal ballots. To paraphrase Animal Farm, no candidate is more equal than any other candidate.

In other words, under the Bill, only the leadership faction’s candidates can use the name “Democrat,” (for example) and every other candidate is prohibited from using that particular

¹ As an example of randomization software that is already being used in New Jersey for these purposes, see, e.g., www.randomware.com; see also <https://www.dealpolice.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/03/SOP-065.pdf> (police union and management agreed on RandomWare as a fair method of selecting personnel for random drug testing).

word, even though a Democratic primary election is an election where every candidate (and voter) participating is a registered Democrat. Thus, some Democratic candidates would be allowed to use the words "Democrat" or "Democratic", and others would not, even if they have the permission of an incorporated entity whose name includes the word "Democrat." It is hard to imagine a more clear violation of free speech and associational rights under the United States Constitution (and the even more expansive provisions of the New Jersey Constitution) than this draconian prohibition on the use of critical and particular words for only some candidates' slogans, and not others. All references and provisions related to restrictions on the use of such words must be removed.

In-Office Bracketing

The Bill requires that the clerks allow candidates running for the same office, who want to associate with one another, to (1) use a common slogan, (2) be featured immediately next to (or below) one another on the primary ballot, and (3) draw for position as a unit. While the ability of such candidates to use a common slogan does not represent a departure from current law, the other two features (hereinafter collectively referred to as "in-office bracketing") are problematic. Part and parcel of the notion of an equal and fair ballot draw is the notion that all candidates running for a particular office are included in the same draw, and each must appear in the order that they are drawn, and not based on the order in which a different candidate for the same or another office is drawn.

The Bill is vague as to how such in-office bracketed candidates will be physically presented within the ballot in a manner. For example, the Bill is vague insofar as the ability for such candidates to be presented side-by-side in two columns within the office block, such as in a "Vote for Two" scenario, whereas unaffiliated candidates who choose to exercise their right not to associate will be singularly listed in a column alongside a comparatively empty space or alongside a competitor.

The bill is silent as to the design of such in-office bracketed candidates, and whether a physical line may or may not be used to segregate and call further attention to those groupings within the office block. The bill is also silent as to a specification that each such in-office bracketed candidate must be individually voted for, rather than the grouping as a whole. These ambiguities must be clarified.

We are not aware of any individuals who testified in favor of in-office bracketing, whereas a substantial number of individuals testified adamantly against the use of such practice. Moreover, the testimony from the Committee's invited ballot expert witness confirmed that allowing such candidates to be drawn and featured automatically adjacent to one another as a unit would be an unprecedented ballot practice not used by any other state in the country. It would, once again, make New Jersey a national outlier in the direction of bad ballot design by attempting to influence and manipulate voters. As recognized by both the District Court and a three-judge

panel of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in a unanimous published decision in Kim v. Hanlon, candidates running for the same office who want to associate with one another already have the ability to do so through a common slogan, which goes well beyond what other states allow on the ballot itself in a primary election. That is to say, even assuming that candidates had the right to use the ballot to make known their association with other candidates, which they do not, the use of the same slogan by such candidates amply fulfills those purported rights.

All references to and provisions made for associations of candidates via the in-office bracketing features set forth above should be immediately removed from any adopted legislation.

Discretion to Indicate Associations with Physical Brackets

Although the physical bracket provision – which allows clerks the discretion to indicate, at candidates' request, a physical bracket indicating the candidates running together – has been removed from draft text and does not appear in the Bill, we offer the following if it becomes re-inserted via amendment or the subject of companion legislation.

The Draft Text allowed clerks, at their discretion, to use physical bracket symbols to indicate which candidates, running for the same office, want to associate with one another. As per the Draft Text, these physical brackets are cumulative to both the slogan and in-office bracketing as set forth above.

We are unaware of any witness testimony over the course of at least 12 hours of public hearings that were supportive of expanding the use of a physical bracket for candidates who chose to bracket together as is demonstrated in the following recent 2022 Board of education ballot for candidates Murray-Thomas, Gonzalez, and Williams. Indeed, one could infer from the testimony that the witnesses who addressed this were calling for the abolition of the physical bracket to the extent it's now permissible in board of education or nonpartisan municipal elections. We agree with those sentiments, and are convinced a court would find expansion of this practice to partisan races, which would again be unique to New Jersey, to be unconstitutional.

Although we are encouraged that this atrocity is not presently found in the Bill, its original inclusion in the Draft Text is indicia that this Committee has radically strayed from its stated goal, and casts doubt on the other remaining objectionable portions in the Bill.

		For Members of the Board of Education Three Year Terms Vote for Three					
		Miembros del Consejo de Educación Términos de Tres Años Vote por Tres					
		Thomas LUNA	Mark FREEMAN	Philip WILSON	David MURRAY-THOMAS	David GONZALEZ	Crystal WILLIAMS
	A	1A ()	2A ()	3A ()	4A ()	5A ()	6A ()
		Personal Choice Elección Personal ()	Personal Choice Elección Personal ()	Personal Choice Elección Personal ()			
PUBLIC QUESTION RESOLVED, that there should be raised for General Funds \$1,08,314,942 for the ensuing School Year (2022-23). PREGUNTA PÚBLICA RESUELTO, que hay que recoger el Fondo General la cantidad de \$138,314,942 para el siguiente Año Escolar (2022-23). YES () NO ()							
INSTRUCTIONS TO THE VOTER: ✓ Use Only Provided Markings on Marked Your Ballot. - To vote for any candidate whose name is printed on this ballot, fill in the oval beneath the candidate's name (from this ○, to this ●). Do not vote for more than the number of candidates to be elected to each office. - To vote for a person whose name is not printed on this ballot, write the person's name on the blank line(s) (marked "personal choice") below the proper title of office and fill in the oval beneath the name (from this ○, to this ●). - To vote on a Public Question, fill in the oval below the word "YES" or "NO" (from this ○, to this ●). - Do not mark this ballot in any manner other than provided for and do not erase. If you spoil your ballot, return it for a fresh one. If you mark your ballot in such a way that your intent is unclear, or if you vote for more than the number to be elected to an office, your vote for that office will not be counted. INSTRUCCIONES PARA EL VOTANTE: ✓ Solo Use las Marcaciones Proporcionadas para Marcar su Papeleta. - Para votar por cualquier candidato cuyo nombre está impreso en esta papeleta, rellene el óvalo abajo del nombre del candidato (de este ○, a este ●). No vote por más candidatos que el número a ser electo a ese cargo. - Para votar por una persona cuyo nombre no está impreso en esta papeleta, escriba el nombre de la persona en la(s) línea(s) en blanco abajo del título apropiado del cargo, marcada "elección personal", y rellene el óvalo abajo del nombre (de este ○, a este ●). - Para votar por una Pregunta Pública, rellene el óvalo abajo de la palabra "YES" (SI) o "NO" (de este ○, a este ●). - No marque esta papeleta de ninguna otra manera que la provista y no borrar. Si daña su papeleta, regístrala para una nueva. Si marca su papeleta de tal manera que su intención no es clara, o si vota por más del número de candidatos a ser electos a ese cargo, su voto para ese cargo no será contado.							

As with in-office bracketing, physical bracket symbols were not advocated for; rather they were vociferously advocated against by testifying witnesses. If adopted, they would provide additional grounds for making New Jersey a national outlier in ballot manipulation, and would further compound constitutional violations. Such ballot markings are egregious and outrageous, and could not pass constitutional muster in the wake of the Third Circuit's opinion in the Kim case. All references to and provisions made for physical bracket symbols should remain absent from any adopted legislation.

Incumbent Designation

Although the incumbent designator provision – which allows clerks the discretion to indicate, at a candidate's request, that such candidate is the incumbent for the particular office – has also been removed from the Draft Text and does not appear in the Bill, we offer the following if it becomes re-inserted into the bill via amendment or the subject of companion legislation.

The Draft Text's provisions on incumbent designation affords extra speech only to some candidates and not others, about one characteristic, and prevents all other candidates from speaking at all about any other characteristics. It is in any event unnecessary, because if truthful, a candidate can already state the fact of their incumbency in their slogan if they find it beneficial to them. As written, the Draft Text elevates speech about one particular topic, and then further only allows certain candidates to speak about it. It also needlessly injects discretion of the county clerk, which invites further manipulation and the (at best) appearance of impropriety, while turning the ballot into a political advertisement for candidates who often already, by virtue

of their incumbency, have the highest name recognition. The incumbent designation sits at the crossroads of a simultaneous Free Speech and Equal Protection violation, and cannot pass constitutional muster. All references and provisions related to an incumbent designation should remain removed from the adopted legislation.

Again, although we are encouraged that this obviously unconstitutional proposal is not presently found in the Bill, its original inclusion in the Draft Text is indicia that this Committee has radically strayed from its stated goal, and casts doubt on the other remaining objectionable portions in the Bill.

Data Collection and Study

The bill provides that the Division of Elections in the Department of State shall collect data and develop and submit a one-time report concerning the conduct of primary elections, best practices to improve the conduct of future primary elections, and any other relevant information, research, guidance, and expertise regarding the implementation of the new ballot designs and primary election procedures. We would submit that such a study and report should be broadened, and that ballot design, voting machine, and election law experts, good government advocates, and governmental elections attorneys and staff such as those from the Division of Elections should instead comprise a Blue Ribbon Commission to study and report on ballot design, election administration, and voter access across the Garden State. Such a Commission should conduct public hearings across the state, collect data from county clerks, engage with federal agencies such as the U.S. Elections Commission and the Federal Elections Commission, and produce a series of comprehensive reports, at least once every two years, over the next decade.

Closing

We view the parameters of Judge Quraishi's Order to represent the minimum constitutional floor upon which the Legislature should build in the direction of fair and equal ballots. The Legislature has an opportunity to rise above the fray and win back the good will of the electorate by securing fair ballot design and good government. The provisions of the Draft Text which had expanded upon the spirit and intent of the order should be changed from discretionary to mandatory (e.g., computerized draws) rather than be subject to removal in the current Bill, and must accompany best practices in transparency and accountability. The provisions of the Bill which are regressive and antithetical to those goals (e.g., in-office bracketing, unequal slogan restrictions, and continued use of hand-drawn ballots) are vulnerable to constitutional challenge, whether analyzed independently or cumulatively, and must be removed out of respect for the people of this State who deserve a fair ballot that is not subject to political weaponization, manipulation, and undue influence. A ballot is supposed to represent a neutral and fair forum upon which to elect candidates. Anything that strays from that principle will be viewed unfavorably in the courtroom and in the court of public opinion.

Love, Sophie

From: C.J. Robbins <cjrobbins96@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 15, 2024 1:48 AM
To: OLSaideABD
Subject: Ballot Design Bill

You don't often get email from cjrobbins96@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)
OPPOSED

CHRISTIAN ROBBINS

GREEN PARTY OF NEW JERSEY

Love, Sophie

From: Steve <sjfenster@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 15, 2024 7:50 AM
To: OLSaideABD
Subject: Ballot Design hearing

You don't often get email from sjfenster@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

Good morning,

I will not be able to attend the Assembly Select Committee on Ballot Design hearing on December 16, but want to make a statement.

As a town councilman, I've participated in 3 primary elections. In my first primary, I wound up in "ballot Siberia" despite being the only candidate on the ballot for council, as I didn't know the process to get in the first column. So I have personal experience from that side, in addition to voting in primaries for decades. I'm strongly in favor of office blocks, but have a few concerns:

1. There must not be any grouping/bracketing of running mates within a block. Voters need the clear ability to vote for any combination of candidates individually without influence on the ballot itself. Implementing such bracketing violates the spirit and intent of eliminating the old column approach.
2. The order that candidates for an office appear on a ballot should not be implemented manually due. A random, computerized draw is preferred. Alternatives include by order of filing, such as done in Illinois (simultaneous filings can be alphabetized) and randomized alphabetical, with a letter drawn at random, and candidates alphabetized starting with that letter. (For example, if 'K' was drawn, the randomized alphabet would be K, L, M, ... J)
3. There should not be any restriction against using party names in slogans. All candidates on a primary ballot are members of that party, and should not be restricted from using the party's name in their slogan. Alternatively, restrict all candidates from using the party name in their slogan.

Sincerely,
Steven Fenster
Pemberton Borough

Love, Sophie

From: Catherine Lugg <cathlugg@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 15, 2024 4:36 PM
To: OLSaideABD
Subject: I object!

You don't often get email from cathlugg@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

To whom it may concern:

I am voicing my objection to the supposed "Reformed ballot bill" which overturns the federal decision of Spring 2024. NJ needs to maintain the ballot design recommended by the federal court, in the name of Democracy, not party politics.

I will be paying attention to how this shakes out.

Sincerely,
Catherine A. Lugg
1604 Taggart Dr, Belle Mead, NJ 08502

Love, Sophie

From: Jackie Low <jlow616@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 15, 2024 4:41 PM
To: OLSaideABD
Subject: Ballot bill

You don't often get email from jlow616@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

NO!

The way that the Ballot Bill is unwritten is unfair and incorrect. This must get a NO vote!

Jackie Low

50 Nottingham Dr

Watchung, NJ 07069

Love, Sophie

From: Eileen McCaffrey <eileen@eileenmccaffrey.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 15, 2024 4:58 PM
To: OLSaideABD
Subject: Oppose A5116

[You don't often get email from eileen@eileenmccaffrey.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Thank you.
Sent from my iPhone

Love, Sophie

From: Erica Ruppert <esemiramis@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 15, 2024 5:06 PM
To: OLSaideABD
Subject: Bill A5116 is unfair and I oppose it

You don't often get email from esemiramis@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good evening.

I want you to know that I oppose Bill A5116 regarding ballot design. It is unfair.

We need a ballot design that:

Does not allow bracketing within the office block

Uses the same font style and size for all candidates (no * or bold font or CAPS) that would give any candidate a visual distinction.

Rotates all candidates' names to allow them to appear in the first position in front of an equitable number of voters.

Allows no slogans for any candidate

Thank you.

Erica Ruppert
Fair Lawn NJ 07410

Love, Sophie

From: Claire Dragon <clairedragon13@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 15, 2024 5:24 PM
To: OLSaideABD
Subject: Opposition against A5116

You don't often get email from clairedragon13@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

This ballot bill is not fair at all. I'm writing to note my opposition to A5116.

Thanks,

Claire

Love, Sophie

From: Boris <bkofman@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 15, 2024 5:28 PM
To: OLSaideABD
Subject: A5116 - oppose

[You don't often get email from bkofman@gmail.com. Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I oppose A5116, the bill to reform the ballot, in its current form. The most problematic aspect of the bill is the fact that it does not create a level playing field among the candidates. Specifically, those endorsed by a party are allowed to use the same slogan across offices, while those not endorsed are not.

As a County Committee member for one of the parties, I understand the desire to give the advantage to the candidates that I and my fellow Committee Members have endorsed. But I don't consider that democratic. The parties have enough tools at their disposal to advocate for the endorsed candidates without so overtly putting the thumb on the scale.

I also believe all candidates' names should be rotated and appear in the first position on an equal number of ballots.

Boris Kofman
28 Riverside Ave, Red Bank, NJ 07701

Love, Sophie

From: DianeReon Swaim <darswaim@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 15, 2024 5:31 PM
To: OLSaideABD
Subject: Oppose A5116

You don't often get email from darswaim@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

This bill surreptitiously recreates the "County Line" in a number of insidious ways. It must be changed to reflect the following:

- No bracketing within the office block
- Randomized computer drawing
- Same font style and size for all candidates (no * or bold font or CAPS) that would give any candidate a visual distinction.
- All candidates' names are rotated and must appear in the first position in front of an equitable number of voters.
- No slogans

Diane Swaim
Middletown Township Democratic Committee Member
105 Edward Avenue
Belford NJ 07718

Love, Sophie

From: Claire Whitcomb <claire.whitcomb@mac.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 15, 2024 7:00 PM
To: OLSaideABD
Subject: Opposed to A5116 bill on ballot design

[You don't often get email from claire.whitcomb@mac.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

The proposed legislation does not create fairness. It essential repeats the "line' b/c all county endorsed candidates are allowed to use the same slogan and other candidates are restricted in their verbiage. There are numerous other flaws, but the big one is that it retains the party boss power structure that it is supposed to change.

Claire Whitcomb
12 Fairwood Rd
Madison NJ

Love, Sophie

From: Amy Ipp <amymipp@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 15, 2024 7:44 PM
To: OLSaideABD
Subject: Ballot Design-A5116

[You don't often get email from amymipp@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

I am writing with concerns about the Ballot Design Bill. It has come to my attention that there are several problems with the current bill:

It does not allow bracketing unless there are candidates running for the same office as in two people running for two Assembly seats. This is unfair to other candidates running for that office.

It is my understanding that a candidate cannot use the name of a major party in a slogan (Democrat or Republican) unless those candidates are endorsed by a county party. This type of branding would confer an unfair advantage on other candidates who are members of a party but not endorsed by the county.

But candidates running for different offices could potentially use the same slogan if they are endorsed by the County party, i.e. town council races, assembly races etc . This recreates "The Line."

NJ citizens deserve a fair ballot, clean and simple, reducing confusion and not conveying an advantage for county party endorsed candidates. It appears that this current bill does not achieve this purpose. Thank you.

Amy Ipp
101 Martin Rd
Livingston NJ 07039

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"We must take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim.

Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented. Sometimes we must interfere. When human lives are endangered, when human dignity is in jeopardy, national borders and sensitivities become irrelevant.

Wherever men and women are persecuted because of their race, religion, or political views, that place must - at that moment - become the center of the universe." Elie Wiesel

Love, Sophie

From: Laura Valente <drLauravalente64@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 15, 2024 8:08 PM
To: OLSaideABD
Subject: Pull the Unfair Ballot Proposal

You don't often get email from drLauravalente64@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

The proposed language for this bill basically gives us the county line by other means. It is a way of maintaining the level of power of the County machines, at the expense of the voters and the candidates. Please stand for democracy and election integrity in its truest choice by having truly impartial ballot design.

Among the most egregious elements of this bill is the idea that a member of a party cannot indicate they are a member of that party in their slogan unless the county boss gives the blessing. (Remember, we have counties that don't even hold conventions for district rep votes.) Either remove that prohibition or don't allow any slogan at all.

The fact that Andy Kim was the most successful candidate in November should tell you what the voters are looking for. And back room politics ain't it!

Laura Valente, EdD

Love, Sophie

From: Eileen Cosenza <emocosenza@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 15, 2024 9:13 PM
To: OLSaideABD
Subject: Opposition to A5116

You don't often get email from emocosenza@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

Please vote no on Bill A5116 due to the problems with its wording and not being fair to nominees that are not on the party line.

Amend it so that there is:

- No bracketing within the office block
- Randomized computer drawing
- Same font style and size for all candidates (no * or bold font or CAPS) that would give any candidate a visual distinction.
- All candidates' names are rotated and must appear in the first position in front of an equitable number of voters.
- No slogans

Eileen Cosenza
Hawthorne, NJ
973-769-7214
emocosenza@gmail.com



Virus-free www.avast.com

Love, Sophie

From: Stacey Murphy <profstaceymurphy@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 15, 2024 9:24 PM
To: OLSaideABD
Subject: A5116

You don't often get email from profstaceymurphy@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

Hello,

I'm writing to express my opposition to A5116.

We've made headway towards more fair ballot but the legislature needs to do more to make our ballot fair and equitable to all candidates. Specifically,

- there should be no bracketing
- there should be randomized computer drawing of names
- ballots should be randomized by voter (so that for example, the same candidate doesn't have first position in every voter's ballot)
- all candidate names should have the same font and size

This isn't too complex and not at all unreasonable.

Please do the right thing and go back to the drawing board.

Thank you,

Stacey Murphy

Love, Sophie

From: Jacquelyn Lynch <classicday14@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 15, 2024 10:19 PM
To: OLSaideABD
Subject: NJ Primary Ballot Reform

You don't often get email from classicday14@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

To whom it may concern:

The proposed primary ballot "reform" is anything but! The "bosses" are still trying to tip the scale. You must pull A5116 and come up with a better design.

In fact, ANY COUNTY CHAIR, who is also a NJ Senator or Representative, should recuse themselves from ANY VOTE on this topic.

New Jersey needs to do better! We are close to losing our state to republicans and this action doesn't help keep New Jersey democratic.

It seems the New Jersey Democratic leadership is making NJ less transparent. Between the recent changes in the OPRA law and the recently enacted 'Election Transparency' law, such a joke. Not sure who the Election Transparency law is designed to help with the allowable increase in donations, but in my opinion it's not for the small dollar donors, but rather the wealthy, who already wield significant power.

As a lifelong democrat, I'm getting fed up with all the wheeling and dealing against the little guy! DO BETTER!

Jackie Lynch
77 Harvey Cedar Way, Waretown, NJ 08758

Love, Sophie

From: Susan Blackburn <susanpiskiel@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 15, 2024 11:12 PM
To: OLSaideABD
Subject: Ballot Bill is Unfair

[You don't often get email from susanpiskiel@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Don't vote for the unfair ballot bill that is unacceptable Susan Piskiel Blackburn susanpiskiel@comcast.net

Love, Sophie

From: Eileen Cosenza <emocosenza@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 15, 2024 9:13 PM
To: OLSaideABD
Subject: Opposition to A5116

You don't often get email from emocosenza@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

Please vote no on Bill A5116 due to the problems with its wording and not being fair to nominees that are not on the party line.

Amend it so that there is:

- No bracketing within the office block
- Randomized computer drawing
- Same font style and size for all candidates (no * or bold font or CAPS) that would give any candidate a visual distinction.
- All candidates' names are rotated and must appear in the first position in front of an equitable number of voters.
- No slogans

Eileen Cosenza
Hawthorne, NJ
973-769-7214
emocosenza@gmail.com



Virus-free www.avast.com

Love, Sophie

From: pckennedy42@comcast.net
Sent: Sunday, December 15, 2024 11:18 PM
To: OLSaideABD
Subject: A5116

[You don't often get email from pckennedy42@comcast.net. Learn why this is important](#)

I am contacting you regarding A5116 which as I understand it is supposed to be voted on tomorrow.

I do hope you will be voting no. Guaranteeing that only those blessed by the County Organizations are allowed to use their political party in their slogan, pretty much guarantees a win for those who have been blessed. In other words, it makes things even worse than they were before Senator Kim's law suit. There will be more law suits and again the NJ taxpayer will be on the line to pay the cost.

Kindly make the correct decision and stop the corruption once and for all.

Thank you,

Patricia Crotty Kennedy
136 Bayville Way
Waretown, NJ 08758

Love, Sophie

From: Rosie P <cupasoup99@protonmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 7:45 AM
To: OLSaideABD
Subject: A5116 should be fixed or scrapped

[You don't often get email from cupasoup99@protonmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

A5116 makes a mockery of Judge Quraishi's ruling requiring an end to NJ's undemocratic ballot design. The bill as it stands should be scrapped and replaced by one that fulfills the following requirements:

1. NO bracketing or grouping at all within the office block 2. Randomized computer drawing of names 3. Same font style and size for all candidates (no * or bold font or CAPS) that would give any candidate a visual distinction 4. All candidates' names are rotated and must appear in the first position in front of an equitable number of voters 5. NO slogans for ANYONE

Let's bring real (small "d") democracy back to NJ!

Rosemary Topar
Fanwood

Love, Sophie

From: Natalie Pawlenko <npawlenko@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 7:58 AM
To: OLSaideABD
Subject: Oppose bill A5116

You don't often get email from npawlenko@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

***Registering my deep opposition to the changes being
proposed in the bill.***

***Natalie Pawlenko
422 Aurora Dr, Brick Township, NJ 08723***

Bill A5116

Session 2024 - 2025



Makes changes to design of primary election ballots and certain related primary election procedures; provides for ballots to be arranged by office block; requires reporting on primary elections by Division of Elections.

Love, Sophie

From: Eve Taylor <evetaylor811@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 4:48 AM
To: OLSaideABD
Cc: info@stevenfulop.com; info@josh4jersey.com; info@billspadea.com; info@mikiesherrill.com; rob@robmenendez.com; KScalcione@jcnj.org; bmurray@jcnj.org; dan@headynj.com; Tipline@citizensforethics.org; Info@citizensforethics.org; development@citizensforethics.org; kevin@njglobe.com; david@njglobe.com; insidersnj@gmail.com; pete@insidersnj.com; max@insidersnj.com; thehudsoncountyview@gmail.com; feedback@allsides.com; Publisher@jewishmediagroup.com; editor@jewishmediagroup.com; Ads@jewishmediagroup.com; office@jewishmediagroup.com; Natalie@jewishmediagroup.com; edwin.warfield@citybizlist.com; dracioppi@politico.com; tmcDonald@newjerseymonitor.com; lisa.mandelblatt@gmail.com; joey@njglobe.com; James Solomon; FGilmore@jcnj.org; RBoggiano@jcnj.org; Council President Joyce Watterman; YSaleh@jcnj.org; MPrinz-Arey@jcnj.org; Council-A Denise Ridley; DRivera@jcnj.org; rbhalla@hobokennj.gov
Subject: Steven Fulop Ticket Fixing Scandal / message to NJ Assembly ballot design committee
Attachments: Screenshot_20241213_070447_Chrome.jpg

You don't often get email from evetaylor811@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

Dear Assemblyman Wimberley
And New Jersey Ballot Design Committee

If you see our Jersey City Mayor Steven Fulop there whining and throwing a man-tantrum about that he is not getting on the ballot/getting endorsed -

It is because of below scandals - ticket fixing and pillaging the bankrupt health care system - which he refuses to respond to county and state authorities telling him to stop.

-If you see him at your meeting please tell him to leave and go back to Jersey City Hall and either start cleaning up the \$26 million ticket fixing mess before more babies get trapped in burning buildings, and he needs to resign. I message you there because he blocks constituents on social media when we tell him we have no heat, and instructs his people to ignore us.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Eve Taylor** <evetaylor811@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Dec 16, 2024, 4:30

FYI - re Jersey City Ticket Fixing Scandal and Mayor Fulop campaign contribution issues

(1)
Fire Code Violation Ticket Fixing
<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.nj.com/opinion/2024/12/odea-fire-code-violations-being-ignored-in-jersey-city-opinion.html%3foutputType=amp>

(2)
Fulop Super PAC rape of bankrupt health care system funds
<https://citytimes.com/bankrupt-hospital-with-manhattan-views-continues-to-fill-fulop-campaign-coffers/>

Thanks
Eve Taylor

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Eve Taylor** <evetaylor811@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Dec 16, 2024, 4:18 AM

Subject: Refusal to provide copy of housing code summon /violation report records Open Public Records Act :: E005243-121224. 327 2nd st

To: Cory Garriga <cgarriga@hcnj.us>

Cc: Felicia Montas <FMontas@jcnj.org>, David Sardarizadeh <david.sardarizadeh@gmail.com>, Shailin Diaz <Diazshailin@gmail.com>, <reid@jcnj.org>, Salima Clark <salima.clark@njcourts.gov>, Michael Skrelja <mshkrelj07@gmail.com>, Joseph Barrow <jbarrow@jcnj.org>, <wroche@jcnj.org>, Rocco Crincoli <rcrincoli@jcnj.org>, <mlobue@jcnj.org>, <jshea@jcnj.org>, James Solomon <JSolomon@jcnj.org>, <FGilmore@jcnj.org>, <jwalker@hcnj.us>, Council President Joyce Watterman <JWatterman@jcnj.org>, <prosecutor@jcnj.org>, Karen DeSoto <KDeSoto@jcnj.org>, Landlord Tenant Relations <Landlord-Tenant@jcnj.org>, Karen Boylan <karen.boylan@njcourts.gov>, <John.Meola@njcourts.gov>, <MunicipalCtSvs.Mbx@njcourts.gov>, <AOC-ACJCInfo.MBX@njcourts.gov>, <RBoggiano@jcnj.org>, <Pandes@jcnj.org>, <Timothy.Paar@dca.nj.gov>

Hi Cory

My downstairs neighbor David is now moving out due to the horrible building conditions. In November he was hit with having his bedroom closet wall ripped apart when the chimney was ripped out while he was away on birthday vacation and then we were all hit with 2 weeks of no heat and recurring rounds of deliberate blasts of carbon monoxide and or purposeful gas leak. Which his apartment is direct above.

We need to do a decrease of service complaint as well as David needs to immediately settle his rent and security with the landlord.

It has now been over a month and Joe Barrow has not responded to my request for summon and violation report records. I have requested the records several times from OPRA, since July also and OPRA just tells me to go find it myself. Same situation with fire code and construction code.

I also would need this to get the building put in a receivership.

Except for the 1 summon issued by JCPD, I do not see any of the summon that the inspectors told me they wrote since August, in the municipal court system.

On top of above, Ramy Eid and Karen DeSoto along with Jake Hudnut's prosecutor office continue to belligerently fix all the open summon from prior.

Ramy Eid is personally blocking the input of 25 chapter 260-7 summon which either need to be re issued or re open the 25 that were illegally dismissed Oct 21.

Ramy Eid refused to consolidate all the 9 open summon to 240 Realty LLC into one court room and one court date. His court refused to issue fines on 7 old violation summon on December 4.

Karen DeSoto court fixed a fire code summon again last Friday. Summon 0906 SF 2020 408355 has been unlawfully adjourned at least, literal 16 times, since 2020. Attached.

Today the JCPD summon for no heat is scheduled for Ramy Eid courtroom. He needs to issue the fine on that summon and the other 8 open for 240 Realty LLC. As well as for all the missing summons that were written that have disappeared. The landlord Muhammad Shahid left us without heat for more than 2 weeks in April and 2 weeks in November. The landlord must be fined \$2000 a day for each day of no heat. Someone on the housing code compliance side, or above that, is blocking those summon from being written.

The court needs to stop the illegal ticket fixing practice of giving unrequested adjournments when a defendant fails to appear.

<https://www.nj.com/opinion/2024/12/odea-fire-code-violations-being-ignored-in-jersey-city-opinion.html>

Thank you

Eve Taylor
327 2nd st apt 4
Jersey City 07302
917.275.2246

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jersey City OPRA Center** <jerseycity@mycusthelp.net>

Date: Thu, Dec 12, 2024, 2:19 PM

Subject: [Records Center] Open Public Records Act :: E005243-121224

To: EVETAYLOR811@GMAIL.COM <EVETAYLOR811@gmail.com>

--- Please respond above this line ---



RE: OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST of December 12, 2024, Reference # E005243-121224

Dear Eve Taylor:

The City received a public information request from you on December 12, 2024. Your request mentioned:

As to the property located at 327 2nd Street (Block 11111, Lot 1, Ward E) Jersey City, owned by Muhammad Shahid, registered under "240 Realty, LLC" [Being the same property that was the subject of a Rent Control Petition under Case Number 20-FM-1964 and a decision dated August 10, 2021], copies of the following:

*Housing Code Compliance inspector detailed inspection / violation reports 2022-2024
Housing Code Compliance - copies of municipal housing violation summons issued 2022-2024*

*Record of when the Municipal Court issued fine on above violation summon
Record of when the Municipal Court collected fine on above violation summon*

For your convenience, the Construction Official's Office has indicated that the requested permit records, as well as inspections, code cases, violations, licenses, fire, zoning, etc., are available on-line and may be located on the www.jcnj.org/permitportal where you can research any property in Jersey City. Please note that any permit prior to the latter part of 2006, based upon the NJ Permit extension act, will be deemed abandoned; after that it is considered open; to close the permit it will require an inspection.

For your information, the Municipal Court is not subject to OPRA. The Municipal Court is subject to the guidelines of the State Administrative Office of the Courts. Requests for Jersey City Municipal Court records should be directed to:

Jersey City Municipal Court
365 Summit Avenue
Jersey City, New Jersey 07306
Tel: 201-209-6700
Jersey City Municipal Court

In view of the foregoing this OPRA request is deemed closed. Please be guided accordingly.

Sincerely,

Hjordys Espinal

Office of City Clerk

To monitor the progress or update this request please log into the Jersey City
OPRA Center.

Powered by
GovQA

Love, Sophie

From: Satenik Margaryan <satenikm@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 10:39 AM
To: OLSaideABD
Subject: Testimony Ballot Design

You don't often get email from satenikm@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I am writing to offer my testimony on the critical importance of fair ballot design. In my view, a well-designed ballot is foundational to a healthy democracy, ensuring that every voter can understand and exercise their right to vote with confidence.

Ballot design impacts voters of all backgrounds and abilities. Clear language, logical organization, and accessible formatting are essential to ensure that all voters can cast their ballots accurately and independently. Fair ballot design promotes inclusivity and empowers voters to participate fully in the democratic process.

Thank you for considering my perspective.

Sincerely,
Satenik Margaryan, Ph.D.

34 Maolis Ave, Bloomfield, NJ 07003

Love, Sophie

From: Milagro Gomez <milagrogomez1515@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 11:12 AM
To: OLSaideABD
Subject: regarding Bill

You don't often get email from milagrogomez1515@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Legislature of New Jersey
Good morning, My Name is Milagro Gomez
I'm Opposing to the Bill 5116,
I'm a resident of Neptune N.J. 07753
phone # (732-801-1819

Love, Sophie

From: Joseph Halajian <whojoe@optonline.net>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 11:35 AM
To: OLSaideABD
Subject: Fair Fallot Design

You don't often get email from whojoe@optonline.net. [Learn why this is important](#)
NJ Legislature

The Assembly Select Committee on Ballot Design is putting forward a bill to reform the design of NJ Primary Ballots.

This is an opportunity to clear away as much outdated, non democratic debris as possible.

Please make every effort to repair the following shortcomings of the bill that comes out of the committee.

- 1) Require rotation of order of candidates in each block.**
- 2) Forbid all slogans, and other electioneering language. Only the names of candidates should appear on the ballot.**
- 3) Forbid bracketing of candidates running together for the same office.**

While not concerning ballot design, the bill could also establish a **central location** online where voters can get information about candidates.

Without the county party leaders showing voters for whom they should vote in the ballot layout people will need information on which to base their choices.

Sincerely,
Joseph Halajian
Tenaflly NJ

Love, Sophie

From: Carol Hutchins <carolh12@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 11:46 AM
To: OLSaideABD
Subject: Vote NO on A5116 Ballot Design Bill

You don't often get email from carolh12@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Assemblymember,

I am writing to implore you to vote down this bill as it stands at this point.

I have followed in some detail the hearings which took place prior to this drafting. While I was holding out hope that the central message conveyed by experts who have reported on how other states handle this kind of design, I am extremely disappointed in the bill as it appears today.

There is no assurance of inclusion of randomization of name order. This was a feature definitely recommended by those who testified.

Furthermore, it seems to me that a huge door is left open to the appearance of "slogанизation" and addition of extra and cluttering verbiage on the ballot.

We cannot and should not let ourselves rely upon ballot space to be an explainer for the policy positions of each and every candidate. I distinctly recall testimony to the effect that candidates should be accustomed to using separately distributed material as a better means of achieving this purpose.

Let's not mix purposes as we reach for a more simplified and understandable ballot design.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Carol Hutchins
18 Green St.
Metuchen, NJ 08840

From: Daniela Gioseffi <danielag333@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 12:04 PM
To: OLSaideABD
Subject: WE AGREE WITH THE STANCE OF FOOD AND WATER WATCH ON THE DESIGN OF BALLOT RE. AS116

You don't often get email from danielag333@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Ballot Design Bill Summary A5116 WE OF ECOPOETRY.ORG AGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING POINTS, PROFESSOR DANIELA GIOSEFFI, FOUNDING EDITOR, ECOPOETRY.ORG, MEMBER ESSEX COUNTY ETHICAL CULTURE SOCIETY. AMERICAN BOOK AWARD WINNING AUTHOR OF SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOKS FROM MAJOR PUBLISHERS.

Updated December 13, 2024

The bill proposes changes to the design of primary election ballots and certain related election procedures in New Jersey to address legal challenges and improve voter clarity and accessibility.

This bill was kept from the public until late afternoon, the day before its first committee hearing was scheduled. This is unacceptable.

While the bill codifies office block ballots in the primary election and does not include regressive ballot design features, such as a physical bracket for running mates, or a designation of “incumbency” on the ballot, there are still fundamental issues with the bill.

Specifically, provisions allowing bracketing of candidates running together for offices in where there is more than one seat up for election (i.e. Assembly, County Commissioners, municipal offices, and county committee), and some restrictions on the use of a political party’s name in a slogan by candidates are problematic. Further, the bill does not allow for computerized randomization of ballot drawings, subjecting voters and candidates to potential manipulation of ballot positions.

Main Points of Concern with the Bill:

1. Bracketing of Running Mates within an Office Block Ballot

Candidates seeking the same office are listed under a title for their respective office in separate, distinct blocks.

- New provision:
 - Candidates choosing to associate together would be allowed to be aligned in office block style, in separate blocs, either horizontally or vertically.
- Concerns with the provision:

- This is very vague in how this would be executed on the ballot in the bill draft legislation.
- The bill is silent as to the design of such in-office bracketed candidates, and whether a physical line may or may not be used to segregate and call further attention to those groupings within the office block.
- The bill is also silent as to a specification that each such in-office bracketed candidate must be individually voted for, rather than the grouping as a whole.
- This again will make New Jersey an outlier in terms of ballot design. We are not the only state with multiple assembly members. Nine states have more than one representative per district in the state's Assembly. Besides New Jersey, they are Arizona, Idaho, Maryland, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, and Washington. Many states also elect multiple county commissioners and of course multiple city council members and school board members.
- NO OTHER STATE allows candidates running for any elected positions for which voters may select more than one candidate, to bracket together in any way on the primary ballot.

Recommendation: We recommend that all provisions allowing for running mates to be bracketed to be removed and that every candidate should be drawn individually for the position for the office they are seeking.

2. Restrictions on Slogans

Under current law, a candidate or a person cannot use the name of an incorporated association or a person without written consent. Slogans are also limited to six words. Candidates can associate themselves on the ballot through the use of a slogan if they choose.

- New Provisions / Changes of Current Law

- It requires the consent of a county political committee of a party to use or refer to the name of a political party as defined in Title 19.
- No slogan for a candidate can use the name of another candidate that appears on the same primary ballot running for a different office.

- Concerns with New Provisions:

- The plain effect of this provision is that the only candidates that can use the word "Democrat" or "Democratic" in their slogan in a primary election (or "Republican" in that party's primary) are the candidates endorsed by the county party leadership's faction of the county's Democratic or Republican organization.

Democratic or Republican party.

- For example, if an individual received the endorsement of and permission of the “Sussex County LGBTQ Democratic Association”, this bill would prohibit the slogan based upon the use of the word Democratic, even though the slogan is of an incorporated entity.

- Avoiding similarly confusing slogans among candidates is one thing, restricting candidates from identifying themselves as a political party in a primary in which all voters and candidates of that primary are of the political party is another. This brushes upon First Amendment concerns.

- Recommendation:

- Remove language restricting the use of a political party name, as defined under law, in the slogan.

3. Lack of Computerized Drawing.

- It was previously reported that the bill draft had provisions to allow for computerized drawing at the discretion of County Clerks.

- This is one of the few pro-democracy provisions that would improve the election process by allowing all candidates to receive a fair ballot position on the ballot.

- Being first on the ballot, which grants the primacy effect, matters in granting candidates a higher ballot position.

- Manual draws are subject to manipulation. It is well documented in public testimony by experts, and was presented in expert reporting in the county line litigation *Kim v Hanlon*, about the “golden arm” effect with manual draws For example, in the June 2024 primary, many candidates in Essex County received first position– which is an anomaly.

Summary of additional provisions in the bill:

1. Codification of Office Block Ballot Design:

Primary election ballots will shift to an office block format, organizing candidates by the office they are running for. Use lowercase, 12-point or equivalent text. Candidates will be placed in groupings by office title,, starting with federal offices and ending with party positions.

2. Ballot Standards:

New design standards for primary election ballots include:

- Text to be in ****lowercase letters**** (capitalized only at the start of a word).

- Text aligned to the ****left**** and in a ****sans-serif font****, with a minimum font size of 12 points for printed ballot

3. Restrictions on Ballot Design:

- Ballot fonts must be 3.0–4.0 mm for electronic ballots.
- The oval/space for marking votes** will appear to the left of each candidate's name.
- Simple, plain language will be used to ensure clarity. not create **unfair or confusing associations** between candidates or place candidates in misleading groupings.
- Ballots must exclude distinguishing marks or notations unless explicitly permitted by law.

4. Ballot Design Requirements:

Primary election ballots must follow a standardized format with clear design standards:

- Use lowercase, 12-point or equivalent text.
- Text must be plain and easy to read.
- Candidates will be grouped by **office blocks** (groupings by office title), starting with federal offices and ending with party positions.

5. Prohibited Practices:

Ballots must not: 1) Separate candidates running for the same office; 2) Mix candidates for different offices in the same group 3) Use ballot draw positions from one race to determine another's placement.

6. Reporting Requirements:

The Division of Elections will collect data from counties on the effects of these changes, including voter experiences, costs, and election administration challenges. A report will be submitted to the Governor and Legislature within 180 days after the second primary election under these changes.

7. Data and Collection Study:

The bill provides that the Division of Elections in the Department of State shall collect data and develop and submit a one-time report concerning the conduct of primary elections, best practices to improve the conduct of future primary elections, and any other relevant information, research, guidance, and expertise regarding the implementation of the new ballot designs and primary election procedures.

--

www.DanielaGioseffi.com

YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/@danielagioseffi579>

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/daniela-gioseffi>

Academy of American Poets <https://poets.org/poet/daniela-gioseffi>

Editor: <http://www.EcoPoetry.org/>

<http://www.AuthorandActivist.com>

To watch the docu/drama scroll down at:

<https://antonevangelista.com/my-movies/>

<amazon.com/author/danielagioseffi>

Love, Sophie

From: dgran7147 (null) <dgran7147@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 12:11 PM
To: OLSaideABD
Subject: Ballot design.

[You don't often get email from dgran7147@aol.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

This bill doesn't go near where we should be to protect a fair Democratic process. Back in the day I was in many elections with the Line in place . Sometimes in the Line and sometime in Siberia. Please listen to the pro democracy people and scrap this bill and come back with a more comprehensive measure.

Dan Grant

Montville, NJ 07045.

Local Elected Official 1990-2005.

Sent from my iPad

Love, Sophie

From: Esther Barcun <misseando@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 1:09 PM
To: OLSaideABD
Cc: Esther Barcun
Subject: Bill A5116

[You don't often get email from misseando@verizon.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

I am against the proposed version of the bill A5116. In its essence it is subverting the intention of the court's decision to assure unbiased, computer generated placement of the names in the ballot, and avoid group association of candidates that serve to promote the party endorsed candidates. Please do not pass it. Candidates should be accountable to the voters and have a responsibility to share their positions on a variety of issues of concern to the citizens. This cannot be accomplished by slogans on the ballot or bracketing. Thank you.

Respectfully,
Esther Barcun
114 Dunham Ave
Edison, NJ
Sent from my iPad

Love, Sophie

From: Katherine Abrams <kathabrams@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 2:50 PM
To: OLSaideABD
Subject: Oppose A5116

You don't often get email from kathabrams@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)
Oppose A5116. This is a bad, unfair, highly problematic, and probably unconstitutional bill.

Katherine E. Abrams
299 Western Drive South
South Orange, NJ 07079

Love, Sophie

From: J Mastrangelo <j9mastrangelo@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 8:48 PM
To: OLSaideABD
Subject: "NO" to A5116 Ballot Bill

You don't often get email from j9mastrangelo@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Please vote NO on this ballot design bill. It is not fair at all. It needs to be seriously modified to INCLUDE the following (which it currently does not have):

- No bracketing within the office block
- Randomized computer drawing
- Same font style and size for all candidates (no * or bold font or CAPS) that would give any candidate a visual distinction.
- All candidates' names are rotated and must appear in the first position in front of an equitable number of voters.
- No slogans

Only then will the ballot design be truly fair to all candidates. It's far past time to eliminate the "party line". New Jersey voters like me deserve nothing less.

Janine Mastrangelo