

From: @..
To: OLSaideABD
Subject: NJ Ballot Design
Date: Thursday, November 7, 2024 8:37:54 AM

Good morning, My name is Mark Pepper. Thank you for the privilege and opportunity to testify today. I am a transplant from Pennsylvania to New Jersey, moving to West Windsor in 1992. In Pennsylvania like all the other states except NJ, we had contested real primaries I fully support fair, office block ballots with candidate order rotated by voting precinct so that each appears first, second, etc for an equal number of voters to avoid giving one candidate an unfair advantage should they always be listed first. Also, no slogans, just offices and names of candidates. This is essential so that we can eliminate unjust and unneeded electioneering and interference in our elections from the New Jersey machine politics of both major parties. There is too much influence on our elections by wealthy donors with their deep pockets and dark money further exacerbated by the misguided 2010 Supreme Court Citizens United Decision. Those donors include "Citizens" who are Union leaders, developers, lawyers and corporate capitalists, among others each with their own personal agendas and self-interests. This leads me back to West Windsor. A large group of West Windsor residents formed a determined coalition of engaged voters and taxpayers including Democrats, Republicans, Independents and Unaffiliateds whose common bond is a shared sense of fairness, common sense, love of our township but also revulsion towards the current state of corrupt, dysfunctional partisan politics that is destroying our state and country. What we accomplished in a matter of a few months was to tell the Democratic Political machine of Mercer County and New Jersey to go take a hike. We resoundingly rejected a ballot question, 65% to 35%, designed to reintroduce partisan politics to WW municipal elections. The Pro-partisan effort was backed by a small group of West Windsor Democrats and a large group of outsiders. It was fully endorsed and largely funded by just about all the elected Democrat Officials in Mercer County, party bosses from Mercer County and other NJ counties, union leaders and even a NJ law firm that provided the Dark Money PAC. This alliance was clearly exposed to the citizens of West Windsor who most definitely and loudly voted NO just 2 days ago in a landslide rejection of this ballot question. Similarly, the Princeton based Good Government Coalition, of which I have been a member since its founding, after working for years, has also successfully told both the Democrat and Republican NJ party boss system to take a hike and take your hands and thumbs off of our ballots. The ballot is a government document and it belongs to us, the citizens, not to either political party. Please, do the right thing now and finish the job. Create a fair office block primary ballot that we the people in NJ deserve. We demand fair and real (not fake, uncontested) primaries so that we can actually elect the leaders that the voters select, not the party bosses.

Sent from: @.