

Democratic Rural Conference of New York State

RESOLUTION ON UNIVERSAL ABSENTEE VOTING

WHEREAS, voter turnout in New York State has been very low historically and continues to decline, thereby resulting in New York being one of the states with the lowest voter participation and turnout in the nation; and

WHEREAS, voter participation and turnout is vital to the success of our democracy; and

WHEREAS, New York State must develop common-sense legislation that will help to increase voter participation and turnout throughout the state.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Rural Conference of New York State strongly encourages the New York State Legislature to introduce and pass, and for Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to sign into law, legislation allowing for Universal Absentee Voting without any limitations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the legislation should specify that there be uniform hours of participation from 6:00AM to 9:00PM for election day voting throughout New York State during any Primary or General Election and that New York State shall reimburse counties and localities for any increased election costs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Democratic Rural Conference of New York State forward copies of this Resolution to the offices of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, New York State Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie, Assembly Committee on Election Law Chair Michael Cusick, New York State Senate Temporary President John J. Flanagan, Senate Minority Conference Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Senate Committee on Elections Chair Rich Funke.

By: Jason A. Clark, Secretary

Date: December 12, 2015

On a Motion by Mr. Alquist and a Second by Ms. Hunter, the Board of Directors of the Democratic Rural Conference of New York State unanimously passed this Resolution by a vote of 14-0.

Democratic Rural Conference of New York State

January 8, 2016

(Distribution)
(by Certified Letter)

Dear Governor Cuomo, Speaker Heastie, Chairman Cusick, Temporary President Flanagan, Conference Leader Stewart-Cousins and Chairman Funke:

It is my privilege to provide you with a copy of a Resolution that was recently passed by the Board of Directors of the Democratic Rural Conference of New York State entitled, ***Resolution On Universal Absentee Voting***.

Should you have any questions regarding the Resolution, please forward them to DRC Chair Irene Stein. She can be reached at 101 Brandywine Drive, Ithaca, New York 14850.

Sincerely,

Jason A. Clark,
Secretary