



## **NYPIRG STATEMENT ON NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY AND THE VOTER EMPOWERMENT ACT**

On National Voter Registration Day, NYPIRG volunteers registered thousands of students to vote on college campuses across the city and state. New York's National Voter Registration Day efforts have consistently ranked the work of NYPIRG and other allied groups among the very best in the nation. We'd like to extend a big thanks to our colleagues like NYC Votes and CUNY, whose hard work and support have been instrumental in this success.

Unfortunately, these efforts alone cannot solve New York State's voter participation problems. When it comes to voting, New York is one of the worst in the nation. In the 2014 general election, New York ranked second to last in the nation in terms of voter turnout among the voting-eligible population.

New York should be leading the nation in voter participation, not lagging. The real answers to increasing voter rates are reforms that reduce and eliminate the barriers to participation at the state level. It's time for New York to turn around its embarrassing voter participation rates, and the Voter Empowerment Act will help to do that.

The Governor and Legislature should support the Voter Empowerment Act. We thank Senator Gianaris and Assemblymember Kavanagh for sponsoring and fighting for these common sense reforms.

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