



Memorandum of Support

S4430 (Ryan) / A5456 (Jean-Pierre)

An act to amend the education law, in relation to library and school district petitioning; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

The New York Library Association (NYLA) supports the above referenced legislation and urges its immediate enactment.

Libraries hold elections for multiple purposes including budget approval and/or to designate their board of trustees. For budget referenda and candidacy, petitions must be distributed and collected.

Under current education law, petition requirements range from a percentile of the population to a set numerical standard. For example, to be placed on a municipal ballot, libraries must collect signatures in the amount equal to or exceeding 10% of the number of votes cast in the municipality in the last gubernatorial election. These requirements are a very heavy burden and pose significant health and safety concerns due to the ongoing pandemic.

By reducing the number of signatures needed for petitions for the remaining library elections in 2021, the potential exposure and spread of the coronavirus can be reduced.

For these reasons, NYLA strongly supports the above referenced legislation and urges its immediate enactment.

For addition information, please contact Briana McNamee, Director of Government Relations & Advocacy at 518-432-6952.