

**MINUTES OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING
OF THE SCHENECTADY CITY COUNCIL**

September 12, 2022

The City Council Meeting was called to order by City Council President Marion Porterfield at 7:00 p.m. in Room 209, City Council Chambers at City Hall.

Ms. Porterfield asked Reverend James Konicki of the Holy Name of Jesus National Church to offer the invocation.

Ms. Porterfield then called on Anita Russo, President of the Schenectady Tennis Association, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

The City Clerk called the roll and the following members of the City Council answered to be present:

Present – Council Members: John Mootoveren, Doreen Ditoro, Carl Williams, Carmel Patrick, John Polimeni, and Marion Porterfield.

Also Present – Mayor Gary R. McCarthy, City Clerk Samanta R. Mykoo, and Assistant Corporation Counsel Khadijah Peek, Esq.

Absent: Damonni Farley

At this point, Ms. Porterfield asked if there were no objections, she would like to take agenda item nine out of order. There were no objections.

Resolution No. 2022-215 A Resolution Recognizing National Drive Electric Week.

The resolution was moved by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Mootoveren. The resolution passed unanimously.

The resolution was accepted by Haley Viccaro, Board Chair of the Schenectady Greenmarket and Kate Kruk, Director of Community Engagement for Livingston Energy Group and Event City Captain. They thanked the Mayor and Council for the recognition, their partnership, and support of e-mobility in our area.

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Regarding Support Metroplex Application for RESTORE NY Grant

Ms. Porterfield invited all who wished to address the Council regarding Public Hearing Number One to come forward:

Ray Gillen – Chairman of Metroplex, thanked the Mayor and Council for their support in submitting this grant application. It's a program that provides funding for rehabbing major buildings in urban areas.

Jim Salengo – Executive Director of the Downtown Schenectady Improvement Corporation (DSIC), spoke in strong support of the application for RESTORE NY funding for the rehabilitation of 271-277 State Street.

Todd Garofano – Spoke in support of the grant application from a tourism point of view. This would help promote tourism in this area.

P. D. Voorhis – Stated that this building is historic and that she would like to see this building decorated before Christmas. It's a beautiful building and is in support of the grant application.

Seeing no other speakers to come forward, Ms. Porterfield declared the Public Hearing Number One, to be closed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. Porterfield asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 22, 2022, Council Meeting as submitted by the City Clerk. Mr. Mootooveren made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Williams seconded the motion.

COMMUNICATIONS PRESENTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Official:

None.

General:

From Rick Schermer, an email to the Mayor, City & County Clerks, and the County Board of Elections, requesting the City of Schenectady follow the Thomas Jefferson's clean voting system.

Petitions:

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (LEGISLATIVE ITEMS):

Ms. Porterfield invited all who wished to address the Legislative Agenda to come forward or otherwise submit their comments to the City Clerk:

Anita Russo – President of the Schenectady Tennis Association, stated that they are grateful that the Council recognizes the need to maintain safe and attractive courts at the park. Tennis is a great health benefit for many of all ages and they encourage Council to vote yes for the central park courts.

Wayne Harper – Communicated that he was offended to learn that the Schenectady Municipal Golf Course will be getting three and a half million dollars for a sprinkler system. He is certain that that funding could benefit this City as a whole. If this Golf Course can't be self-sufficient, then it should be sold or privatized. On a good year, we get enough rainfall that a sprinkler system would not be needed.

David Kosneski – Spoke on behalf of the Electric City Food Co-op, and expressed gratitude to Council for their support toward the progress of the food co-operation downtown.

Suzanne Unger – President of the Stockade Association, thanked the Council for allocating ARPA funds to refurbish and repurpose the old pump station. This project promises to benefit all those who visit Riverside Park as well as the residents of the Stockade.

P. D. Voorhis – She finds the government website frustrating. The tech department has been under orders to create a thesis on how to have a better tech department. If you read it correctly, there would need to be more hiring. There should be a partnership with the County. **See document submitted.*

Richard Unger – Spoke on behalf of the Mohawk Pickleball Club, in support of ARPA funding for the dedicated pickleball court at Hillhurst Park.

Seeing no other speakers come forward, Ms. Porterfield declared the Privilege of the Floor regarding Legislative Items, to be closed.

INTRODUCTION OF AND ACTION UPON LOCAL LAWS, ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Ms. Porterfield made a motion that Council approves the Consent Agenda, the motion was moved by Mr. Williams and seconded by Ms. Patrick.

Consent Agenda

- Resolution No. 2022-215.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-216.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-217.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-218.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-219.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-220.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-221.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-222.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-223.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-224.....Adopted Unanimously

Consideration of a Vetoed Bill - An Ordinance to Amend Section 87-6.1 of the Code of the City of Schenectady

The motion was moved by Mr. Polimeni and seconded by Mr. Mootoveren.

3:3:0

Voting AYE: Mr. Mootoveren, Mr. Williams, and Ms. Porterfield

Voting Nay: Ms. Ditoro, Ms. Patrick, and Mr. Polimeni

Abstain: None

2022-224 A Resolution Appropriating American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds and Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into Agreements Related to Such Allocations

The motion was moved by Mr. Polimeni and seconded by Ms. Patrick.

5:1:0

Voting AYE: Mr. Mootooveren, Ms. Ditoro, Mr. Williams, Ms. Patrick, and Ms. Porterfield

Voting Nay: Mr. Polimeni

Abstain: None

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Ms. Porterfield directed all who wished to discuss any items for City Business to come forward or otherwise submit their comments to the City Clerk.

Wayne Harper – Expressed that he was offended that Council President Porterfield stated that speaking during a meeting is a privilege. He then asked that a teacher of grades 6-12 have an essay contest about why speaking at a Council Meeting is not a privilege of the floor but a right. He offered to pay \$100 to the essay he selects. He also stated that Corporation Counsel will not return his calls.

Marva Isaacs – Thanked the Mayor, Building Inspector, Councilman Polimeni, and Code Enforcement for their help with the senior apartments on Craig Street. The seniors there have been mistreated and have bed bugs.

Michael Zippieri – Honored those that were lost in 9/11. Remembered Brian McGarry for being a great friend and worker for Schenectady County. Thanked Councilman Williams for always being responsive, he is an asset to this Council and this City. He then stated that he knows that the budget for next year is being discussed soon and hopes that we get a nice percentage for property owners.

P.D. Voorhis – Questioned the sale of the garage at 1627 Sixth Avenue for \$23,000; is this a body shop? She then said that she Googled Jerry Burrell and found out that he is a significant individual and not just a park. She added that Craig Street is scary.

Seeing no other speakers come forward, Ms. Porterfield declared the Privilege of the Floor to be closed.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:

Carmel Patrick – Recognized and congratulated her colleagues, Mr. Mootooveren for Caribbean Day, and Ms. Ditoro for Italian Fest, for the success of each event; they were very well attended. She has recently learned of pickleball and found that is it a sport for all ages.

Carl Williams – Pointed out that never will we forget 9/11, as a community and as a nation we are most impactful when we come together. Announced a free pizza party and voter registration at the Electric City Barn on September 16th and the Housing Crisis Town Hall is Scheduled for September 25th at the Boys & Girls Club. He then expressed his appreciation for the number of festivities that we have here in Schenectady that draw in visitors. However, he had a conversation with a visitor and asked that event coordinators apprise visitors of our parking

policies, the app, or where additional parking could be found. He then spoke about the ARPA funding conversations and the importance of collectively understanding the best way to apply these monies and funds. The continual spewing of negative rhetoric does no good. He asked that if any member of the community does not feel they are being properly advocated for, should reach out to him or any other council member.

John Polimeni – Explained that there is roughly ten million dollars in ARPA funding remaining. If we had looked at how to leverage the money, we could have stretched and doubled it. He then spoke about the seniors on Craig Street and the difficulty marshaling the City and County agencies; some things can be done, and others are a bit more difficult. He urged the company to listen to the seniors and to work with the County and City Offices.

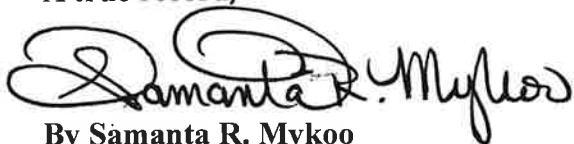
Mayor McCarthy – We all went out and had a great time at the festivals this weekend, it shows the efforts of the organizers. Seeing so many people out for the Greek Fest, the Little Italy Fest, the Stockade Art Show, and the Caribbean Day at Central Park were impressive. He then asked everyone to stay safe and enjoy the good things in Schenectady as we prepare for the fall.

Marion Porterfield – Thanked everyone for attending and giving their opinions and thoughts. She offered her condolences to staff member Jennifer Clifford and her family on the loss of her sister. She then reported that there are many great things in Schenectady. There is a thriving downtown, the waterfront, numerous restaurants, Proctors, housing developments, and Thriving Neighborhoods Initiative by the Schenectady Foundation that invites residents to give ideas as to what they want to see in their neighborhoods. This past weekend there was no shortage of things to do; the Italian Fest, Greek Fest, the Stockade Art Show, and for those who question the investment in Central Park – you should have come to Caribbean Day. Not only were there thousands of people at Central Park for Caribbean Day, but there was also a tennis tournament being hosted by the United States Tennis Association (USTA). As we invest in our parks, we invest in everyone who lives here and those who visit us. She then explained that the ARPA money is being used to fund as many city projects and community-based projects as possible. We may not agree on everything, however we should agree on the common thought of continuing to improve our City. She then addressed the nay-sayers and criticizers by saying if we need to fight, let's fight for each other and if we want to shout, let love be the cry.

Adjourned:

Seeing no further business to come before the City Council, Ms. Porterfield asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was moved by Ms. Patrick and seconded by Mr. Mootoveren. The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

A true record,

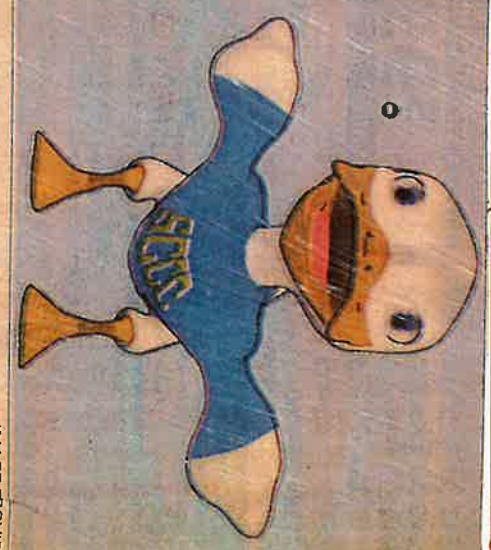
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samantha R. Mykoo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

By Samantha R. Mykoo
Schenectady City Clerk

The Fido (1959) Lawrence Sergeant Howell (1915-1993)
 January 2020

territory

Royal the Duck was created by SCCC freshman Luis Martinez. His submission beat her students' ideas, such as a in or an owl, with unanimous approval in May by the SCCC



royal the Duck was created by freshman Luis Martinez. IMAGE PROVIDED

See DUCK, page A7
 LSO INSIDE
 AN FLEMING BROWN
 named new chair of SCCC
 board of Trustees. A7

The Phillips 'hood of the fishermen is his practice as
 an unrelatable, man, male machine: a hard man and no
 apologet of boys. He promised to buy his son (3) and
 nephew (5) a Christmas gift to buy ducks. They
 got the same Christmas tree and Christmas Day, being
 miserable to his wife, he left her in bed, not a break
 past and left with the two boys and the black television
 in his cupboard for an area he called 'the hump'.

He had the boat government and now it would take
 two hours to get there and then they would have only
 four hours (1-3) of service to watch the city and a great
 time to be the returning fishes of the Atlantic.

When the crew of the SCCC from which they should not
 always find around the SCCC in a small office. The
 fishermen found his fish and was ready to start the
 mail but discovered the night before. All frustrated to
 learn and made him anxious for the man able to



CAROLINE MCGRAW

The appointment at The Catholic University in Washington, D.C. a month after her term in Washington, D.C. Gray decided not to serve another term. She led the board for seven years and chose to step down to spend more time at her firm, Hill, Gosdeck & McGraw LLC.

SCCC expanded rapidly under McGraw's leadership. Fleming Brown said she is looking to build on that momentum.

During McGraw's time at the college, SCCC started its theater program, opened

YOUR N...
 reformed...
 ends next...
 was...
 for nearly six years. Also...
 SCCC student and veteran...
 of the U.S. Army, started his...
 one-year term July 1.

99 Washington
 Government

Samanta R. Mykoo

From: Fred Schermer <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 10, 2022 7:19 PM
To: Mayors Office; Samanta R. Mykoo; CountyClerk@schenectadycounty.com
Cc: John Mootooveren; Carmel Patrick; Carl Williams; Doreen M. Ditoro; Damonni Farley; Marion Porterfield; John Polimeni
Subject: Fwd: Requesting Pilot for Thomas Jefferson's Voting System for Local Elections in the State of New York.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mayor McCarthy, Ms. Mikoo, Ms. Ackerley, and County Board Election Officials,

Our organization has sent a request to Governor Hochul and co-chairs of the State Board of Elections, Peter Kosinski and Douglas Kellner, in which a pilot is proposed for cities and counties to hold local elections, three times in a row, using Thomas Jefferson's clean voting system. Please find the request directly below this email.

Earlier, on June 27, 2022, you received a Constitutional Invocation from our organization because we were contacted by Schenectady residents asking us to deliver you that Invocation. They desire a clean voting system for their local elections and the US Constitution guarantees them that right.

This request is therefore an additional route you can take instead of your immediately following the legal pathway as shown in the Constitutional Invocation. We would consider it beneficial for your City if you asked the Governor and the co-chairs of the State Board of Elections about that pilot option.

When the City of Schenectady decides to not follow the US Constitution, and basically does nothing to ameliorate the electoral situation, then a future request for recompense will not be modified but rather maximized. Officials showing a positive curiosity, about providing the citizens of Schenectady the best possible voting system, will reduce the amount of recompense requested. Naturally, if State officials reply with a negative answer, then the blame will be levied more toward the State than toward the City.

Currently, while we can indeed lay some of the blame directly at the State's doorsteps, it is the implementing city or county government that is held accountable for the violation of the US Constitution. Not the leader who is saying that one must do something, but the follower (in all but military situations) involved in the actual action is held accountable for that action. In short, the State is not holding elections in violation of the US Constitution; you are. The City of Schenectady is holding the bag.

To say this in a positive tone, we hope your actions show that you are there for your citizens. If they desire the best for themselves, we hope you will agree. Thomas Jefferson devised the best voting system there is, many others in the world enjoy it, the US Constitution demands it, and the benefits of this clean voting system will likely be very good for your entire City. From an overall perspective, there are no downsides to giving the people of Schenectady the best there is — only upsides.

With my highest regards,

Fred-Rick Schermer

Founder of **Local Revolutions** — a grassroots organization working toward more accurate representation in politics.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Fred Schermer [REDACTED]
Subject: Requesting Pilot for Thomas Jefferson's Voting System for Local Elections in the State of New York.
Date: September 10, 2022 at 1:53:55 PM PDT
To: hochul@governor.ny.gov, info@elections.ny.gov.us

Governor Hochul and co-chairs of the State Board of Elections, Peter Kosinski and Douglas Kellner,

Once we receive requests by local individuals to Invoke the US Constitution for ten different cities or counties in a State, then we follow this up with an additional request to the State's Governor and the State Board of Elections to allow a pilot of three consecutive local elections, using Thomas Jefferson's voting system.

It is the second of in total three electronic letters we write to State and local governments, with the first letter making government officials aware that they are not following the US Constitution to the letter today. The second and third letters are meant to further establish the case that these governmental officials did not take any action to either change or investigate this legal matter, making a stronger case therefore when we ask for recompense. Naturally, we hope that the governmental officials do realize that their current election formats are held in violation of the US Constitution and that they will change the way they hold elections. Yet the path forward is planned best with all options covered.

On behalf of New York State voters, the request is presented to you to allow Proportional Voting pilots in New York's cities and counties. We will forward this letter to cities and counties that received a Constitutional Invocation already.

There is a legal context, presented in the Constitutional Invocation letters themselves, pointing out that the US Constitution does not allow a concentration of powers **x3**. It actually only establishes a permitted concentration of powers **x1** (for Federal elections to keep the nation strong, capable of withstanding foreign enemies and extreme internal conflicts). Preventing a concentration of powers **x2** — with States also holding elections that restrict voter expression — is not possible, since States received various Constitutional powers that present loopholes in light of the specific demand to not deny or disparage the rights of the [voters]. At the local level, however, no government is allowed to infringe voter expression as found in place today all across the State of New York. Concentrating powers **x3** is simply not allowed per the US Constitution. There are no loopholes to undermine this demand.

Yet this is not a Constitutional Invocation letter. This is a request to allow pilots for cities and counties. It is an alternate route, so there is then a legal workaround in place that can please all parties.

The nature of pilots is not something that must be approved via the regular channels. Rather, a situation is recognized as not fulfilling our societal needs while current rules and regulations are not sufficient to help investigate or improve that situation. A pilot is an extralegal step with a limited timeframe, and approved by just the officials needed for such an approval. It can be put in place relatively quickly.

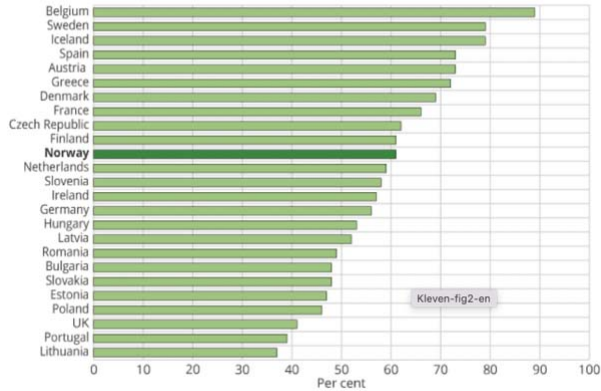
The low voter turnout in New York State for local elections would be the actual reason for your potentially allowing such a pilot to take place.

- The percentages seen for voter turnout at local elections [in the US] show a range of "15 to 27 percent of eligible voters cast[ing] a ballot in their local

elections.” <https://www.nationalcivicleague.org/ncr-article/increasing-voter-turnout-in-local-elections/>

This can be compared to other nations:

Figure 2. Voter turnout in local elections in selected European countries (last election held in the period 2004–2008)



Source: European Union and the Committee of the Regions (2009) Participation in the European Project: How to mobilize citizens at the local, regional, national, and European levels. European Union.

Source: <https://www.ssb.no/en/valg/artikler-og-publikasjoner/lower-voter-turnout-than-sweden-and-denmark>

In this table, the United States would be last on this (European) list showing **local** voter turnouts. The nations toward the bottom of this list all make use of electoral formats that are not as enticing as the voting formats used by the nations in top of this list.

The UK, for instance, uses a system of first-past-the-post, something local governments may use in the United States as well, with the plurality winning the seat, not necessarily the majority.

The lower the chance that a vote translates into an actual representative, the lower the interest by eligible voters to participate.

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District voting is a governmental structure that limits the expression of the political will of the people. At-large voting is a governmental structure that limits the expression of the political will of the people, albeit in a different fashion from district voting. Ranked-Choice Voting is a form of winner-take-all and does not improve voter representation by much and sometimes undermines it further.

While there are good reasons to limit the expression of the political will of the people at the Federal level, and one can find arguments still, albeit of a weaker nature, at the State level, there are no good political reasons to limit the expression of the political will of the people at the local levels of government. None whatsoever, particularly when party programs cannot be used by local candidates.

Fully optimizing the organization of governments in a political format, selected by the voters at the local level, will not amount to any systemic governing problems. The power of cities and counties is simply not that of States or the Nation. There is a natural lid to the power of cities and counties. As such, we can follow the US Constitution to the letter without any fear, and deliver the people their realm without Federal or State governments interfering with the Constitutional right of the People to express themselves most optimally. When voters are represented in the most optimal manner at their local levels, then the experienced frustration of a government infringing on their rights will also subside. The

correct word is *emancipation*, with voters seen as mature participants. The Founding Fathers would be delighted.

The State of New York may claim it is the original source for the existence of its cities and counties, but the State cannot lay claim on the realm of power belonging to the People. The *HOW* of local elections is therefore not a State affair. The State should not be involved in overreach. Per the US Constitution, the *HOW* cannot interfere with delivering voters their accurate representation at the local levels.

If we compare the State to a landlord of an apartment complex, then it is an overreach by the landlord if that entity made cooking Brussels sprouts illegal in all its apartments. Such a demand interferes with our pursuit of happiness.

— — —

Governor Hochul and co-chairs Kosinski and Kellner,

The request before you is to allow pilots in New York's cities and counties, so government officials can show their people that they are indeed taking steps to comply with the Constitutional demands of eligible voters in their cities and counties.

The proposal is quite simple:

- Allow cities and counties the right to hold Proportional Elections three times in a row.

Voters will have an easy time voting since Proportional Voting is simpler than district or at-large voting. Yet the voters may not see immediately that they are free to pick the candidate of their hearts because they have never been that free before. The second time around, voters will likely all vote for the candidate they want. The third time will be a charm and will likely be unequivocal in its higher voter turnout.

While the outcomes may sometimes be a surprise, they will be relatively close to what they are today. The ones in the local seats today are all representatives that desire to give their very best for their cities and counties. Yet what Proportional Voting delivers is that the representatives will get in touch with the voters better and stay in touch with the voters better because their empowerment is based on the empowerment given to them by all voters, not just the majority of voters.

In calculations comparing US citizens and Norwegian citizens in light of their local voter empowerment, the Norwegian voters are empowered between two to eight times greater than US voters in their local elections. These numbers differ so much due to the unfortunate combination that a system that sends voters home empty-handed also results in fewer voters showing up next time around. This is particularly true at the local level.

The numbers show that the Norwegian voters have more control over their local representatives and this stimulates them to vote locally in much higher numbers. Their voting system, not dissimilar to the one Thomas Jefferson devised, is one of the reasons why Scandinavian countries take in top positions on the list of happy nations. Their pursuit of happiness is not hampered by restricted voting formats such as district and at-large voting.

Naturally, any council selected in whichever manner can make the same decisions, and in emergencies almost all do make the same decisions. Yet during ordinary times, Proportional Voting makes people feel

empowered, it establishes great pride in one's hometown or place, and it establishes a better direction for councils and boards to help their community become the best they can be.

As mentioned, this letter will be forwarded to the cities and counties in the State of New York that have all received a Constitutional Invocation already and those receiving it later will be informed about this pilot request.

With local officials asking their State officials about this option, a future request for recompense by their citizens will be moderated for these cities and counties. It will also show us in how far the State government was willing to address a serious societal issue that undermines the pursuit of happiness.

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Here is a mockup example of Proportional Voting for a city with six seats.

1. Adams (B)		11. Madison (A)	
2. Buchanan (A)		12. Nixon (B)	
3. Cleveland (D)		13. Obama (C)	
4. Eisenhower		14. Pierce (D)	
5. Ford (A)		15. Roosevelt (C)	
6. Grant (B)		16. Taft (B)	
7. Harrison (D)		17. Van Buren (A)	X
8. Johnson (C)		18. Washington (A)	
9. Kennedy (C)		19. Arthur (B)	
10. Lincoln (A)		20. Bush (C)	

This is the ballot all voters will see when they go to the voting booth. There are no districts, there are no complicated ranking exercises, and gerrymandering is a thing of the past. The setup could not be simpler. All voters vote once, not multiple times.

In this example, the single vote was given to Van Buren, who happens to have the same name as the first President born after the United States had been established.

Notice the A behind this person's name. Based on their own idea to represent voters best, Vote Alignments can get established by candidates, and these Vote Alignments are valid for one election cycle only. The Election Commission appoints the letters, different for each election. The Election Commission is not involved in any other way with the formation of Vote Alignments.

While voting for Van Buren, the voter also reviews which other candidates are contained in that specific Vote Alignment. It may swing a voter to not vote for Van Buren. In this case, all was fine, and Van Buren is the candidate that the voter wanted.

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The voter will ordinarily not see the following. The voter will see the ballot and read about the final results. The voting system is optimized for voter expression and does so second to none.

Here is the overall mockup outcome that shows the intrinsic functioning of this voting system for your review.

1. Adams (B)	75	11. Madison (A)	25	A: (1200) + 175
2. Buchanan (A)		12. Nixon (B)	50	B: 250
3. Cleveland (D)		13. Obama (C)	150	C: (1200) + 75
4. Eisenhower	625	14. Pierce (D)	25	D: 75
5. Ford (A)	50	15. Roosevelt (C)	650	
6. Grant (B)	100	16. Taft (B)	25	
7. Harrison (D)	50	17. Van Buren (A)	375	
8. Johnson (C)	100	18. Washington (A)	725	
9. Kennedy (C)	225	19. Arthur (B)		
10. Lincoln (A)	200	20. Bush (C)	150	
Total votes	3600	Needed for seat	600	

In total, there are 3600 cast valid votes in this mockup delivery, and dividing this number by the 6 available seats, we find that each seat has a value of 600 votes.

Three candidates got more than 600 votes and they received a seat straight-out: Eisenhower, Roosevelt, and Washington.

Two candidates immediately received a seat as well because Vote Alignment A and Vote alignment C contain enough votes in total for two seats each. The remaining top vote-getter of Vote Alignment A is our Van Buren. While getting just 375 votes, the required 600 votes were indeed present. The remaining top vote-getter of Vote Alignment C is Kennedy.

The last seat will always go to a candidate for which there are no 600 seats. Reviewing the remaining votes, A (175), B (250), C (75), and D (75), the seat goes to B, and Grant is the top vote-getter in that Vote Alignment. This way, the voters made all decisions for the six seats. The system is optimized for voter expression.

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Vote Alignments can be based on anything the candidates consider helpful in obtaining more votes. This may be because candidates are, for instance, all Latino, or are all grassroots activists, or are all pro-business. It is in their best interest to find a reason that resonates with voters. Some reasons may be of a political nature, while other reasons are non-political and exist as natural components within the population.

There is no benefit otherwise for candidates to promote another candidate. It will actually hurt candidates to promote someone else in a Vote Alignment. The Vote Alignment is put in place to salvage the vote, making the vote go to a similar candidate and not to a candidate the voter did not desire. The Vote Alignments aid the voters, not the candidates.

- In this case, it is like having \$10 and walking into a store with 20 items for \$10. After viewing which items are liked and which are disliked, the individual declares which item is desired. Then, when handing in the \$10 bill, the voter receives the item or gets the best fit from that category.

Compare this to today. We still have that \$10 bill, but now we are forced to go to the State store for our local elections and find a few candidates to pick from. In reality, our choice is between number 1 and number 2 in the polls, and it does not matter if we wanted a different item. There is choice, but of a very limited kind. Our freedom got limited by the State rules and regulations. The Constitutional demand declares that this is illegal; it is an overreach by the State, and the local government must serve the People when it demands that the county follows the US Constitution first.

Some information about the level of success with this voting format, per the above example:

- If we add all needed votes for receiving either the candidate or the second best option, then we see that $1200 + 1200 + 600 + 250 = 3250$ votes ended up being used to appoint the six seats. That is 90.3 percent of the voters receiving their choice or second best option.
- If we add up all voters that can point to the specific person they voted for, then we have $625 + 100 + 225 + 650 + 375 + 725 = 3325$ voters fully satisfied. That is 92.36 percent of the voters.
- If we add up all voters satisfied seeing their choice or second best option, then we have $625 + 1375 (A) + 250 (B) + 1275 (C) = 3525$ voters satisfied. That is 97.92 percent of the voters.
- Note that Eisenhower won a seat without the backing of a Vote Alignment. That is a daring step, but in this case she got the required number of votes for a seat.

When there are six seats, then the natural *guarantee* that voters are satisfied by their vote is at least 85.71 percent.

With quite the contrast, District Voting has a guarantee in place of 50 percent of the votes, plus one vote. No wonder so few voters show up in District Voting. In stark contrast, with Proportional Voting, few voters end up going home empty-handed. They come out to vote in excellent numbers, even for local elections with just a few seats.

End mockup example.

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Whether local governmental officials personally desire or dislike the idea of voting pilots is legally not the most important question because the voters desire a real choice. The voters want a voting system that makes them want to come out like they do in Norway where the government does not tinker with the voting format and gives them actual representation instead of *the chance of* representation. Local

New York State voters are making this request. The good news is that it can be implemented in half an hour because it is the simplest voting system there is.

Thomas Jefferson was the first person in the world to devise it. I'm sure that if the Framers had written about cities and counties in the US Constitution that we would have heard about a good conversation which voting system to put in place locally. Right now, we can assume that Thomas Jefferson's clean voting system is what the Founding Fathers had in mind for all elections except for the elections they explicitly told us to select in restricted manners instead.

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Governor Hochul and co-chairs Kosinski and Kellner,

Can we please be the Land of the Free with our own local elections? Can we become the democracy all other nations in the world will be envious of because of our showing up in decent and perhaps even large numbers?

Thank you for your consideration of this request to allow Proportional Voting pilots for cities and counties in the State of New York. I will forward this request to all cities and counties that received a Constitutional Invocation.

Fred-Rick Schermer

Founder of **Local Revolutions** — a grassroots organization working toward more accurate representation in politics.