

RESOLUTION TO HAVE COVID-19 ELECTION FUNDING WITH NO STRINGS ATTACHED

Whereas the matching funds requirement in the CARES Act makes it virtually impossible for states like New York — where every tax dollar should be dedicated to combating this pandemic — from accessing the desperately needed funding,

Whereas although the CARES Act allowed \$20 million for New York State to protect the elections, states are required to match 20% of the money they accept. This is a deal breaker for cash strapped states who've lost billions in revenue this year,

Whereas No one should have to choose between their safety and their vote. As we recently saw in Wisconsin, when chaos reigned and the election was held in wildly unsafe circumstances, voters were jeopardizing their lives in pursuit of their civic duty,

Whereas In this time of crisis, states like New York who are combating this pandemic, need every available tax dollar to support our public health system and social safety net. The state matching funds requirement is an additional hardship on the state. If New York cannot afford to match the allocated \$20,000,000 allocation with \$4 million to protect our elections due to the extraordinary costs of managing the COVID health crises and subsequent loss of revenue, New York State will get \$0,

Whereas, the Brennan Center for Justice estimates that at least \$4 billion is needed to fund our elections to ensure no Americans have to decide between their health and their right to vote. They estimate that voting by mail available to all will cost \$982 million - \$1.4 billion, the federal government must provide more funding than currently allocated to states to protect citizens constitutional right to vote as well as allow them to vote safely.

Therefore be it resolved that Village Independent Democrats demand that Congress acts now to eliminate the 20% matching requirement altogether so states can use these urgently needed funds. Americans deserve the right to vote without risking their lives. Senator Schumer and the Senate must ensure that all states receive \$4 billion for elections — with no strings attached.