

June 28, 2022

Dear Senate President Scutari, Speaker Coughlin and Gov Murphy,

The NJ Senate is taking a giant step away from good government and transparency after committees this week fast-tracked the misleadingly named Elections Transparency Act (S2866/A4372).

We urge you to rescind your sponsorship and not to post this highly problematic bill.

Far from increasing transparency in elections, this legislation would increase the power of politically connected professional service firms and corporations by increasing political contribution limits to party bosses.

Equally troubling in a state with a well-documented history of political corruption, the bill would also weaken New Jersey's pay-to-play law and would limit municipalities' abilities to implement their own local ethics rules.

This bill would prevent towns, cities and advocates from standing up to Trenton corruption by passing their own ethics rules to restore confidence in government and would make it easier for politically powerful law firms, engineering firms and other companies with lucrative government contracts to influence our elections system and increase their share of local and County budgets.

Ironically, at the same time as our elected leaders are promising a renewed focus on "affordability," this bill would drive up costs for taxpayers by removing checks on corruption and government spending that benefits politically connected companies.

At a time when there is a growing national movement against the scourge of special interests in our politics, it's time for our local legislative leaders to stand with the people they represent — and not the shadowy entities funding their campaigns.

Signed,

NJ Working Families Party
NJ Institute for Social Justice
NJ League of Women Voters
NJ League of Conservation Voters
Latino Action Network
NJ Citizen Action
SEIU 32BJ
CWA District 1
Salvation and Social Justice NJ
NJ Policy Perspective
Make the Road NJ
BlueWave NJ

NJ 11 For Change
CWA Local 1032
Environment NJ
Piscataway Progressive Democratic Organization
Central Jersey Progressive Democrats
Indivisible Cranbury
Our Revolution NJ
New Jersey Appleseed Public Interest Law Center
Fair Share Housing
Lutherans Engaging in Advocacy
NJ Work Environmental Council
NJ Alliance for Immigrant Justice
South Jersey Progressive Dems
Food and Water Watch
Wind of the Spirit, Immigrant Resource Center
Voter Choice NJ