



June 2021

Dear Speaker Heastie and Leader Stewart-Cousins:

We represent New York's robust and growing technology sector. There are many reasons we've built our companies here, but at the top of the list is New York's dynamism, diversity, and culture of inclusion. New York uniquely rewards collaboration, and there is no other place in America where so many people of so many backgrounds come together each day to solve problems and make their communities better. This culture has helped New York as it recovers from COVID-19, and it remains core to our commitment to the city and state's future.

New York's diversity and inclusivity is a driver of our businesses, but it goes without saying that these values must be reflected in our democratic processes as well. If there is one space where everyone must be allowed to participate, it is the right to vote. This is why many of us have joined our peers in [a national effort](#) to support the right of all Americans to vote fairly, and freely, and why we write this letter today.

For all of New York's progressive values, it remains unnecessarily difficult to vote here. We recognize that the state has made great strides in the last two years by implementing early voting and adopting automatic voter registration, and we fully support your continued efforts to ensure equal voting access for all, but there is more to do.

We therefore encourage our state elected officials to adopt a handful of common sense reforms that are commonplace in other states. These include: 1) fully funding local boards of election to adapt and keep up with voting rights expansion; 2) explicitly banning and creating real-world remedies for voter suppression and voter dilution; 3) allowing for curing technical errors in absentee ballots; and 4) other reasonable expansions of voting access.

If New York is going to live up to its name as the most inclusive state in the country, we must embrace that spirit across the board. We cannot in good conscience continue to fight efforts in other states that would disenfranchise American voters while ignoring the challenges that come with voting in the Empire State. Expanding voting rights is a moral imperative. Our companies' successes are uniquely based on the ability to hire here in New York, and, especially in light of recent events, many of America's best and brightest care deeply about ballot access.

Responding to attacks on democracy in other states is important, but so too is addressing the challenges in our own backyard. We write today to encourage New York's political leadership to pass necessary reforms to hold New York up as an example for other states. We look forward to working to support you in those efforts.

Sincerely,

[signatures on following pages]

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Founder and CEO
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Anthony Casalena
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Jimmy Chen
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Propel

Ken Chenault
Chairman and Managing
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General Catalyst

Carolyn Childers
Co-founder
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Michael Chow
CEO
Dart Technologies

Joel Cutler
Co-founder and Managing
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Sebastian Cwilich
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Artsy

Anil Dash
CEO
Glitch

Matthew Davis
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Mosaic Foods

Anthony DiMare
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Bowery Farming

Miguel Fernandez
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Nate Fox
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Noah H. Glass
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