
Committee Meeting

of

ASSEMBLY SELECT COMMITTEE ON BALLOT DESIGN

“The Committee will take oral testimony from members of the public on the design of ballots to be used in primary and general elections in this State”

LOCATION: Atlantic County Institute of Technology
Mays Landing, New Jersey

DATE: November 18, 2024
6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE PRESENT:

Assemblyman Al Barlas, Co-Chair
Assemblyman Benjie E. Wimberly, Co-Chair
Assemblywoman Verlina Reynolds-Jackson, Co-Vice Chair
Assemblyman Brian E. Rumpf, Co-Vice Chair
Assemblyman Dan Hutchison
Assemblyman Michael Inganamort
Assemblyman Antwan L. McClellan
Assemblywoman Ellen J. Park
Assemblyman Gabriel Rodriguez
Assemblyman Gerry Scharfenberger



ALSO PRESENT:

Ryan Brinkerhoff
Mary Lawlor
*Office of Legislative Services
Committee Aides*

Sarah Ballentine
Andrew McAllister
*Assembly Majority
Committee Aides*

Kevin Logan
*Assembly Republican
Committee Aide*

***Meeting Recorded and Transcribed by
The Office of Legislative Services, Public Information Office,
Hearing Unit, State House Annex, PO 068, Trenton, New Jersey***

Al Barlas
Benjie E. Wimberly
Co-Chairs

Verlina Reynolds-Jackson
Brian E. Rumpf
Co-Vice Chairs

Dan Hutchison
Michael Inganamort
Michele Matsikoudis
Antwan L. McClellan
Ellen J. Park
Eliana Pintor Marin
Gabriel Rodriguez
Gerry Scharfenberger



Ryan Brinkerhoff
Office of Legislative Services
Committee Aide
609-847-3890

Mary Lawlor
Office of Legislative Services
Committee Aide
609-847-3890

NEW JERSEY STATE LEGISLATURE

ASSEMBLY SELECT COMMITTEE ON BALLOT DESIGN

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COMMITTEE NOTICE

TO: MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY SELECT COMMITTEE ON BALLOT DESIGN

FROM: ASSEMBLYMEN BARLAS AND WIMBERLY, CO-CHAIRMEN

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE MEETING – NOVEMBER 18, 2024

The public may address comments and questions to Ryan Brinkerhoff, Mary Lawlor, Committee Aides, or make bill status and scheduling inquiries to Sophie Love, Secretary, at (609)847-3890 or email: OLSAideABD@njleg.org. Written and electronic comments, questions and testimony submitted to the committee by the public, as well as recordings and transcripts, if any, of oral testimony, are government records and will be available to the public upon request.

The Assembly Select Committee on Ballot Design will meet on Monday, November 18, 2024 at 6:00 PM at the Atlantic County Institute of Technology, 5080 Atlantic Avenue, Mays Landing, New Jersey, 08330.

The committee will take oral testimony from members of the public on the design of ballots to be used in primary and general elections in this State.

Registration to testify will be available on site. If you would like to register to testify in advance, please fill out the Assembly Select Committee on Ballot Design Registration Form located on the New Jersey Legislature home page at <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/>. Select November 18 on the calendar and click on Assembly Select Committee on Ballot Design for the registration link. Please check the box "Do you wish to testify?" on the Registration Form and make sure your email address is correct. Pre-registrations must be received by Monday, November 18, 2024 at 10:00 AM.

Issued 11/13/24

For reasonable accommodation of a disability call the telephone number or fax number above, or for persons with hearing loss dial 711 for NJ Relay. The provision of assistive listening devices requires 24 hours' notice. CART or sign language interpretation requires 5 days' notice.

For changes in schedule due to snow or other emergencies, see website <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us> or call 800-792-8630 (toll-free in NJ) or 609-847-3905.

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ASSEMBLYMAN AL BARLAS (Co-Chair): Good evening, everyone.

Before we start our meeting, if I could just have everyone to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Pledge of Allegiance is recited)

ASSEMBLYMAN BARLAS: Good evening.

Thank you all for being here for our public hearing for the Assembly Select Committee on Ballot Design. Today is Monday, November 18.

If I can get roll call.

MS. LAWLOR: Assemblyman Scharfenberger.

ASSEMBLYMAN SCHARFENBERGER: Here.

MS. LAWLOR: Assemblyman Rodriguez.

ASSEMBLYMAN RODRIGUEZ: Here.

MS. LAWLOR: Assemblywoman Park.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PARK: Here.

MS. LAWLOR: Assemblyman McClellan.

ASSEMBLYMAN McCLELLAN: Present.

MS. LAWLOR: Assemblyman Inganamort.

ASSEMBLYMAN INGANAMORT: Here.

MS. LAWLOR: Co-Vice Chair Rumpf.

ASSEMBLYMAN BRIAN E. RUMPF (Co-Vice Chair):
Present.

MS. LAWLOR: Co-Vice Chair Reynolds-Jackson.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON (Co-Vice Chair): Present.

MS. LAWLOR: Co-Chair Wimberly.

ASSEMBLYMAN BENJIE E. WIMBERLY (Co-Chair): Here.

MS. LAWLOR: Co-Chair Barlas.

ASSEMBLYMAN BARLAS: Here.

MS. LAWLOR: You have a quorum.

ASSEMBLYMAN BARLAS: Thank you.

So, before we get started, we just want to thank our hosts here at Atlantic City (*sic*) Technical Institute. The principal is here, back there in the corner.

Everything is great. Thank you so much for your hospitality. Your staff and everyone here has been fantastic.

Just a little bit of housekeeping. We want to point out that on Monday, December 2 at 6:00 p.m. will be another committee hearing. It will be virtual. You can sign up to testify online on the Legislature's website. That is going to be our last public hearing for the Committee. That will be the fifth hearing that we've had; the fourth public hearing that we will be conducting.

So, with that, Co-Chair, anything?

ASSEMBLYMAN WIMBERLY: No, Co-Chair, I just look forward to today's testimonies and wrapping it up on Monday.

And, once again, letting the community -- our residents -- know that we're here to listen and make the best decisions for all.

ASSEMBLYMAN BARLAS: Great; thank you.

So, first person up we're going to ask is Ms. Lisa Bonanno.

L I S A B O N A N N O: My name is Lisa Bonanno; I will be a primary candidate in June for Assembly in LD2, so I have a personal stake in this.

I got involved in politics in 2016. We were very energized after the first Trump election, and we found -- my friends and I -- found it difficult to get involved with the Democratic party, because there was a pecking order; there was, you know, somebody's turn to be involved. And, there were a lot of things. It was complicated, but we kept going. And, when Jeff Van Drew was chosen to run on the line when Frank LoBiondo retired, we were all like, "What? Don't we talk about this at all?" And, the answer was, "No."

So, it just kind of was not like how I was taught in school that democracy worked. And, you know, I need to be honest about that.

So, I am in favor of the office blocks, just as Judge Quraishi laid it out. And, I'm not sure I'm saying his name right, but, I really believe that color coding and brackets really do stack the deck, and people will take it the wrong way, because we do know that there is a structural advantage. That's been proved out by Julia Sass Rubin's testimony. Thirty-five points; thirty-five percentage points. And, this is known not just to me and not just to activists, but this is known among people, who, when I talk to people -- because I do knock doors -- they feel extremely removed from our political process, and it should not be that way. They feel like all these decisions on who runs, on what is done, happens above their heads and that (indiscernible) they can't exert an effect on it.

And, this is just part of that problem, is we're not able to really share ideas. And, I feel like even incumbents, even people who won the county party's favor, we should be able to share ideas and publicize them. I feel that the-- Having a line that we know stacks the deck against us, it allows you guys, you know, if you're incumbents or you're blessed -- you know, favored by the party -- you guys have the advantage. You have name

recognition. And, I would invite you all to maybe get some more billboards and do things that we will have to do as primary challengers, and get out there, and we'll talk about what's best for our state. That's my, you know-- I heard someone say they don't know how to vote -- they don't know how to vote without us putting it in the line. And, I would say that's a matter of very simple education. And, people, if they know they can make a difference, they will. But we have heard that, that people won't understand it. That's not the case. And, also, as far as it being someone's turn, like I said, that's how we got Jeff Van Drew; that's how a lot of that stuff goes on.

And, there's lots of different ways to reward loyal service in the party than giving someone their turn. It really has to be about winning and putting forth the best ideas.

So, I think that's what I have to say about that, other than we do have a highly energized electorate. And, I don't know if you guys are even seeing it, because I feel like we're so removed, but there are a lot of people with a lot ideas, a lot of energy right now, and I feel we should harness it. And, the way we're doing things right now in the Dem party -- and, by the way, it should be the same with office block ballots for Dems and Republicans -- but, we really have a lot of energy out there, and we don't know how to harness it.

So, that's all I have to say about that.

Any questions? Anything else?

ASSEMBLYMAN BARLAS: Thank you, Ma'am.

Anyone have any questions? (no response)

MS. BONANNO: All right.

ASSEMBLYMAN BARLAS: Thank you very much.

Next up, we have Ms. Sue Swezeny.

How'd I do?

S U S A N S W E Z E N Y: Very good.

ASSEMBLYMAN BARLAS: Thank you.

MS. SWEZENY: I'm impressed.

ASSEMBLYMAN BARLAS: Thank you.

MS. SWEZENY: Hi, how are you this evening?

ASSEMBLYMAN BARLAS: Good.

MS. SWEZENY: So, yes, my name is Sue Swezeny.

I am a County Committeeperson. So, it has been my job, as part of the County Committee, to select who was going to be on that line. OK, and, it's always felt a little weird -- always felt a little weird -- that what I was doing was taking votes away from the people and putting them into a favored spot. And, so, that people would be more inclined to go, "Well, I'm a Democrat, I'm going to vote the Democrat line." "I'm Republican, I'm going to vote the Republican line."

But, there's far too many people in that who feel like -- and understand -- that the vote has already been made. The County Chair has made that decision. The County Chair -- and, I've had many conversations with him -- the County Chair has told us that, "Oh, no, no, no, I show no favoritism." But he will -- he has in the past -- come forward to say that he endorses, personally -- not as the County Chair -- he endorses so and so personally. Well, you know that has a chilling effect on everybody else on that ballot. That's just-- That's how that goes.

(indiscernible) awarding the (indiscernible) -- and, to give him kudos, we were at least given the opportunity to listen to the candidates and

hear what they -- you know, maybe you get one or two forums, as it were, before we voted. But, it was always kind of still, you know, leaning over towards this guy. So, that was given the favoritism. Now, the other candidates were always given the opportunity to be on the ballot; that was no problem. They were out in ballot Siberia, you know, line N; Column N; Column G. Nobody -- other than, like, your aunt -- goes out to Column G to vote for anybody.

And, that's not fair, because you still have some incredibly qualified people who are putting their lives out there to say they want to be part of this system. And, it shouldn't be up to me -- it shouldn't be up to our County Committee -- to decide who goes on that ballot in that slot. It needs to be the people. Now, if the people-- If the people have decided that they, you know, if they're like, "Oh, gee, how am I going to find out?" You have the world in your hand. Research these people.

And, also, if the candidate doesn't have to -- the candidate who is now spending his time -- spending *their* time, I should say, sorry -- spending their time catering to the committee, and catering to the chair, now they need to go back and start catering to the voters. And, that is the idea behind this office block system. When they have it in the block, first off, everybody is still going to have their tagline, you know, that "I'm Regular Democrat," "I'm the Super Duper Democrat," "I'm the Really Cool Conservative," whatever. OK, fine, but the people are going to have to research, and the candidates are going to have to go out there and actually be heard by these people, and get to know the voters, and get to hear their voices, too.

Because, yes, the end of it is that the candidates need to be spending time with the voters and not with the committees. The committees

have plenty of other things that we can be doing. We can be grooming all sorts of people to training them to be candidates and these things. But, the office block would give us an opportunity to have-- You can even switch it up, if you wanted. Unranked; by first name; by last name; by date of birth; whatever like that, you can switch it up every so often so that it's not the same sort of pattern you have on the office block. But, people need-- *People* need to make those decisions.

Thank you for your time.

ASSEMBLYMAN BARLAS: Anyone have any questions?

ASSEMBLYMAN RUMPF: I do.

ASSEMBLYMAN BARLAS: Yes, go ahead.

ASSEMBLYMAN RUMPF: Thank you for your testimony.

You had mentioned that candidates would still have a tagline, or a slogan. What do you mean by that?

MS. SWEZENY: From what I understand, there would be, like, you know, it would say, "Joe Snow," and then underneath that, you would still have a moment -- a line. You would be afforded a line to give whatever you wanted on that line.

As bad as it sounds, Egg Harbor Township did this for the School Board. The School Board, there were three candidates who put down, "I'm here for the kids," you know, "The children come first," "I believe in this." So, they're given just that little space -- you know, 50 characters or whatever -- to state something on the ballot itself.

ASSEMBLYMAN RUMPF: And, that's something that you would be in favor of continuing?

MS. SWEZENY: Yes. Yes, I mean -- yes. You would have people who-- I mean, granted, there are going to be people, as I said, who are going to go, "Well, I'm Democrat, so I'm going to vote Democrat, end of story." But, then there's going to be three or four different Democrats. "Oh, wait a second, I still have to research."

And, again, those Democrats have to reach out to you and say who I am, what I'm about, and what's -- what I plan to do *for you*, not the county. What I plan to do for you.

ASSEMBLYMAN RUMPF: Appreciate it; thank you.

MS. SWEZENY: Thank you.

Any other questions?

ASSEMBLYMAN BARLAS: Yes, I got one more.

Do you-- So, obviously, you are in favor of office block voting.

MS. SWEZENY: Correct.

ASSEMBLYMAN BARLAS: But, is that just for the primary, or would you like to also see it in the general?

MS. SWEZENY: Oh, general, also.

ASSEMBLYMAN BARLAS: General, also.

OK.

Anyone else? (no response)

Thank you very much.

MS. SWENZERY: Thank you.

ASSEMBLYMAN BARLAS: Thank you.

Next up, we have Ms. Victoria DRUDGE-ING.

VICTORIA DRUDING: It's DROOD-ING.

ASSEMBLYMAN BARLAS: DROOD-ING.

MS. DRUDING: It's OK.

ASSEMBLYMAN BARLAS: I added a G, sorry.

Ms. Druding, please come on down.

MS. DRUDING: So, my name is Victoria Druding. I live in Egg Harbor Township -- not too far from here, large township.

And, I want to thank-- I want to thank you for coming to Atlantic County. Atlantic County doesn't always get some of the attention I think they need, the South Jersey, so I appreciate that you're here.

And, I also want to clarify, before I say anything else, that I am 100% behind changing the ballot; moving away from the county line. I think it has been a problem; and it's not fair; and it's not democratic. We are the only state in the union that uses the county line. I don't know if you know that.

I've also been lucky enough -- and, there's a lady in this room who has taught -- worked with me, to teach rank choice voting. I actually see a lot of value in rank choice voting, but I think it would be a good first step for New Jersey to move to block voting for a lot of reasons.

One of the reasons I wanted to come tonight is because when I've been out there teaching rank choice voting, I couldn't help but bring up the county line. And, the people we were teaching are people who are active in the community. Actually, we're out there working for many political organizations. And, I would say, "One thing that happens with rank choice voting and it will make the county line go away." And, you know what they said? "What's the county line?" They didn't even know what the county line was. It's been there for 90 years, so most of you in this room, if not all of us, were born into it. We didn't know anything different.

I did, fortunately, because I've lived different places in the United States. So, when I came back home many times, I would say, "This has got to change, this is craziness." And, also, I've had the same experience Sue has. I've been a delegate in the past, and watched what I felt was an extremely unfair system where good candidates were not given the opportunity to run.

But, one of the other reasons that I came tonight was because I'm involved with that somewhat. I'm not running for office or anything like that, but people call me about things that they read in the *New Jersey Monitor* and other newspapers that truly concerned them, that were statements made from people on this Board. And, I want to talk about some of those and see if, you know, you were misquoted. Quite frankly, I've been in the papers and been misquoted several times, so I know what that is like.

But, to have somebody say that the average guy or gal sees names and has no way beyond that to determine what they should stand for or who they are aligned with -- come on. That is the candidate's job. I'm really very tired of people getting the line and not working for that job. And, it is a job.

Further, this is -- I believe -- is one of the reasons we have very few people, year after year, showing up to vote. Now, we just had a presidential election that, yes, we--

ASSEMBLYMAN BARLAS: I'm sorry, Ms. Druding, I need you to bring it back to the ballot design.

MS. DRUDING: OK, but the ballot design, I believe, has hindered -- and, the people -- I would say to them, "Why don't you go to vote?" And, they would say, "The choice has already been made, Victoria.

Why would I go to vote, when the choice has been made?” And, that’s a product of the county line, Sir. I truly feel that way.

And, then, when you hear somebody say, “Well, how can I run? How can I make it clear to people who I am? And, how can I distinguish myself on the ballot?” Well, that’s your job -- not the party’s job, your job. People are saying they don’t know the candidates. Well, that’s the candidates’ fault. And, I believe that getting rid of the county line would certainly help with that. I see good candidates going out and knocking on doors, putting out their policy, but, because they’re not on the line, they don’t have a snowball’s chance. I think that is-- That is not what democracy is about. That’s not what I learned when I was in school; and, I’m old, so it was a long time ago. But-- And, as far as block voting, this idea, I read one quote that we’d have to educate the voters to use block voting? Hell, you used that in high school. I’m certain of it. We used it in grammar school when you elected your class president. It’s not that difficult.

What I find interesting is the people who want education for block voting are the same people who have been promoting the county line with zero education. I know, because firsthand, that’s what I do. I go out and I teach, and it’s most distressful to see where people do not believe that they are getting to vote for the candidate they want.

So, this young lady is very strongly opposed to the continuation of county line, and I believe that the Federal Government, through the judge, and also our Attorney General, has made it clear. I don’t see this as complicated as we’re making it. Let’s start out with block voting and move forward. Our county clerks have already used it, it’s not that difficult.

Any questions?

ASSEMBLYMAN BARLAS: Any questions?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN REYNOLDS-JACKSON: I do.

ASSEMBLYMAN BARLAS: Yes, Assemblywoman.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN REYNOLDS-JACKSON: I have a question.

Are you a committee person now?

MS. DRUDING: No.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN REYNOLDS-JACKSON: OK.

Were you in the past?

MS. DRUDING: For one year.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN REYNOLDS-JACKSON: And, what was that experience like?

MS. DRUDING: Again--

ASSEMBLYWOMAN REYNOLDS-JACKSON: How did you become a committee person?

MS. DRUDING: They literally--

ASSEMBLYWOMAN REYNOLDS-JACKSON: And, the reason why I'm asking--

MS. DRUDING: --gave it to me. There was no election.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN REYNOLDS-JACKSON: The reason why I ask is because I went through a citizens action training program where they talked about journalism, finding out who your candidates are; you talk about the role of committee people. And, a previous speaker also spoke about being a committee person.

And, so, I'm just-- My experience and your experience as a committee person is two different things. So, I'm trying to figure out, what

was your experience like? Were you just told what to do, and that's what you did, and you didn't like that experience? Or, did you have a different type of experience? I'm just so curious.

MS. DRUDING: Well, I had the same chairman that Sue -- Ms. Swezeny -- had. And, pretty much my experience was people just stood in line. They knew that they couldn't run unless they were in lockstep.

And, I also say, in courtesy -- believe me when I say this -- you're obviously a woman who is involved in your community, and you had intention to serve. So, you're going to be more interested in the process and going out and learning, like you did. Most citizens don't have the time, or not that motivation. What they want to do is hear from the candidates who are representing them. They want to know what they're about. They don't want to vote for the party person.

And, that's-- Again, I'm sorry, but I do believe that having the county line has kept people home. And, it's a shame. I'm a member of the league; we do registration and blah blah blah, everything you know, you know about the league; voters' choice, that's something else we teach. It's shocking to me what people say. And, almost all the time-- I'm not a betting person, but I would tell you, I'll go out and I'll take a bet if they're going to say, "The choice has already been made for us, Victoria. Why should I vote?"

ASSEMBLYWOMAN REYNOLDS-JACKSON: Thank you so much, I appreciate it.

MS. DRUDING: Not a problem.

Thank you again for coming.

Oh, was there a question?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN WIMBERLY: I just have a question for you.

Since you're traveling throughout the country with voter education, you said?

MS. DRUDING: No, honey, I don't get that far.

(laughter)

MS. DRUDING: When I was in other states, it was because I--

ASSEMBLYWOMAN WIMBERLY: OK, I thought it was in reference to rank choice voting.

MS. DRUDING: Oh, I do-- Rank choice voting has been used throughout the United States, as you know, I'm sure.

ASSEMBLYMAN WIMBERLY: So, percentage-wise, has that increased voter participation in areas that have rank choice voting?

MS. DRUDING: According to the statistics that I have been given. You know, statistics and those kinds of things can be challenged, but that's my understanding.

And, we've seen positive results from rank choice voting, as far as for minorities. I mean, let's look at Alaska -- what happened there? She would have never won -- Mary Peltola -- had it not been for rank choice voting. And, she was an Indian. That's -- an American Indian. They never won before. Rank choice voting gave us that ability.

And, let me also say that this last election with the Democrats -- They had already chosen someone in the county line for the U.S. House of Representatives. And, then, of course, Andy Kim's case, they won, and then they had to have the election. People chose someone completely different. The people spoke. And, I think that that is what we want, isn't it?

ASSEMBLYMAN WIMBERLY: Thank you.

MS. DRUDING: Thank you for your time.

ASSEMBLYMAN BARLAS: Thank you very much.

Next up, we have Ms. Carolyn Rush.

C A R O L Y N R U S H: My name is Carolyn Rush. I am from Sea Isle City, New Jersey.

I am here to speak very much in favor of using the office block format ballot. It is very much in line with what Judge Quraishi has indicated in his order.

I guess I should start out by saying that I was one of the plaintiffs on that case. I ran for the Congressional seat, both in 2022 midterm elections and in the 2024 elections in the Second Congressional District. And, it was because of a rather bad experience with the line in the 2022 election that Andy Kim invited me to be a co-plaintiff with him when he filed his injunction -- his request for an injunction against the line.

So, I was very happy to be part of that lawsuit, because I know how detrimental the line is. In 2022, I was new to politics and I was very naïve. I came to learn very quickly that even my party plays dirty. And, I-- What I witnessed was not only that the county chair has an unbelievable amount of influence as to who gets the line-- I think Victoria may have been alluding to it, and Sue as well, that the chair is very influential. Everybody gets to make their own vote, but the chair influences who they vote for and has an awful lot of sway as to who gets that line.

The other thing that the chair does -- which I think is highly unethical, but maybe not illegal -- is influence the chairs in other counties. Now, I found out this was happening because the chair in one county called

the chair into other counties and asked them to get me to drop out so that that chair's desired candidate would have the top of the line. That's when I got kind of sick to my stomach.

So, the 2022 election didn't go my way -- I don't know how much of it was because of the line -- but being in Column F on one of the ballots was certainly not an advantage for me. So, I was very pleased when Andy Kim invited me to be on that lawsuit. I sat through all of the testimony on the day up in Trenton that went for about 12 hours. I was very impressed with Judge Quraishi. He asked *very* good questions; got the root of the problem; understood exactly how candidates were being harmed by the line; and made sure that, in his findings and his order, he made it clear that the line is unconstitutional and needs to go.

The office block format, in my opinion, is absolutely the best and easiest way to move forward. And, although all the clerks at that meeting -- and, all 19 were represented, some by multiple attorneys -- all claim that there was no way they could put forth the ballot in that short a time that had met the requirements for that primary election. And, yet, they all did it. And, the ballot was very easy to use. There was no real efforts needed to educate the public. You look at the ballot, it says the name of the office, and then it says, "pick one candidate." That's not hard to understand.

So, the way it was done in the 2024 election that just passed was -- in the primary -- it was by random draw. And, I think that's probably best. I don't think alphabetical or by age or by address or anything else makes sense. A random draw -- although it does not have to be out of a wooden box that gets shaken in the air by people in the election office, that was a little bit antiquated -- but, the bottom line is a random drawing within the box is

the most fair and, you know, the best way, in my opinion, to move forward with the ballot. It's easy; it's clean; and it's honest. And, it takes a lot of the unethical nature of politics out of at least one aspect of politics. And, I think it would be wonderful if you guys would make the recommendation to the full Assembly and the Senate, if necessary, that this is the way to move forward for -- to restore faith in our system. And, that really is what is needed.

ASSEMBLYMAN BARLAS: Thank you, Ms. Rush.

So, just to clarify, you were a candidate in 2022, correct?

MS. RUSH: And 2024.

ASSEMBLYMAN BARLAS: And 2024, OK.

MS. RUSH: I ran twice. In the Second Congressional district.

ASSEMBLYMAN BARLAS: Second; got it.

Anyone have any questions? (no response)

All right, thank you very much.

I just want to clarify -- nobody else, right? (no response)

So, I guess that is the last speaker we had for our public hearing today.

Before we break, I just want to say, you know, thank everybody for coming today. I want to thank the folks who testified as well.

I want to make clear that everything you are saying is resonating with all of us, right? Everybody is listening; everybody is paying attention; everybody is figuring out what the next steps are going to look like.

So, I don't want anybody here either today, or the previous hearings, or our next hearing -- which will be on Monday, December 2, at 6 p.m., virtually -- to think that what you are saying is not landing. It is landing

for all of us. And, we are listening, and we are taking notes and going to figure out what to do next.

So, with that, if anyone has anything else -- motion to adjourn.

ASSEMBLYMAN SCHARFENBERGER: Motion.

ASSEMBLYMAN BARLAS: Second.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN REYNOLDS-JACKSON: Second.

ASSEMBLYMAN BARLAS: Thank you.

(MEETING CONCLUDED)