

**MADLINE SINGAS**  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY



**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
NASSAU COUNTY**

March 20, 2019

Senator Zellnor Myrie  
New York State Senate  
Chair, Senate Elections Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 903  
Albany, NY 12247

Assemblyman Charles Lavine  
New York State Assembly  
Chair, Assembly Elections Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 713  
Albany, NY 12248

RE: S.1931 / A. 4987

Dear Senator Myrie and Assemblyman Lavine:

I write in support of S.1931/A.4987, which would restore voting rights to New Yorkers on parole. As a career prosecutor, and now as Nassau County District Attorney, I have worked to hold offenders responsible and reduce crime in Queens and Nassau Counties for nearly three decades. Since taking office in 2015, I have also had the privilege of serving as the chief law enforcement officer of the safest large county in New York State. But criminal justice means more than arrests and convictions; it is also about ensuring that once people have served their time, they are given a chance for healthy reintegration into their community. That includes welcoming them to participate as full citizens, which is why I support restoring voting rights.

I know what it takes to provide justice-involved citizens with the assistance they need to avoid reoffending. As District Attorney, I have focused the skill and resources of my office on collaborating with the Woman's Opportunity Rehabilitation Center as well as the establishment of the Community Partnership Program. Before joining the District Attorney's office, I also served on the New York State Bar Association's Special Committee on Re-Entry, which sought to address the many challenges justice-involved citizens face while transitioning from incarceration back into their communities.

These experiences have taught me that we all benefit when returning citizens are allowed and encouraged to engage in civic-minded behaviors like voting. Bringing people into the political process makes them stakeholders in the community, which results in less recidivism and improved public safety. Thus I applaud Governor Cuomo for using his pardon power to restore voting rights to New Yorkers on parole. But we should not leave it up to just one person to decide who can vote, and we should not be wasting resources on a pardon process when voting rights restoration should be automatic. For these reasons, I strongly urge the Legislature to codify and improve upon the Governor's actions by passing S.1931/A.4987.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Madeline Singas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Madeline Singas  
District Attorney  
Nassau County

cc: Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of the State of New York

Senator Leroy Comrie  
Assembly Member Daniel J. O'Donnell