



March 30, 2009

**Bill Number:** A.3315A.

**Sponsor:** Lancman, et al

**Title of Bill:** An Act to amend the election law, in relation to enacting the "early voting act" ....

**Provisions:** This bill would allow the public to vote at the county board of elections or at an alternate location fourteen days before a general, primary, or special election, in order to make it easier for citizens to vote and to ensure an orderly and efficient voting process on election day.

**Statement of Support:** Democracy for New York City (DFNYC) is a volunteer-driven non-profit political action committee. We are committed to supporting reforms that make it easier for people to participate in government. We seek to inform our members on national and local issues, as well as opportunities to get involved in grassroots politics. In addition to issue advocacy, we also make endorsements in elections.

Early voting, as proposed in A.3315, would greatly alleviate the long voting lines experienced around New York City in the 2008 general election—lines that often result in lower participation as potential voters leave without voting, either because they become discouraged or because they do not have the time to wait. Properly administered and publicized, early voting would allow many people to make their voice heard at the ballot box.

We believe that the early voting ballots should be counted on election night, and that representatives of minor or “third” parties that are on the ballot should be allowed to participate in supervising the casting of early ballots. Those two suggested amendments notwithstanding, **Democracy for NYC strongly supports passage of A.3315.**

*Please contact Dan Jacoby 917-667-2756 or at [dan@danjacoby.com](mailto:dan@danjacoby.com) or Bernadette Evangelist at 212-873-8069 or at [bevangelist@dfnyc.org](mailto:bevangelist@dfnyc.org) with any questions.*