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NEW YORK
PUBLIC INTEREST
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NEWS RELEASE

NYPIRG URGES GREATER ACCESS TO EARLY VOTING POLL SITES

(Albany, N.Y.)   NYPIRG released an in-depth analysis featuring data on early-voting sites across New York State. The data displays the number of active voters, early voting poll sites, and average number of voters per site within each county. Some counties are limited to only one early voting site, while others average over or almost over 100,000 active voters per site. The analysis illustrates issues in the roll out of early voting that should be addressed before the 2020 elections.

Under the recently passed law, local boards of elections were given some discretion in how many early voting sites that would be allowed and where they would be located. The new law stated that there should be at least one early voting polling place for 50,000 registered voters in each county. Counties with voting populations less than 50,000 should have at least one early polling place. However, the number of early voting polling places in a county shall not be required to be greater than *seven*. Thus, the largest counties had a lot of room in deciding the number of early voting locations.

As seen below, sixteen counties had a ratio *greater* than one early voting location per 50,000 voters. And while it was not illegal to do so, a wide variation does not make sense. For example, the borough of Manhattan had a ratio in excess of one early voting place for each 100,000 voters – double what was the goal in the law. Not illegal, but unfair to Manhattan voters. In contrast, Erie County had 37 early voting sites with a ratio of about 16,000 voters per location.

The law also obliged local boards of elections to *consider*, but did not *require*, certain factors when deciding where to locate early polling locations. The law stated that factors like "population density, travel time to the polling place, proximity to other early voting poll sites, public transportation routes, commuter traffic patterns." Yet, "consideration" is not a mandate. In the county of Rensselaer, the city of Troy (population is about 50,000) had no early voting locations in its boundaries.

New York should require that no county is allowed to have ratios of voters to early voting polls of more than 50,000 to one. And that every local community in which the people rely heavily on mass transportation, or ones that have dense population centers, or rural areas in which distances are far, must have reasonable access.

NUMBER OF NEW YORK VOTERS PER EARLY VOTING SITE

County	Number of Sites	Active Voting Population	Average Number of Voters per Early Voting Site
Albany	6	183,529	30,588
Allegany	1	25,136	25,136
Bronx	11	721,734	65,612
Brooklyn	18	1,460,396	81,133
Broome	3	115,918	38,639
Cattaraugus	2	44,741	22,370
Cayuga	3	45,559	15,186
Chautauqua	3	76,459	25,486
Chemung	1	50,215	50,215
Chenango	1	28,262	28,262
Clinton	1	46,558	46,558
Columbia	3	44,496	14,832
Cortland	1	27,490	27,490
Delaware	1	27,053	27,053
Dutchess	5	182,782	36,556
Erie	37	597,592	16,151
Essex	1	24,035	24,035
Franklin	1	25,343	25,343
Fulton	1	31,046	31,046
Genesee	1	36,950	36,950
Greene	1	30,063	30,063
Hamilton	1	4,179	4,179
Herkimer	1	37,737	37,737
Jefferson	1	56,351	56,351
Lewis	1	16,742	16,742
Livingston	1	39,000	39,000
Madison	1	41,110	41,110
Manhattan	9	1,016,771	112,974
Monroe	7	460,283	65,754
Montgomery	1	27,359	27,359
Nassau	15	949,987	63,332
Niagara	2	131,758	65,879
Oneida	3	128,649	42,883
Onondaga	6	289,064	48,177
Ontario	3	72,162	24,054
Orange	6	220,262	36,710
Orleans	1	23,085	23,085
Oswego	1	69,635	69,635
Otsego	1	33,978	33,978
Putnam	1	63,507	63,507
Queens	14	1,180,052	84,289
Rensselaer	2	97,154	48,577
Rockland	4	194,263	48,566
Saratoga	3	154,480	51,493
Schenectady	4	93,776	23,444
Schoharie	1	18,489	18,489
Schuyler	1	11,812	11,812
Seneca	1	19,357	19,357
St. Lawrence	1	59,370	59,370
Staten Island	9	293,348	32,594

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Steuben	1	57,553	57,553
Suffolk	10	977,134	97,713
Sullivan	1	46,700	46,700
Tioga	1	30,759	30,759
Tompkins	2	54,631	27,315
Ulster	7	118,268	16,895
Warren	1	42,163	42,163
Washington	1	35,054	35,054
Wayne	1	54,412	54,412
Westchester	17	593,559	34,915
Wyoming	1	23,510	23,510
Yates	1	13,466	13,466

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