 ALLIANCE OF NEW YORK STATE YMCAs YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT Legislative Bill	ASSEMBLY Bill # 2						
	Referred to Committee: B						
Authors: Caleb Nieves, Evan Lewandowski, Nathaniel Godzola	Action on the Bill <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">House</td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">Senate</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed</td> <td style="text-align: center;">___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated</td> <td style="text-align: center;">___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated</td> </tr> </table>	House	Senate	___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed	___ <input type="checkbox"/> Passed	___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated	___ <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated
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School: Cleveland Hill							
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1 AN ACT TO : Make election day a New York State holiday.

2
3 ***The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate***
4 ***and Assembly, do enact as follows:***

5
6 **PURPOSE:** To make the Tuesday after the first Monday in November a New York State holiday
7 closing all offices of the State of New York, stores and schools for that day in an effort to
8 increase voter turnout.

9
10 **SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS :**

11 Section 1 :

12 NYCCFB - New York City Campaign Finance Board


13
14 Voting Turnouts- The percent of eligible voters who cast a ballot in an election.

15
16 Electorate- All the people in a country or area who are entitled to vote in an election.

17
18 Section 2 : The Tuesday after the first Monday in November, currently known as Election Day, will
19 be a state holiday in the state of New York.

20
21 **JUSTIFICATION:** The backbone of a healthy democracy is a fully engaged electorate. In the
22 Presidential Election of 2012, 57.5 percent of the electorate voted. In the 2012 election, 53.6
23 percent voted according to the United States Elections Project. The State of New York ranked
24 44th in the nation in voter turnout in 2012. Of the seven states with lower voter turnout
25 percentages, Arizona, Tennessee, Arkansas, Texas, Oklahoma, West Virginia, and Hawaii, only is
26 Hawaii election day a state holiday. The ethnic group with the lowest voter turnout is Hispanic.
27 Interestingly, Puerto Rico has an extremely high voter turnout (it should be noted that Puerto Rico
28 can not vote in the United States Presidential Election) in this hemisphere. Election Day is a
29 holiday in Puerto Rico and in the 2000 elections, 82 percent of registered voters and 74.2
30 percent of eligible voters participated in the elections. That is higher than any of the 50 states,
31 and much higher than the State of New York.

32

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1 While it is impossible to be certain why the demographic of 18-29 year olds are at the bottom of
2 the voter participation data (again, as shown by the Elect Project), that age group is also more
3 likely to have limited access to transportation to and from polling places and might struggle with
4 work and college, making it difficult to participate. It is also noteworthy that the higher level of
5 education a voter has, the more likely they are vote. Those who are out of high school and college
6 are more likely to participate.

7
8 NYCCFB agrees that New York State has one of the worst voting turnouts. Only 28.8 percent of
9 the electorate voted in 2014, the fourth lowest in the nation. By making Election Day a holiday in
10 the State of New York , a day dedicated to vote and participate in our democratic process, more
11 of the electorate would vote.

12
13 **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:** Impossible to determine.

14
15 **EFFECTIVE DATE:** Effective January 1, 2018