

“Social justice should be the underlying goal of all humanity.”

-Alan V. Lowenstein, Institute Founder



Testimony of Micauri Vargas
New Jersey Institute for Social Justice
In Support of S3594

New Jersey State Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism & Historic
Preservation Committee
Monday, June 12, 2023

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do social justice.

Chairman Beach, Vice-Chair Gopal and members of the Senate State
Government, Wagering, Tourism & Historic Preservation Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

My name is Micauri Vargas, and I am an Associate Counsel in the
Democracy & Justice Program at the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice
(the “Institute”). The Institute uses cutting-edge racial and social justice
legal advocacy to empower people of color by building reparative systems
that create wealth, transform justice and harness democratic power—from
the ground up—in New Jersey.

The Institute submits this testimony in support of S3594, which requires
periodic reporting of election results on the night of primary and general
elections and until the final tally thereafter. The Institute supported this
provision last year when it was considered before the legislature and we
support it again here today.

In addition to providing voter information, the Institute conducts social
media monitoring during and after each election to both combat voter
misinformation/disinformation and answer voter questions. The Institute is
also a member of the nonpartisan New Jersey Election Protection Coalition.
With our partners, we work to address voter issues and ensure voters have
access to the ballot and trust our democracy.

The consistent and uniform posting of ballots received, counted and
remaining following an election—along with a breakdown of vote-by-mail,
early voting, provisional ballots and Election Day votes—will lead to greater
voter trust in our democracy. In recent years, we have seen how
inconsistent reporting can lead to voter confusion and, unfortunately, fester
conspiracy theories online. This bill will help address those issues.

We also appreciate that this bill takes voter privacy into consideration. The
secrecy of our votes is paramount to our democracy and this bill recognizes
that.

And we are happy to see that a fiscal note was included in the amendments.

We urge you to vote this bill out of committee.

Thank you.