**Testimony prepared by Kim Moscaritolo, Democratic District Leader, 76th Assembly District, Part B**

**For the Budget Forum hosted by the Manhattan delegation of the New York State Senate**

**Date: March 2, 2019**

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak here today. My name is Kim Moscaritolo, I'm a Democratic District Leader from the 76th Assembly District on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. I'm here to speak on two issues that are very important to me: election reform and affordable housing.

Last month the state passed several important election reforms, including early voting. I would implore you to make sure that early voting throughout the entire state is fully funded. Though I live in Manhattan, I worry that there are many towns throughout the state of New York without the revenue or resources to effectively implement early voting, which could disenfranchise hundreds of thousands of voters.

The other issue I wanted to speak on is affordable housing. One of the biggest problems we have is a lack of enforcement of our existing tenant protections. Bad actors often abuse loopholes, or just blatantly disregard the law, knowing that they will likely not be caught, or if they are, the penalties will not be severe. The lack of enforcement has been so great, that there is a non-profit called Housing Rights Initiative that exists solely to investigate and sue landlords who are illegally deregulating apartments which receive J-51 tax benefits. It is my hope that you will provide adequate funding so that DHCR has the resources necessary to investigate and impose penalties on owners who are breaking the law.

Thank you very much for taking the time listen.

Kim Moscaritolo