

New York City Campaign Finance Board Hearing

Philmore Brown, Insulators Local 12 Member

As members of the Heat and Frost Insulators Local 12 we are here today to voice our concerns regarding today's proposed regulations.

I speak for many of the members who happen to agree that prior to taking interest in our union, we never really thought that our vote mattered and frankly never had intentions of actually participating in any portion of the political process.

It was only when the leaders of the Insulators union approached us about some particular city and state elections that would affect us and thoroughly explained the political process. This was when we saw firsthand how the electoral process worked why the elections are so important for our members.

Typically when we get home after a long days work, there's little time to read every newspaper, watch every news program or try and research the various candidate positions on the internet. We all have families and that's what takes up the majority of our time. We rely on our union to research political races and tell us about candidates and where they stand on the issues that impact us directly. Now we vote regularly with an informed and thoughtful vote, one that will be the voice of the people who have exercised their rights as a resident. The purpose is to enrich the quality of life for everyone regardless of what political affiliation they choose to follow.

Although our union is strong, we are relatively small, and do not have the resources or time to comply with arduous reporting requirements. Our leaders will simply be forced to stop communicating with their members about political races. If this proposal was adopted it will greatly diminish our ability to assemble collectively and participate effectively in the political process.

We strongly urge you to consider these points as you draft these new regulations. Thank you for your time and consideration.