

04Aug2021

Caryn M. Foote  
3 New Street  
Clark Mills, NY 13321

Dear New York State Senate Elections Committee;

As an American citizen I take my right to vote for government officials that best represent my beliefs very seriously. The appalling circus that has become the election process in the United States is heart breaking and deeply concerning. I am appreciative of your invitation to listen to my one voice in making decisions to improve this process and once again to bring confidence back to every American voter.

Prior to living in my current location I was not really a "voter". I voted occasionally but not consistently. As so many do, I felt that my vote didn't really make a difference. Approximately 18 years ago I moved into my current community and made a commitment to vote routinely as part of that community. It of course helped that the polling location was across the street. I clearly remember the first time I walked into vote with ID in hand and was completely baffled by the fact that they said they didn't need it and didn't check it. The only thing they checked was my signature. Only my signature, which had changed dramatically over the course of many years since I had first registered to vote. When questioned I simply answered that the signature was mine and no one questioned it further. So do I believe it is possible for voter fraud to happen that is a resounding, yes!

The next question is how do we make changes to fix this? In my opinion there are a few non-negotiables and a few wishes.

Non-negotiables:

- All voters, including absentee ballots, must provide proof of identity and voter eligibility.
- Routine auditing of voter registration and eligibility.
- Stricter control of absentee ballots and routine auditing of the parties that manage these ballots to include the database of eligible voters, sending and receiving of the ballots in a secure manner. I don't think simple first class mail is secure enough for this process.
- Stricter control of timelines for absentee voting. If the ballot is not received by the deadline it is not a valid vote.
- Routine auditing and evaluation of the companies/individuals that are responsible for and operate voting machines.

Wishes:

- A secure real time electronic way to vote that verifies your identity, records your vote, and prevents you from voting again by other means.
- Complete confidence that my vote was counted and was not corrupted in any way.

I realize that some of the above may happen already. However, the current processes do not seem to be effective. I would like to see more transparency as to what control measures are in place and the findings of any audits that take place.

Again thank for this invitation and I look forward to follow-up and action on this topic.

Sincerely,

*Caryn M. Foote*

Caryn M. Foote