

This letter is in regards to the current structure of training community members to be responsible election inspectors.

The United States in our Preamble to the US Constitution sets forth the goals to create a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, and it is the people who do ordain and establish this Constitution. It is the people who can and should help guarantee free and fair elections much like citizen jurors. These goals are protected by citizens who actively engage in the democratic processes and can see first hand that democracy and freedom are free from corruption and tyranny. We see this in citizen jurors not professional jurors, and elections inspectors fall under this same category. People of different political beliefs and cultural backgrounds are united not by culture or religion but by an idea that these United States will have free and fair elections that all citizens have the right to register to vote and cast a vote. In New York State, we are making strides to make this process even more perfect by expanding access for ambitious, hard working American citizens to vote early using the latest technology during early voting opportunities, and during this latest pandemic by expanding opportunities for mail in ballots.

It has been my personal experience that the Erie County election inspector position opens the opportunity for elections inspectors from the Democratic and Republic parties to demonstrate to voters that while we may have differences of opinion in candidates, we agree and support that all registered citizens should have the opportunity to vote their conscience without intimidation. My daughter and I as elections inspectors took this civic duty seriously and reached out to elections inspectors from the other political party to build community and were eager to thank all voters for participating in their civic duty regardless of their specific vote. It was an honor to be trained as an election's inspector. It was a long day with many different responsibilities but we felt we were participating in a patriotic responsibility. While my son is a Marine, I myself have never served in the military, this experience as a trained elections inspector made me feel like I was contributing in my own way to protecting and preserving this amazing Constitution of ours and upholding our highest aspirations of free and fair elections.

While this committee on elections seeks to create a more perfect process, please remember the citizens are integral to this process in creating a community that is involved, where neighbors across political lines can work to ensure that the process upholds our democracy, involves every day citizens in insuring a free and fair election. Civic duty involves participating in many roles like, jurors, and elections inspectors. While minor adjustments or reforms may be suggested to accommodate how we evolve in regards to expanded access to people's democratic freedoms, the role of citizens participating as trained elections inspectors in New York State specifically Erie County helps to hold the community together and in dialogue. Erie county as well as the

vast majority of voting districts have demonstrated the ability to conduct elections with reliable and timely feedback on ballots during an election. While the United States holds elections to decide who or what the majority of citizens support, all citizens are held responsible to preserve the system of free and fair elections that is the foundation for the entire democratic-republican system we call the United States of America as outlined in the now 233-year-old US Constitution.