

To Whom It May Concern:

I was a legal poll observer for the 2016 primary election, assigned to poll watch at SUNY Purchase.

The poll workers were hostile to the voters and to me, created “work slow-downs”, and routinely denied voters in possession of valid voter registration the right to vote by affidavit ballot when they could not locate a voter in the book. As it turned out, there were many voters who had verified their voter registration in the days before the election, verified their polling site (as SUNY Purchase), yet were not in the voter signature book.

The situation was so abysmal that I was forced to call the police on two occasions. The poll workers demanded that I leave the building, which the police assisted me with. They intervened and told the poll workers I had a right to remain there to assist voters with questions and to record issues that arose. The second time was when the poll workers refused to allow my colleague and me to observe the counting at the conclusion of voting that evening. The police stood with us and demanded that we be present for the tallying.

Footnote that the number of votes cast did not match up with the tally of votes cast for each candidate.

Unpacking all of that, it appears clear that Westchester County needs to do a better job in selection and training of poll workers, in addition to the fact that voter registrations were purged in some cases overnight before the election, and the fact that the voting machines were unreliable and inaccurate.

Please know that I have spoken out about what I described above and, in fact, I testified at the UN Conference on Election Integrity.

Please feel free to be in contact should you wish further information.

Very truly yours,
Diane Flood Taylor