

August 9, 2021

To the New York State Senate Committee on Elections:

I would like to offer the following testimony for your hearing:

1. Voting Ambassador Program – I served as a voting ambassador for the Westchester County Board of Elections during the General Election last November. I would recommend that all counties in the State implement this successful program if they have not done so yet. This program allowed absentee ballot holders to skip the line and deposit their ballots in a special box set up at the entrance to the polling site. I was also able to walk up and down the line and tell people which district they were voting in and direct them to the correct line which greatly reduced unnecessary waiting time.

At our polling place, one of the voting machines did not work in the morning. There were significant delays in voting for that particular district and I was able to walk the line and keep voters up to date on what was going on. Having enough technicians that can fix the voting machines should be another concern of NY State.

2. Early Voting – I would encourage NY State to continue implementing early voting days which will hopefully allow more people to vote in person. I took advantage of this option in both national and local elections and appreciated having so many options. I thought the Board of Elections did a great job staffing the site at the Eastchester Public Library – they managed the flow of people well and kept everyone on the line informed. I also thought they did a great job a letting people know the days and hours of the early voting.
3. Petitions – As someone who helped a candidate seek petition signatures in order to qualify for the ballot, I found the practice of disqualifying an entire page of signatures if there was one incorrect entry on the page to be disenfranchising for all of the people on the page who filled in their information correctly.

Thank you so much for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Jennifer R Redman
3 Bacon Court
Bronxville, NY 10708