

## My testimony concerns the following subject(s)

1. As a Poll Worker and Site Chair for many years, and recently a Democratic Elections Inspector Coordinator for the Town of Pittsford, I find the seventeen (17) hour work day to be extremely long, especially given the fact that the majority of poll workers are senior citizens. As the hours move along during the day, poll workers become increasingly prone to make mistakes. Not so many years ago, poll workers were allowed to work half (1/2) a day which makes a great deal of sense. I understand this requires more work for those finding and assigning poll workers, and may increase costs, but would aid in reducing possible errors. These errors can occur at the critical times of closing the polls, securing the equipment and ballots, and transporting the data to the Board of Elections. [In Monroe County Towns, this means getting the data to the Town Clerk's Office in a timely manner.] I would fully welcome this half (1/2) day of working to be reinstated.

2. It has been proven that mail-in voting works well, increases voter turnout, and is fundamentally safe. Many states have done this for years with virtually no fraud. I would encourage NYS to look into sending every eligible voter a mail-in ballot or at least a request for a mail-in ballot and furthermore look into secure "ballot drop boxes" as are used in other states. This would lend itself to reducing long lines during Early Voting or on Primary and General Election days.

3. Change is often good. However, local Election Officials must include Town Clerks, Election Coordinators and Poll Workers from all areas within their jurisdictions who have years of experience working elections when suggesting changes to existing processes. This has not been the method used in the last year in the Monroe County Board of Elections, resulting in lack of appropriate (and number of) poll workers at all sites, assigning too many sites during the most recent primary (based on the number of June Primary voters in the Town of Pittsford), and not communicating needed information to Coordinators and Town Clerks in a timely manner.

Asking the "experts" if a change will work or improve the systems is crucial for a positive outcome when implementing changes.

4. I would encourage NYS to lead the way for all states to declare Election Day a State Holiday. Even with Early Voting and mail-in voting many voters remain more comfortable voting in person on Election Day.