

To: SENATORS ANDREA STEWART-COUSINS, ZELNOR MYRIE

From: REBECCA M. FREY

Civil Servant

906 PARK AVE., #1

ALBANY, NY 12208

July 30, 2021

Re: TESTIMONY REGARDING BOE in NYS

I am writing to inform you that I had a horrid experience with the Ulster County BOE in NYS.

I applied to volunteer to be a Poll Cat, as I have done for decades in the past, including being a Regional Director at the Voting Polls in Hollywood, CA. I've been back east since 2012, and always volunteer to work the polls. I've been an "artist" my whole life.

I was accepted and went for training, last year, and told I'd be a Director again. This was at the height of the covid epidemic. In the classroom, I asked the BOE trainers what they were planning for the voting stations and such, and that it'd be a good idea to have vax stations set up outside since the wait to vote was normally a few hours. I was told by the BOE admin., "We have no money for that," and my suggestion was summarily dismissed.

Then I got a rude call from the Ulster County BOE, who told me flat out that I was removed from working the polls. At this point, I'd counted in the \$300 stipend payment and needed that income. I asked Why? At first, the admin. told me, in an unprofessional, nasty manner, "I don't have to tell you why." Then she followed up with, "We overbooked the site."

I knew that was a lie, because I referred a friend who was booked after I was, at the same poll site, and still had the work confirmed after this bogus excuse was handed me. For asking questions!

I had also called the DOH to ask if they could set up stations at the polling places, and they asked where. I told them the BOE had no provisions planned, + thought I was giving a helpful idea. The DOH may have called the BOE before I got the phone call saying I was dismissed from working the polls.

I'd asked about the training stipend, as I was told I'd get \$60 for that day. The same woman said the BOE would mail it out, we just missed a deadline, and I wouldn't get it for 2 months. It actually took closer to 3 months, and I felt it was retaliatory, that mine was delayed, as I continued checking back, and the BOE "missed the deadline" for the prior issue date. I finally had to go to the BOE office in Kingston NY to pick up the \$60 check.

This was after I voted, at the same polling place I'd been assigned but declined. The same woman admin. was there, wearing a leather vest with buttons and pins all over it, which I thought was wholly inappropriate (but did not say that to her). I knew the rules better than she did, apparently. I also got the impression then and there that the same woman was a Trump supporter, and also an agitator, by her outfit and attitude, and some of her comments in the unpleasant training session and follow-up phone calls. She had the worst manners! She was also careless.

The polling station had, in fact, some preventative covid items, including masks and gloves and hand-sanitizers. They did not have any on-site vaccination stations, which would've been smart, considering it did take 3 hours to vote and that could've easily been accommodated.

I finished voting and left, still angry at how I'd been unfairly treated before.

I went home and did some research on the BOE, and found out it is an LLC, part of the IEC, and far from being non-partisan, they sell items on their website. A privately owned company should not by any means, control US voting places.

Sincerely,

R. Frey

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