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Notice to All New York City Registered Voters

At the Board of Elections in the City of New York, one of our goals is to ensure that all voters are knowledgeable and confident in how to vote using a paper ballot. The new voting system, introduced during the Primary Election, was implemented per New York State's compliance with the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA), which requires that all states implement voting systems that produce a permanent paper record which can be used in a recount. This represented a major change in the voting process for New York City voters, and many voters had a positive experience using the new system. However, as expected whenever a significant change is introduced, we experienced some issues.

Drawing on lessons learned from Primary Day and voter feedback, the Board is taking actions to prepare for the implementation of the new voting system in the General Election on November 2nd. Specifically:

- We have reached an agreement with the State Board of Elections which will shorten the amount of time needed to test the machines, while still maintaining the quality and integrity of the testing process;
- We have enhanced specific delivery coordination efforts to ensure poll site equipment is delivered on time. Technicians will be deployed from borough offices the day before the Election to confirm all required equipment is in place;
- We are actively coordinating with our Election Day partners, the Department of Education and the New York City Police Department, to ensure timely openings of poll sites;
- We are conducting additional training with poll worker Coordinators and AD Poll Site Monitors to better prepare them to play a leadership role at their poll sites on Election Day. The sessions include a focus on ensuring voter privacy by making privacy sleeves available to all voters, and by arranging equipment and directing the flow of voters through the poll site to provide adequate space for privately marking and scanning a ballot. The Board is instructing Poll Site Coordinators to remind poll workers that they should assist the voter in scanning a ballot only if the voter specifically asks for help. In all other instances, the voter should scan their own ballot. In addition, we are working in

partnership with local colleges and universities, including the City University of New York, as well as local community groups to recruit student and community members to serve as poll workers.

- All technical issues with regards to ballots jams and other mechanical issues are being reemphasized during retraining of technicians, and will receive additional attention during the pre-election testing and final quality assurance processes.

While the actions outlined above show the important steps we are taking to ensure improved performance on General Election Day, the Board is also continuing to implement additional smaller improvements.

Introducing a federally mandated new voting system to New York City voters is a significant undertaking. We encourage all voters who are interested in learning more to visit a Learning Center where they can practice voting using a paper ballot, attend one of many public demonstrations we are hosting throughout the City, or visit our public education website, reached through www.vote.nyc.ny.us, to find comprehensive information including a video of the voting process.

Sincerely,

Julie Dent
President, Board of Elections

J.C. Polanco
Secretary, Board of Elections