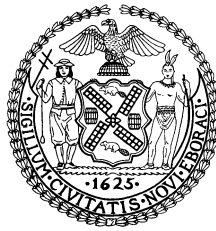


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The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Voting Reform Task Force
Community Board 8 Office, 505 Park Avenue, Suite 620
April 16, 2019 at 6:30 PM

Please note: The resolutions contained in the committee minutes are recommendations submitted by the committee chair to the Community Board. At the monthly full board meeting, the resolutions are discussed and voted upon by all members of Community Board 8 Manhattan.

Minutes

Present: Sharon Weiner, Anthony Cohn, Barbara Chocky, Rita Popper, Craig Lader, Greg Kirschenbaum, Ed Hartzog.

Resolutions for Approval:

Items 1-3: Unanimous

The meeting called to order at 6:40 PM.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and adopt resolutions for Full Board Review at the May full board meeting. The agreed upon resolutions relate to Early Voting procedures, improved signage at polling places and increased number of scanners and tech support at polling places.

Early voting: as of this meeting, the Board of Elections has scheduled a program roll-out for the May Special Election in Brooklyn, with no procedures yet in place, and no voting machine identified.

Improved Signage at Polling Places: this aims to make clearer the entrances to polling places and to clarify that only those voters who do not know their election district must stop at the information desk before voting.

Technical support: vote scanners do not always work throughout Election Day, and tech support is often slow to arrive at the polling places. The current procedures for repair, and the number of persons available for tech support is unknown at this time.

Several other issues were discussed:

1. Polling place density across Community Board 8M, and its relationship to the rest of the city
2. Increase in pay and additional training for poll workers
3. Better legibility of ballots

Resolution 1: Early Voting

WHEREAS, the New York Legislature has mandated 9 days of “early voting” at either the Borough Office of the Board of Elections in which the voter resides or at a designated polling place within the council district in which the municipal voter resides; and

WHEREAS, early voting will now be held for every election beginning in November, 2019; For the November 2019 election: Saturday October 26th and Sunday October 27th 10AM – 4PM; Saturday November 2nd and Sunday November

3rd 10AM – 4PM; Monday October 28th -Wednesday October 30th 9Am – 5PM; Thursday October 31st and Friday November 1st 7AM – 8PM; and

WHEREAS, the City Board of Election has only identified 38 early voting sites with only one site within CB8 District (Park Avenue Armory); and

WHEREAS, millions of people could be anticipated to take advantage of early voting;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Community Board 8 Manhattan requests that the following actions be taken:

1. The number of early voting sites be increased to 100 across New York City.
2. The Board of Election issue public service announcements informing the public of the early voting dates and directing them to a website or a phone number to call to locate early polling locations.
3. LinkNYC kiosks advertise the early voting dates and locations in each neighborhood where to early vote, and the NYC Board of Elections work with DoITT to ensure compliance with this request.

Resolution 2: Improved Signage at Polling Sites

WHEREAS, signage in and outside polling sites is not clear and is confusing; and

WHEREAS, improved signage and wayfinding will make the voting process more efficient and less time consuming for voters.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Community Board 8 Manhattan recommends that the New York City Board of Elections be required that the following signage be visibly posted at voting locations:

1. Signs outside the polling site that clearly indicate the entrance(s) to the polling site, including accessible points of entry.
2. Signs inside the polling site that instruct individuals to bypass the information table if they know their election district, thus shortening lines.

Resolution 3: Scanning Machines

WHEREAS, scanning machines are an essential part of the voting process in New York City; and

WHEREAS, scanning machines are constantly breaking down or malfunctioning when in use on election day causing long delays which contribute to voter apathy and potential disenfranchisement; and

WHEREAS, getting technical support to the voting site is very cumbersome and time consuming; and

WHEREAS, it would be more efficient to have technical support personnel stationed throughout the voting district.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Community Board 8 Manhattan requests that the New York City Council allocate additional resources to the Board of Election so that additional technical support be employed and stationed within each voting district to reduce response times to machine malfunctions and breakdowns.

The three resolutions were all unanimously **approved** by a vote of **7-0-0-0**.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50PM.

Anthony Cohn and Sharon Weiner, Co-Chairs