

Calling All Voters! NYC Votes Public Hearing on the 2016 Election  
12/6/16

The act of voting is a right and the voting results can affect the lives of many people for generations. The 2016 presidential election has shown that it is important that every vote be measured equally and the voting process should not attempt to suppress voters.

I have been a registered voter in the Bronx since 1976. I plan my voting day beforehand by verifying my registration status, polling location, and reviewing a sample ballot to help ensure that my voting experience goes without incident. On 11/8/16 shortly after the 6am opening, my daughter and I arrived at our polling location, signed the rolls and completed our ballots without any problems. However, when we attempted to scan the ballots, we were told by a poll worker that all the scanners were down (with the exception of the touch screen machine). We were asked to insert our ballots in the emergency slot below the scanner. I hesitated. My daughter and several other voters elected to wait for the scanners to come back online. Since I was voting before work, I inserted my ballot in the slot, but immediately regretted my decision. I did not feel confident about leaving my ballot. I called NYS AG Eric Schneiderman's Election Day Hotline to file a complaint. The office had already received a complaint about that location. The polling site supervisor assured me my vote would be counted later. The scanners were back online minutes later and my daughter was able to scan her ballot. I regret my hasty decision. Although my candidates won their respective races, I will always wonder if my ballot was really counted.

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