

7/19/21

Poll Worker Experience Testimony:

I arrived at my assigned poll site in Brooklyn, NY at 5am on Election Day. As 5:30am approached and no one arrived as the coordinator I was asked by the tech person on-site assisting with our set-up if I would like to be the acting coordinator, I happily obliged even though I never took the “refresher course”. When I had called several times, prior to Election Day to request the email link for the poll worker refresher course it was never emailed to me. I was told by a representative, that it was unnecessary and I was assigned to my site even though I specifically asked to take the refresher. I was also told “just to show up at 5am” if I did not get a confirmation email. After discussing this experience with several other poll workers they expressed the same frustration and those that were able to take the course said it was only about the new rank choice voting process not the general poll worker responsibilities.

At 5:10 we first called the Board of Elections to inform them that our coordinator had not shown up. We then called again and never heard back from the Board of Elections at all throughout the day. Thankfully we did have a tech person at our site to help us with some set up and some closing, but his time was very limited as he told me he would be managing 21 sites that day and several others did not have coordinators on-site and were also short staffed. In total we had, I believe, 11 poll workers at our site only 4 had worked the polls in prior elections.

Our site was so short staffed we were only able to have one representative per table. My understanding is that legally we were supposed to have both a Democrat and Republican managing each poll worker table that was not the case. Due to being short staffed as acting coordinator, I was unable to allow my poll workers the full allotted 2 hour breaks they are supposed to receive and while they were all great and very understanding this should not have been the case particularly when we are working an almost 18 hour shift.

Throughout the day we did get 2 visits from a team of 2 women from the Board of Elections. They proceeded to yell at us and curse in front of voters when I was explaining to them a mistake that had been made. They berated, and antagonized one of our poll workers when they thought he made a mistake, which was actually not the case it was their misunderstanding. It was awful!

The above is a short detail of my experience. With the above said the day at our site went smoothly in the eyes of the voters. I had a great team and we all worked well together to make the voting process as smooth and comfortable for all the voters. I believe we all enjoyed the day together and look forward to being part of future elections, but it is clear that reform of the Board of Elections is necessary.

There are other details and issues that arose throughout the day and at closing that I am happy to discuss at your earliest convenience. Feel free to reach out to me.

917-364-5655

dovesky222@gmail.com

Laura Kleinman

