

## Adam Salberg

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to describe my experience of voting in the Primary Election in New York City on June 23rd, 2020. I voted in person because the absentee ballot I requested a full month before the election never arrived. Anecdotally, a majority of friends and family who requested absentee ballots also never received them - this clearly was not an uncommon experience for New York voters.

The poll worker seated at the first desk upon entering the polling site was not wearing a mask, and had a hacking cough. Despite containers with hundreds of pens in plain view, poll workers insisted I use the pen attached to the voting booth. I did not see, nor was I offered, PPE or hand sanitizer at any point. And there was an armed police officer seated adjacent to the voting booths, supervising the process.

There are several important issues here, but all of them stem from the NYC Board of Elections' inability to properly deliver absentee ballots to voters. It is *essential* that this is resolved before the general election in November. No voter should be required to visit a high-traffic public facility during a pandemic in order to exercise their constitutional right to vote. For those who choose to vote in person, there should be absolute confidence that all necessary precautions are being taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19. There must be zero tolerance for poll workers failing to use PPE or observe proper social distancing. There should be additional poll workers and supervisors assigned to each site so that any poll worker exhibiting any signs of illness on election day can stay home. And with distrust of the NYPD at an all-time high, there is no need or justification for armed police inside polling sites, potentially intimidating voters.

Voting is the most fundamental form of civic engagement. These issues must be corrected immediately.

Sincerely,

Adam Salberg  
Brooklyn, NY