

## **Alexandra Bellows**

Hi, below is my experience attempting to vote absentee:

I am a resident of Manhattan, but have been living in Philadelphia since March due to Covid. I requested an absentee ballot in late May, after not receiving for a couple weeks, I requested another one. When this still didn't arrived (at this point it is June 13th), I called and was told my ballot was sent June 4. I was told to call back again if I still did not receive in 3 days.

At this point I had lost faith in the system, and decided to drive back to New York to cast my vote in person—a considerable amount of money in gas and tolls—but the only way I felt I could secure my right to vote.

At my polling place on W 115th, I arrived around 6am, was maybe 5th in line. The polling place was not open. It opened eventually, but even then my table for my district wasn't ready to go, so more waiting.

This was true in November, when the person with the keys to open the polling place showed up extremely late and nothing was ready at 6am.

I should not feel like I need to travel and wait in order to exercise my right to vote.

This is voter suppression and you all know it. Please do better.

Alexandra Bellows