

Hello,

I hope my experience can be included in efforts to improve the NYC election process.

My wife and I vote at the Harway Terrace site in Gravesend, Brooklyn. We requested absentee ballots over a month ago, but as of yesterday morning they had not arrived.

I visited our polling site at 7:45am. It was empty other than poll workers. Of these dozen or so, none were wearing masks. I mentioned this, and was shown that they had paper masks, just weren't wearing them. I was provided with the state-wide ballot (presidential and delegates), and voted. I was confused why the state senate race wasn't included, but assumed I had misunderstood something about the race or ballot.

That evening my wife voted, and was provided with a second ballot for the state senate race. I returned to the polling site, and they said that the second ballots had been delivered late, and so morning voters hadn't received them. I asked if I could fill it out now, and they said I should 'forget about it,' and that if they entered the second ballot the times wouldn't match, and it would be disqualified. I asked to speak to the site supervisor, and they said that none had ever shown up, and that was part of what had caused the confusion, including a late open after they couldn't access the voting materials. Eventually a fourth poll worker offered me an affidavit ballot for the state senate race, which I should add was actually competitive.

When I got home that evening, our absentee ballots had arrived in the mail.

I wish you well in identifying how to avoid problems like these in the future--seems like every election is getting worse in terms of logistics.

Sincerely,

Joseph Gessert