

Dear Voter Advisory Assistance Committee,

Good evening everyone. My name is Mac-Olivier Lalanne and I am here right now to testify. I am from Brooklyn, New York. I go to SUNY Plattsburgh and heading towards my junior year. When I grow up, I want to be involved in government by being an aide for a representative, a worker in the Board of Elections, or even a representative myself. I vote via absentee ballot and by polling site and I occasionally volunteer in campaigns including Cynthia Nixon's governor campaign and Diana Richardson's campaign for re-election. I have also done voter registration drives throughout my college years and successfully collected 164 absentee application and voter registration forms.

This year's election in my opinion so far was not good and expressed the need to reimagine and change our elections laws. I feel like our election infrastructure is weak and due to the pandemic, made it a lot worse with the need of changing and arranging election dates, poll sites, and the change of protocols and procedures. It was also a hard time for me to help my former government teacher from high school when she wanted to help the graduating seniors register to vote due to the pandemic and remote learning. I have a few recommendations on ways we can solve this dilemma. We can create a secure, comprehensive online voter registration where anyone can register to vote instead of the old fashion paper registration. We can keep the paper registration form but we can also have the online form to ensure that people can effectively and efficiently register to vote even during drastic times. Another thing we should do is create a modern time bank system as advocated by former presidential candidate Andrew Yang. This system can help solve the overwhelming dilemma of lack of volunteer initiatives to help register new voters as people tend to lack interest to assist or conduct their own voter registration drives

for many reasons including time, priorities, not getting anything in return, and so much more.

Those reasons alone affect the mindset and morale people have when it comes to doing any sort of work either if it's volunteer or not. This system can ensure and encourage people to help others register to vote. Another recommendation is to set up a structured, comprehensive protocol for arranging and assigning poll sites, and notify the affected voters as based on what I heard, some poll sites were moved to different locations during the election dates.

This election alone exposes the need for changes and innovation. The November election is approaching quickly but it's not too late for us to adapt through this crisis and to do what's right. Thank you for your consideration and thank you for letting me testify.

Sincerely,

Mac-Olivier Lalanne