

As a young voter, the June 23rd election was the first primary that I had participated in. While I was expecting irregularities due to the coronavirus pandemic, I had trusted that New York would be able to conduct the election in an organized manner. This was not the case. I appreciated the ability to request an absentee ballot online, and did so for myself and two other family members. My ballot arrived about two weeks later, another arrived a week after that, and the last did not come until last minute on June 22nd.

I didn't realize how "lucky" I was to receive my ballot in the first place until a phone-banking shift with a campaign I was volunteering for, where I spoke to multiple residents who did not receive their absentee and had temporarily moved out of the district. I was disappointed to find a number of my friends with similar issues, especially those for which this was supposed to be their first voting experience ever. Others questioned how they could confirm their vote was counted, and there were discrepancies posted all over social media because the provided information from the BOE was not enough (like if the box on the outer absentee envelope should be filled out). It should be the uppermost priority to ensure that the New York BOE is equipped to handle an influx of absentee voters in November, as what happened in June is unacceptable.

Best Regards,
Marissa Cronin