

## Paige Garson

Hi there,

I was provided with this email by the New York City Campaign Finance Board and asked to give feedback to The New York City Voter Assistance Advisory Committee (VAAC) for the virtual public hearing on Wednesday, July 1, regarding my experience not being able to vote in the June primary election which occurred on June 23.

I filled out my absentee request form and sent it in via email on June 3, 19 days before the primary election. Allegedly it only needed to be submitted by the 16th, but I thought surely if I sent it in earlier, I would be guaranteed to receive my ballot. I requested an absentee ballot because I was not going to be present in my county on the day of the election. I provided the address in Westchester County that I wanted my ballot to be sent to. I checked the mail every day for the week leading up to the primary, and it didn't arrive. It did eventually arrive in my mailbox 2 days *after* the election. It had been postmarked June 20.

I called the Election Protection hotline, and their only solution was to go vote in person, which I could not do because I was out of town. I also called the New York City Campaign Finance Board multiple times, but they could not pick up the phone because so many people were unable to vote. I finally got through to them via a DM on Twitter, which is why I'm writing to you now.

I was angry and upset that I was not able to exercise my right to vote. If you tell people voting absentee is a viable option, and I follow the instructions correctly, and early, there is no excuse for me not being able to cast my vote.

Thanks,  
Paige