

So K Wong

Experience: My name is Nora Wong, daughter of So K Wong. I am writing on behalf of my mother to share her experience voting in the NY Primaries on Tuesday, June 23, 2020.

My mother arrived at the polling site (address listed above) at around 6:30AM/7AM. She observed approximately 5-6 voters present at the site with her. The polling hours were listed from 6:00AM-9:00PM. My mother entered the station and voting employee A checked her ID since she didn't have her voting registration card present. Voting employee A instructed my mother to proceed to a designated voting booth and there, voting employee B told my mom she was in the wrong place and had to go to another voting site a couple blocks away. After around 15-20 minutes of discussions/debate with other employees, voting employee B admitted to their mistake-- my mother was in the correct polling center, but in the wrong polling booth within the center. Staff directed my mother to the correct polling booth and gave her a voting ballot to complete. Upon completion, my mother gave her ballot to another voting employee-- they told her the ballot cannot be submitted. After another 20 minutes of discussions, voting employees realized they gave my mother a sample ballot, not an official one. My mother was then given an official ballot, she completed her ballot, and then submitted her ballot successfully.

This experience exposes the inefficiencies and lack of preparation from voting employees/staff. Whether intentional or not, these types of inefficiencies (e.g., mistakenly telling someone to leave the voting site to go to another one, giving someone an invalid ballot) can be perceived as **voter suppression**. These tactics have been used to influence the outcome of an election by discouraging or preventing specific groups of people from voting. My mother challenged the voting staff and was able to submit her ballot. If my mother's experience happened during peak voting hours, delays caused by staff incompetence would have great consequences on election results. I hope you will consider this feedback along with others to improve the process, training, and preparation for the November 2020 elections.