

Hello,

My name is Victoria Rizzo and I am a 27 year old white female living in Brooklyn, NY. I am so blessed to be educated and have access to several resources providing information of how and where to vote. Upon my own journey to exercise a basic right of voting, I found the experience to have many barriers and be extremely difficult. I am extremely frustrated that I had to go ABOVE and BEYOND in order to exercise a « BASIC » RIGHT.

Given the current climate, I mailed a request for an absentee ballot in on June 2nd, 2020. This was 2 weeks before the « last day to do so » advertised. By June 23rd (Election Day) no ballot had been received to my address. This left a confusing experience of - 1. Can I still vote in person if I requested not to? 2. What if I receive the mail in ballot tomorrow, should I still send it in and hope either vote counts? WHAT DO I DO? I followed the protocol, they did not hold up their end!

NEXT, I read on social media from a reputable source (very confusing to find anywhere online!) that even if you requested a mail in ballot, you are still eligible to vote in person. Yay! So, today on June 23rd, i woke up at 5:30am to get to the polls first thing to avoid crowds and lines. I get there, cast my primary vote for president and leave. I keep thinking- that was so weird, where was the LOCAL ballot? Was i researching the wrong candidates for my area? I must have done something wrong! Why did no one give it to me? I come to find online others experiencing the same thing. Around 10am, I GO BACK to the voting polls and let them know I was not given a local ballot at 6am when I was there earlier. They apologize and say « we forgot to put it out this morning. » WE NEED TO DO BETTER!

I find it EXTREMELY FRUSTRATING that I had to go ABOVE and BEYOND to exercise a basic right. We NEED TO DO BETTER in November!!! We need to make voting simple and accessible for all to represent a true democracy.

A concerned citizen,

Victoria Rizzo

VOTED AT Vetro Hall  
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