

The Board of Elections Announces August 2011 As Poll Worker Awareness Month

August 10, 2011 – New York City –The Board of Elections in the City of New York today announced a focus on poll worker awareness, appreciation and recruitment throughout the month of August.

“The Board recognizes that poll workers are often the unsung heroes of our city’s election process,” said Board President J.C. Polanco. “Dedicating August 2011 to highlighting poll worker awareness is our way of showing gratitude and recognition for the part these New Yorkers play in assuring that all voters have the opportunity to cast their ballot on Election Day.”

Earlier this year the Board set a goal of recruiting an additional 4,000 new poll workers to its poll worker corps. As of August 1, nearly 3,500 new applicants have been recruited to serve as poll workers for the upcoming Elections. The deadline for submitting an application to serve as a poll worker is August 31. As a result, the Board is encouraging all eligible New York City voters to submit their applications as soon as possible.

“This year’s poll workers will benefit from our enhanced training programs,” said Board Secretary Gregory C. Soumas. “These enhancements include revisions to our Poll Worker Training Plan – which places a particular emphasis on voter privacy – as well as the creation of “Train the Trainers” guides, the examination of key poll site positions, and additional training sessions.”

In recognition of *Poll Worker Awareness Month*, the Board is undertaking a series of activities to draw attention to the important service poll workers provide and to encourage applicants. In addition to distributing poll worker awareness materials, posting information on its website and engaging in social media activity, the Board will host an open house in mid-August. This meeting will serve to educate and inform members of the community about how to become a poll worker. Outreach team members from the Board will be attending community events throughout the City over the month of August to promote this opportunity.

To prepare for the 2011 Election cycle, the Board has continued its focus on poll worker and interpreter recruitment. Recent accomplishments include:

- *Community Organization Engagement* – The Board has proactively engaged with over 680 local community groups and organizations throughout the city to recruit poll worker and interpreter applicants.
- *Local Events*- To date, the Board has participated in recruitment events throughout the five boroughs and have additional events scheduled over the next few weeks.

For information on how to support poll worker awareness month, please contact Board Director of Communication and Public Affairs Valerie Vazquez at vvazquez@boe.nyc.ny.us.

For more information about the Board of Elections, please visit www.vote.nyc.ny.us or contact 866-VOTE-NYC (866-868-3692), TTY 212-487-5496.

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