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The Board of Elections in the City of New York Urges Voters to Be Prepared for Voting With a Paper Ballot in Primary Election

September 10, 2010 – New York City – The Board of Elections in the City of New York is urging all New York City registered voters to prepare themselves for voting the new way during the Primary Election on Tuesday, September 14. The new way to vote, which uses a paper ballot that can be marked with a pen or an electronic Ballot Marking Device, provides a verifiable paper record and allows all voters, including voters with disabilities, to vote privately and independently at their poll site.

A few things all voters should remember when voting using the new system on Primary Day:

- **Know your poll site.** Voters can go to gis.nyc.gov/vote/ps/index.htm to determine their correct poll site.
- **Get educated on the new voting system.** The Board is conducting a comprehensive voter outreach campaign to educate all New Yorkers about the new way to vote that includes paid advertising and a new public education website reached through www.vote.nyc.ny.us. Voters can also attend a demonstration or visit a Learning Center in each borough to practice voting with a paper ballot.
- **Look at both sides of the ballot.** Propositions will appear on the back of the ballot so voters should be sure to complete both sides.
- **Fill in ovals completely to mark the ballot.** To mark the ballot, voters simply darken the oval next to their choice using a pen or a Ballot Marking Device. Voters should not use X's, check marks, or circle the name of the candidate.
- **Get a new ballot if you make a mistake.** If a voter makes a mistake (or if an overvote occurs) and needs a new ballot, the voter should fold the original ballot in half and present it to a poll worker. The poll worker will bring them to the registration table to get a new ballot. Each voter will be allowed up to three ballots.
- **Ask for help.** If you have any questions while voting, seek the assistance of poll worker who has been trained to help voters navigate the new voting process on Election Day. Interpreters are available where required for Spanish, Chinese-Mandarin, Chinese-Cantonese and Korean. Magnifying screens are also available for voters who have difficulty reading the paper ballot.

New York City's new voting system uses an optical scanner to read marked paper ballots and tally the results at the poll site on Election night. A Ballot marking device (BMD), which is an electronic device that assists voters in marking a paper ballot on Election Day, will also be available. This system is being implemented in compliance with the Help America Vote Act, passed in October 2002 by Congress, which requires a voting system that produces a permanent, verifiable paper record. The lever machines previously used in the City did not comply with this requirement.

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

About the Board of Elections in the City of New York

The Board of Elections in the City of New York is an administrative body of 10 Commissioners, two from each borough upon recommendation by both political parties and then appointed by the City Council for a term of four years. The Commissioners appoint a bipartisan staff to oversee the daily activities of the Board's main and five borough offices. The Board is responsible under New York State Election Law for the following:

- Voter registration, outreach and processing
- Maintain and update voter records
- Processing and verification of candidate petitions/documents
- Campaign finance disclosures of candidates and campaign committees
- Recruiting, training and assigning the various Election Day officers to conduct elections
- Operate poll site locations
- Maintain, repair, setup and deploy the Election Day operation equipment
- Ensure each voter their right to vote at the polls or by absentee ballot
- Canvassing and certification of the vote
- Voter education, notification and dissemination of election information
- Preparation of maps of various political subdivisions

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