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## BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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### The Board of Elections Urges Voters to Be Prepared for the General Election on November 8, 2011

November 3, 2011 – New York City – The Board of Elections in the City of New York is urging all New York City voters to prepare for the upcoming General Election on Tuesday, November 8. Below are the top ten tips voters can use to feel comfortable and confident using the new voting system:

- 1. Identify your poll site.** Visit the Board's website, [www.vote.nyc.ny.us](http://www.vote.nyc.ny.us) and use the *Poll Site Locator and Sample Ballots* section to determine your poll site before Election Day.
- 2. Learn how it works.** You can visit a Learning Center in your borough to practice voting with a paper ballot or view instructional videos on the Board's website, [www.vote.nyc.ny.us](http://www.vote.nyc.ny.us).
- 3. Familiarize yourself with the sample ballot.** View an online sample ballot based upon the address information you provide by accessing the *Poll Site Locator and Sample Ballots* section on [www.vote.nyc.ny.us](http://www.vote.nyc.ny.us). Voters can use an online feature to enlarge the font size of the sample ballot to view it more clearly.
- 4. Protect the privacy of your vote.** Mark your ballot in a privacy booth, which is designed to shield your ballot from view. After marking your paper ballot, use a privacy sleeve while taking your ballot to the scanner. The privacy sleeve will ensure that no one can see your marked ballot. Ballots can be inserted into the scanner with the marked side down, which prevents others from viewing your selections.
- 5. How to mark your ballot.** To correctly mark your ballot, fill in the ovals above or next to the names of the candidates or proposals of your choice using the pen provided or a Ballot Marking Device (BMD).
- 6. Use a Ballot Marking Device (BMD).** Every voter has the option to use a BMD to mark their paper ballot. The BMD provides two ways for you to access the ballot: by seeing the ballot on the display screen and by listening to the ballot being read through audio

headphones. With the BMD, voters can mark their ballots using a touch screen, a key pad (Braille-embossed), a sip & puff device or a rocker paddle.

7. **Enlarge the ballot text.** If you are having difficulties reading the paper ballot, magnifying sheets are available in the privacy booths. BMDs are also available to assist any voter in marking their paper ballot. You can use the BMD's *Zoom In* feature to enlarge the ballot text.
8. **What to do if you make a mistake.** If you make a mistake and need a new ballot, fold the incorrectly marked ballot in half and present it to a poll worker. The voided ballot will immediately be placed into a void paper ballot envelope. The poll worker will bring you to a registration table to receive a new ballot.
9. **Ask for help.** If you have any questions while voting, ask a poll worker for assistance. Interpreters are also available where required for Spanish, Chinese-Mandarin, Chinese-Cantonese and Korean.
10. **Your opinion counts.** After voting on Election Day, visit the Board's website, [www.vote.nyc.ny.us](http://www.vote.nyc.ny.us), to complete an Election Day Survey Form.

### **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

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

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