



**#CountEveryVote:**

## **Gov. Cuomo Must Issue an Executive Order Validating Absentee Ballots Received By June 30, Regardless of Postmark**

Voters should be able to trust the voting process — but this year, those who mailed their absentee ballot could have their vote invalidated for a reason completely out of their control — a missing or illegible postmark. It's on Governor Cuomo to address this and ensure that the Board of Elections counts every vote.

This year, to help protect New Yorkers during an unprecedented health crisis, all registered voters were given the opportunity to vote by mail in the June 23 Democratic Primary. And they did — in staggering numbers. By the most recent count, more than 700,000 voters in New York City requested an absentee ballot and at least 360,745 ballots were returned to the New York City Board of Elections.

But as WNYC/Gothamist reported on Monday, [thousands of New Yorkers could be disenfranchised](#) because the United States Postal Service (USPS) may not have stamped all absentee ballots with a postmark — an official marking indicating the date the ballot was placed in the mail.

Due to state law, the Board of Elections will not count any ballots it received after June 23 without a postmark, even if the ballot was mailed on time. But whether or not a ballot was postmarked is out of voters' control. **These voters followed the rules and mailed their ballots on or before June 23 — their votes should be counted.**

Governor Cuomo used his executive powers multiple times ahead of the June 23 primary to protect the rights of voters during this health crisis: [moving the presidential primary](#) to June 23, [sending postage-paid absentee ballot applications](#) to all registered voters and [extending the deadline](#) for returning those ballots. He can do it again.

**The undersigned organizations, elected officials and candidates are calling on Governor Cuomo to protect voters by immediately issuing an Executive Order that declares all absentee ballots received by the Board of Elections on or before June 30 are presumed valid, regardless of whether there is a missing or illegible dated postmark, unless they are clearly postmarked after the June 23 deadline.**

With the November presidential election rapidly approaching, voters across the country are wondering whether vote-by-mail and mass absentee voting can be conducted fairly. What Governor Cuomo does next has profound implications for democracy in our city, state and nation.



To add your name to this letter, contact [politics@newkingsdemocrats.com](mailto:politics@newkingsdemocrats.com).

### **Organizations**

- Make the Road Action
- Planned Parenthood of Greater New York Action Fund
- Muslim Democratic Club of New York
- Women of Color for Progress
- South Central Brooklyn United for Progress
- Lambda Independent Democrats of Brooklyn
- 504 Democratic Club
- Brooklyn Young Democrats
- Brooklyn Voters Alliance
- Sunrise Movement NYC
- Indivisible Nation Brooklyn
- Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats
- Vote Early NY
- New Reformers
- Independent Neighborhood Democrats
- Queens United Independent Progressives
- Working Families Party
- New Visions Democratic Club -- Jackson Heights, Elmhurst
- Amplify Her
- Women of Color for Progress
- Bay Ridge Democrats
- Voters for Animal Rights
- New Kings Democrats

### **Elected representatives**

- Congressmember Nydia Velazquez, NY-7
- Council Member Antonio Reynoso, Council District 34
- Senator Julia Salazar, Senate District 18
- Senator Andrew Gounardes, Senate District 22
- Assemblymember Robert Carroll, Assembly District 44
- Lori Knipel, District Leader, Assembly District 44
- Josh Skaller, District Leader, Assembly District 52
- Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon, Assembly District 52
- Nick Rizzo, District Leader, Assembly District 50
- Doug Schneider, District Leader, Assembly District 44
- Amanda Farias, State Committee Woman, Assembly District 87
- Paul Newell, District Leader, Assembly District 65, Part C
- Jennifer Hoppe, District Leader, AD 66 Part A



- Zacharia Boyer, District Leader, AD 36 Part B
- Jen Hoppe, District Leader, AD 66 Part A

### ***Candidates, Brooklyn***

- Emily Gallagher, Candidate for Assembly, Assembly District 50
- Jesse Pierce, Candidate for District Leader, Assembly District 52
- Samuel N. Olivares, Candidate for District Leader, Assembly District 53
- Shaquana Boykin, Candidate for District Leader, Assembly District 57
- Genesis Aquino, Candidate for Assembly, Assembly District 51
- Rachel Eve Stein, Candidate for District Leader, Assembly District 52
- Kristina Naplatarski, Candidate for District Leader, Assembly District 50
- Katherine Walsh, Candidate for Assembly, Assembly District 51
- Julio Peña III, Candidate for District Leader, Assembly District 51
- Marcela Mitaynes, Candidate for Assembly, Assembly District 51
- Rajiv Gowda, Candidate for NYS Senate, Senate District 23
- Suraj Patel, Candidate for Congress, NY-12

### ***Candidates, Queens***

- Maria Kaufer, Candidate for District Leader, AD 28 Part A
- Jesse Laymon, Candidate for District Leader, AD 37A
- Derek J. Evers, Candidate for District Leader, AD 37B
- Felicia Singh, Candidate for City Council, District 32
- Melquiades Gagarin, Candidate for Congress, NY-6
- Danielle Brecker, Candidate for State Assembly, AD 37
- Mahtab Khan, Candidate for District Leader, AD 24n
- Dawn Siff, Candidate for District Leader, AD 34, Part A
- Emilia Decaudin, Candidate for District Leader, Assembly District 37 Part A
- Jessica González-Rojas, Candidate for Assembly, Assembly District 34
- Nick Haby, Candidate for District Leader, AD36 Part A
- Victoria Steinberg, Candidate for District Leader, AD39
- Shawna Morlock, Candidate for District Leader AD36B
- Melanie D'Arrigo, Candidate for Congress, NY-3
- Melissa Bair, Candidate for District Leader, AD30 Part B
- Mark Morrill, Candidate for District Leader, AD 27 Part B
- Catriona Schlosser, Candidate for District Leader, AD27 Part B