



Eric Dinowitz Urges Changes to Improve Absentee Ballot Process

Dinowitz calls for plans to be put in place for November General Election

BRONX, N.Y. - Eric Dinowitz, Democratic District Leader in the 81st AD and candidate for City Council, has issued the following statement proposing changes to the absentee voting process for the November General Election.

"In the recent election cycle, the Board of Elections worked to fulfill more than 675,000 mail ballot applications, all while putting in place measures to ensure the safety of voters and poll workers during early voting and the June 23rd election. But facing a pandemic and increased demand, the Board of Elections did not rise to the occasion. Many mail ballots were not received by voters, and those that eventually were received were sometimes either wrong or missing items. Some voters who did not receive their absentee ballot were forced to go to the polls, choosing to risk their health in order to exercise their constitutional right to vote," **said Dinowitz.** "These issues prevented people from voting and caused unnecessary stress for voters in an already difficult time, and they led to a logistical nightmare. This isn't a partisan issue, and it shouldn't be a political issue either, as voting should be easy for first-time voters and seniors alike. We can, and must, do better."

"We need to address these hurdles for future elections. Our work to ensure everyone can exercise their right to vote and everyone's voice is heard must continue. I will, as always, be at the forefront of that fight," **continued Dinowitz.**

In order to improve the absentee process for the General Election when the desire to vote will be unprecedented, Dinowitz is proposing some common-sense solutions to protect the right to vote, including for the vote-by-mail system:

- > Starting the application process for COVID-19 excuses immediately in July
- > Building out an online tracker that shows each voter their ballot's status and validity, as many other states have
- > Additional funding for dedicated, unionized staff to ensure proper printing and mailing of ballots
- > Longer hours and more locations for early voting
- > Dedicated days for seniors and immunocompromised voters during the early voting period