



Odette Ramos

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Testimony

22-0121R – Informational Hearing Primary Elections Irregularities

FAVORABLE

Chair Schleifer and Members of the Rules and Legislative Oversight Committee:

Thank you for your time to review the irregularities that occurred during the Primary Election of 2022. In my district and across the City, voters experienced several irregularities including:

- Some voters received the correct mail-in ballot when they requested it, only to be told it was the incorrect ballot, and then the 2nd ballot being incorrect, causing a 3rd ballot to be mailed;
- Several voters received new voter cards with incorrect information on them, causing voters to be confused as to which polling place they should attend;
- Some voters were provided an incorrect ballot at the polls and then having to vote using a provisional ballot because the voter's district was incorrect in the pollbooks;
- Other voters received no sample ballot or the incorrect sample ballot;
- Certain voters who received an incorrect mail-in ballot went to polling places to vote, causing the voter to have to vote by provisional ballot as the system indicated the voter had already received a ballot; and
- Several voters reported being turned away at a polling place due to errors in the poll books.
- 1st time poll judges ended up being promoted Chief Judges on election day with no training on being a chief judge. This was a result of a shortage of elections judges.
- The shortage of election judges and lack of training cause the missing flash drives (which were later found)

In talking with the State Board and the City Board of Elections, many of the issues were attributed to the tight timeframe that was caused by the court challenges and late Gubernatorial redistricting process.

We look forward to hearing from them about how these and other elections issues will be resolved for the General Election, and for the upcoming City Council elections in 2024.

Respectfully Submitted.

Odette Ramos
Baltimore City Councilwoman, District 14