



PRESS RELEASE

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New York Citizens Audit Responds to Reports of Election Officials Being Impersonated Across New York

New York Citizens Audit has seen a NY State Board of Elections announcement of non-specific accusations about individuals, across multiple counties in New York, allegedly impersonating county election officials. The NYSBOE email states it is "aware" of incidents where impersonators have "confronted" individuals at their homes and "accused" the individual of crimes for allegedly appearing in the NY Voter Database more than once. Multiple County BOEs have recirculated this message. Surprisingly, New York Citizens Audit has received an inquiry from a reporter about what NYSBOE seems to describe as a widespread conspiracy across multiple New York counties.

At the outset, New York Citizens Audit's statement is that, if true, these reports of widespread wrongdoing are very disturbing and should be investigated immediately by NY authorities. Free, fair and honest elections are a civil right of every New Yorker and every American citizen, free of intimidation. All who engage with any part of this process must do so with the highest personal integrity.

Given the gravity of the NYSBOE warnings, New York Citizens Audit is also calling upon the NYSBOE to: 1) publicly confirm that the announcement of impersonation is based on actual names and detailed information which NYSBOE first investigated and found *true* before it publicized its announcement to the public; and 2) confirm that NYSBOE, prior to making its announcement, has in fact turned over the information it found credible to law enforcement authorities, with names and dates of the transmission and which law enforcement authorities are recipients, so that an investigation could take place prior to its making the announcement.

New York Citizens Audit is calling for this transparency for a specific reason. If NYSBOE's announcement is not based on factual allegations, its announcement may result in discouraging citizens from coming forward to give information to ensure that NYSBOE's election processes comply with the law. More important, a precipitous and unfounded announcement by NYSBOE could act to discourage citizen cooperation with legal investigations of election procedures by creating a climate of fear among citizens about cooperating because of unfounded threats of criminal activity.

If either of these is true, such announcements themselves are worthy of investigation by law enforcement authorities for potential interference in every New York citizen's right to full, fair and free participation in local and national elections.

Therefore, New York Citizens Audit is calling on NYSBOE and local NY County BOE's to welcome scrutiny and complete transparency so as restore confidence in the compliance of New York elections with New York law, which is the aim of New York Citizens Audit. Unfortunately, today, what should be the beacon of democracy in the world can currently be criticized by some as the black hole of questionable legal execution of election procedures resulting in unverifiable and questionable election results, unnecessary litigation and election uncertainty. New York Citizens Audit declares that New York citizens and all Americans deserve better. Illegal execution and avoidance of election procedures only acts to destroy confidence in election results. Transparency and confidence in fidelity to election procedures -- led by NYSBOE -- is the only solution.