



# PRESS RELEASE

September 11, 2023

## **For Immediate Release: Video from NYS Board of Elections Commissioners Meeting 9/6/23, confirming NYSBOE Press Release of 8/30/23 may have been premature.**

New York Citizens Audit issued a statement via a [press release](#) on August 31, 2023 to address the reports of Election Officials being impersonated across New York. NY Citizens Audit has viewed the New York State Board of Elections (NYSBOE) 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 NYS Voter database more than once. Multiple County BOEs have recirculated this message.

In the official public meeting of the NYSBOE on September 6, 2023, a conversation between Douglas Kellner, Co-Chair of the NYSBOE, and Kristen Zebrowski Stavisky, Co-Executive Director of the NYSBOE, it is revealed that the public scare may have been premature:

Kellner: Has law enforcement taken any action that’s been public?

Stavisky: Not that’s public, but we did, as we said, referred it to federal, state and local officials, and we have Department of Homeland Security...

Kellner: And so far, there’s been nothing?

Stavisky: There's been nothing. (See video link below)

Given the gravity of the NYSBOE warnings, NY Citizens Audit is again 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 alleged events and which law enforcement authorities are recipients, so that an investigation could take place prior to its making the announcement.

NY Citizens Audit stands by our original question to the NYSBOE: Why was this warning shared with multiple media outlets? NYSBOE may have issued a statement to local BOE but why send it to the media without a full investigation confirming any allegations?

If NYSBOE's announcement was not based on factual allegations on August 30, 2023, its announcement may result in discouraging citizens from coming forward to give information to ensure that NYSBOE's election processes comply with the law.

Just seven days later at the NYSBOE Commissioner meeting dated September 6, 2023 ([Click here for Video](#)), the commissioners clearly did not have confirmation of the allegations. NY Citizens Audit is now questioning why the warning was widely shared by election officials in all media outlets and broadcast statewide on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

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.

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