



PRESS RELEASE

October 2, 2023

Putnam Co Board of Elections Disregards Citizen Concerns About Voter Roll Anomalies

Putnam Co Board of Elections snubbed a public event Wednesday, September 27th documenting thousands of voter roll anomalies comprising roughly 10% of Putnam’s voter registration database.

NYCA Executive Director Marly Hornik commented on the absence: “From the very beginning of our integrity inquiry, PCBOE has not only ignored our findings, but seems to actively avoid any effort to reconcile these voter roll anomalies in Putnam County. I thought they would be interested in their statutory duty, but perhaps not.”

New York Citizens Audit (NYCA) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization concerned with the integrity of New York voter rolls. After two years’ work, it has presented thousands of voter roll anomalies, in each county and at the NYSBOE. If the voter rolls are in fact inaccurate to the extent they seem to be, it would be impossible for any official to certify an election result.

The standing-room-only crowd at the Putnam Co Golf Club in Mahopac was shown “A window into the NYSBOE raw data volunteer researchers began examining two years ago,” according to Hornik, who told the crowd “We are not saying that these anomalies represent fraud. We are not saying that elections are per se invalid. We are saying that these need to be investigated and explained, one by one. Without confidence that the voter rolls are clean, NYCA shares the view of the DOJ that no election in New York can be legally certified. So, this is serious business.”

One attendee at the presentation observed to the packed room “So the people who are responsible for this mess decided not to come tonight.” The absence was reflected by a letter to NYCA that cancelled a private meeting with NYCA the night before it was scheduled to take place. Putnam BOE Commissioner Cathy Croft stated, “The fact that you have nothing to give us to back up all the claims your organization has made, is troubling.”

Noting the cancellation made no sense in the context of NYCA's willingness to make the same presentation, Hornik explained, "You see, New York Citizens Audit has no unique data that is not already in the State and County records. That's the issue – their own records reflect these anomalies. This is not something NYCA made up – it is right in front of these officials if they would choose to look at it."

Using the Freedom of Information Law, NYCA requested official copies of the state and county databases directly from those responsible for maintaining them, examined the official records and extracted the anomalies from these official records. Hornik confirmed "And yes, we have provided SBOE with the code used to extract each set of records that appear to violate clear eligibility laws."

The assertion made by PCBOE was further confounding because NYCA sent a package to SBOE on August 14, 2023, providing over 5 million apparent registration anomalies, and over 745,000 unique votes in the 2022 general election ascribed to these non-compliant voters statewide.

Hornik noted: "This is extremely serious business. NYSBOE has not responded, despite data that appears to reflect a massive number of irregularities. NYCA has further sought an investigation of an apparent algorithm in the rolls injecting synthetic voters, the large discrepancy between the votes counted and the voters who voted, and the non-compliant registered voters permitted to vote. Still nothing. Why is every official hiding, refusing any investigation or spreading misinformation about NYCA? Why are they afraid?"

Faced with silence from SBOE, NYCA has since submitted the same investigative package to the Department of Homeland Security, the DOJ Public Integrity Office, the FBI, and the Special Investigations Unit of NYSP. NYCA has also stated its intent to seek a Congressional investigation. "If this data is accurate, it's a massive case of voter suppression. I guess "voter suppression" is only important if picked up as a political slogan. This is not good for democracy in New York," added Hornik, who concluded the public presentation of the situation with these prescient words, "Voter registration rolls are the essence of American democracy. If the rolls are dirty, there is no assurance that the vote is clean. If the rolls are clean, New Yorkers can have confidence that the voting process is clean. Any anomaly is dangerous to democracy and confidence in the vote. Tens of thousands of anomalies are more than dangerous. PCBOE, please do your job. You work for the voters, not yourselves."

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