

## **Board of Elections in the City of New York – 2011 Post Election Day Analysis**

The 2011 General Election held in the City of New York saw 184,265 registered voters cast their ballot in 16 contests citywide, a five percent voter turnout rate. In preparation, the Board of Elections in the City of New York worked to minimize Election Day problems and ensure voters were comfortable and confident using the new voting system. Since the 2010 Election cycle, the Board took steps to strengthen Election Day operations such as improving and refocusing the training of thousands of poll workers, visiting each poll site to assure the site meets Election Day needs and securing permission from the Department of Justice to post online sample ballots prior to the Election to enable voters to become familiar with their specific ballot and be better prepared to vote.

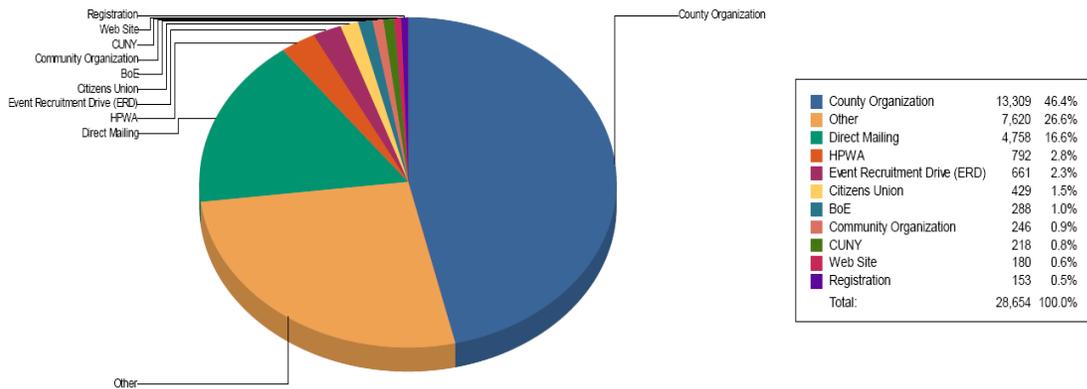
As we managed our significant transition to the new voting system, the Board was mindful that we must strive to control costs and deploy resources to areas where they were needed. As a result, the Board was able to reduce costs by \$13.5 million. In addition, we have identified an additional \$118,000 in savings that will be applied to the 2012 Presidential Primary as the result of a recycling program.

### **Recruitment**

The Board originally projected that 36,432 poll workers, at a cost of \$7,503,227, would be needed to conduct the 2011 General Election. As Election Day neared, the Board recalculated and assigned 33,930 poll workers to poll sites with an anticipated payroll of \$6,993,427. Of those assigned, 28,562 poll workers actually worked on November 8, 2011 (*See attached: Actual vs Assigned and Actual vs Projected*). Of the poll workers who worked during the 2011 General Elections, 46.4 percent were assigned by the two major county organizations and 53.6 percent resulted from various recruitment activities. (*See attached: AppSrcSummary*)



## Worked by Application Source



NYC Total (all dates): 28,654

The Board's top priority is to ensure that Election Day runs as smoothly as possible and a trained poll worker corps is an essential element of any successful Election Day. For the 2011 Election, the Board entered 16,907 new poll workers into our system. Of these applicants, 4,238 were new poll workers recommended by the two major county organizations. The remaining 12,669 were recruited by various means including the Board's poll worker and interpreter recruitment activities and coordination with key community groups throughout the City such as Citizens Union and CUNY

Additional poll worker highlights include:

- 5,409 of BOE recruits attended and passed the poll worker training course
- 4,807 of BOE recruits were sent Notices to Work
- 3,936 of BOE recruits worked

*(See attached: Recruitment2011)*

The Board took measures to ensure timely payment for poll workers who served during the 2011 General Election. The first round of 28,428 poll worker paychecks was mailed on December 9, 2011 and a second round of 100 checks are scheduled to be mailed on December 23, 2011. This second round of checks may be a result of several factors such as they may have been additional jobs (NYCAPS); their time sheet was lost or misplaced; when data was entered from the time sheet, the clerk missed their name; or further clarification or validation was needed via phone calls or mail.

### **Pre-Election Testing and Post-Election Day Recanvass**

For the 2011 General Election, the Board projected a total cost of approximately \$1.5 million for ES&S vendor support to assist in the pre-election testing and recanvassing of votes throughout all five boroughs. Due to these tasks being completed ahead of schedule, the Board was able to reduce the overall cost by over \$777,000. The last day of ES&S recanvass support in each borough was:

- Manhattan: 11/19
- Bronx: 11/17
- Brooklyn: 11/18
- Queens: 11/16
- Staten Island: 11/16

### **Ballots**

Since the 2010 Election cycle, the Board decreased the amount spent on ballots from over \$14.5 million dollars to under \$6 million dollars. While fewer primaries were held in 2011, the Board decreased the amount spent on ballots through costs reduction efforts including:

- Ordering ballots for 75 percent of eligible voters for 2011 Elections, a decrease from 2010 when ballots were ordered for 110 percent of eligible voters;
- Significantly decreasing the amount of Affidavit ballots ordered;
- Significantly decreasing the amount of Test ballots ordered.

### **Scanners**

In July 2011, the Commissioners of Elections voted to increase the number of eligible voters able to use a single scanner for the November 2011 General Election. By increasing the number of voters able to use a single scanner, the overall number of scanners deployed for the General Election was reduced by more than 1,100 from last year (over 2,800 in 2011 compared to over 3,900 in 2010).

For the 2010 deployment, the Board provided one scanner for every 1,400 registered voters per poll site with a minimum of two scanners at each poll site. This formula was pre-cleared by the Attorney General of the United States under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended. For the 2011 General Election, the Board increased the number of registered voters able to use a single scanner to 4,000, with a minimum of two scanners at each poll site. This decision was made in accordance with the New York State Board of Elections' Rules and Regulations, Section 6210.19 (a). This modification was also approved by the Attorney General of the United States.

Due to the decreased number of scanners needed for the 2011 General Election, the Board was able to reduce scanner transportation costs and minimize the number of supply bags required which resulted in a savings of over \$75,000. In addition, the reduced number of scanners decreased the number of poll clerks required by approximately 684, which resulted in an additional cost savings of \$136,800.

**Finance and Transportation**

Given the limited number of contests in 2011, the Board has achieved considerable cost savings on overtime expenditures and transportation. The Board's year-to-date overtime pay currently stands at \$3,300,000, which is approximately a \$3,100,000 reduction from the previous Election cycle.

For the 2011 Primary and General Election, the Board saved over \$275,000 on Election Day car service costs. In addition, the Board has decreased after-hours transportation costs by more than \$562,000 since 2010.

**Phone Bank**

For 2011, the Board received 36,900 calls to its phone bank. The most common topics include election events, poll worker applications and registration applicants.

**Election Day Supplies**

The Board launched a new recycling program that focuses on reusing items from each Election. This program aims to cut down on the amount of new supplies needed for each Election by recycling signage, table displays, badge holders and many other items. For example, for the 2012 Presidential Primary, the Board will recycle table top displays and badge holders from the 2011 Election for a total savings of \$118,750.