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**Board of Elections Distributes Second Voter Mailer to all NYC Registered Voters to Educate Voters
about New Voting System
Mailer Gives Voters Key Facts on the New Way to Vote for General Election**

October 15 2010 – New York City – The Board of Elections in the City of New York announced today that a second voter mailer is being distributed to the 4.3 million registered voters throughout the city. As part of the comprehensive public education campaign, the mailer provides information on the new voting system and offers tips voters can use to educate themselves before voting on Election Day. These tips highlight how the new system provides a reliable, secure and private way to vote.

“With the General Election only two weeks away, the Board is continuing its strong push to educate voters in New York City about the new voting system,” said Board President Julie Dent. “The second voter mailer provides vital information to help voters understand how to use the new system and we encourage voters to take time to read through the mailer so they are prepared before they head to their poll site on November 2.”

Mailers are expected to arrive in mailboxes starting on Monday, October 18th and provide voter information in English, Spanish, Chinese and Korean. Key information captured in the mailer includes instructions for all voters, including voters with disabilities, on how to vote using the paper ballot. It also highlights tips for what a voter can do if they make a mistake; encourages the voter to turn the ballot over to vote on ballot propositions; and contains important voter privacy information.

“The Board is working to make sure Election Day runs as smoothly as possible for voters in New York City and the comprehensive public education campaign is an integral part of this effort,” said Board Secretary J.C. Polanco. “Over the past few months, we have encouraged voters to attend demonstrations on the new system, visit the public education website and drop into local Learning Centers to practice voting using a paper ballot. This mailer is an additional step in providing voters with information so they are comfortable and confident using the new system in November.”

The voter mailer was developed with valuable input from several of the City’s leading community organizations to ensure that all voters, including voters with disabilities, are prepared to use the new voting system and know what to expect on Election Day. A copy of the tips provided in the mailer is also available for download on the public education website through a special button created to provide voters with what they need to know before arriving at their poll site.

“This mailer to all registered voters represents an important component in preparing New Yorkers for use of the new voting machines for the General Election on November 2nd. By showing voters how each step of the new process of voting works, voters will be better prepared to adjust to the new

system, which will increase the likelihood that they cast their ballots properly,” said Alex Camarda, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy at Citizens Union. “Citizens Union would also like to stress to voters that, as indicated in the mailer, they have the option of marking their ballot with a ballot marking device (BMD). Use of the BMD may be preferable over a ballot marked by pen for some voters, particularly those who want to enlarge the print on the ballot or receive notification in case they mistakenly forget to vote in a particular race.”

“We’re glad that the Board of Elections is sending a second mailer on the new system. It takes time for people to absorb a change this big, and the more messages they receive, the better,” said Rima McCoy, Voting Rights Coordinator, Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York (CIDNY).

In addition to Citizens Union and CIDNY, The League of Women Voters of the City of New York and the Women’s City Club of New York provided valuable input to assist the Board in educating the public about the new voting system through the second voter mailer.

The new voting system is part of New York State’s compliance with the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA), which requires that all States implement voting systems that produce a permanent paper record which can be used in a recount. The new electronic voting system uses an optical scanner to read marked paper ballots and tally the results at the poll site on Election Night. This system also includes a ballot marking device (BMD), which is an electronic device that assists voters in marking a paper ballot.

About the Board of Elections

The Board of Elections in the City of New York is an administrative body of 10 Commissioners, two from each borough upon recommendation by both political parties and then appointed by the City Council for a term of four years. The Commissioners appoint a bipartisan staff to oversee the daily activities of the Board’s main and five borough offices. The Board is responsible under New York State Election Law for the following:

- Voter registration, outreach and processing
- Maintain and update voter records
- Processing and verification of candidate petitions/documents
- Campaign finance disclosures of candidates and campaign committees
- Recruiting, training and assigning the various Election Day officers to conduct elections
- Operate poll site locations
- Maintain, repair, setup and deploy the Election Day operation equipment
- Ensure each voter their right to vote at the polls or by absentee ballot
- Canvassing and certification of the vote
- Voter education, notification and dissemination of election information
- Preparation of maps of various political subdivisions

For more information about the Board of Elections, please visit www.vote.nyc.ny.us. For further information, contact 866-VOTE-NYC (866-868-3692), TTY 212-487-5496.

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