



MARIA R. GUASTELLA
PRESIDENT

FREDERIC M. UMANE
SECRETARY

JOSE MIGUEL ARAUJO
NAOMI BARRERA
JULIE DENT
JUAN CARLOS "J.C." POLANCO
NANCY MOTTOLA-SCHACHER
J.P. SIPP
GREGORY C. SOUMAS
JUDITH D. STUPP
COMMISSIONERS

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

IN
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE OFFICE, 32 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10004-1609
(212) 487-5300
FAX (212) 487-5349
www.vote.nyc.ny.us

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DAWN SANDOW
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PAMELA GREEN PERKINS
ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER

STATEMENT ON THE PRELIMINARY NATURE OF ELECTION NIGHT TALLIES

Revised April 3, 2012

The preliminary election "results" reported on election night are just that – preliminary. New York State Election Law requires a complete canvass of all votes cast on Election Day and the counting of all valid absentee, affidavit, and military ballots before the election results can be certified. The preliminary election results are produced by a combination of poll workers manually recording the results and the New York City Police Department (NYPD) collecting materials containing these results, compiling them, and entering the information into its computer system for tabulation.

After the polls close on election night, poll workers record the number of votes cast for each candidate from the voting system's printouts onto Return of Canvass forms and hand the Return of Canvass forms to the NYPD Officer assigned to that polling location. The candidates and/or members of their respective campaigns are permitted by law to assign poll watchers to observe and record the preliminary results (see NYS Election Law, Section 9-126).

Once collected, the NYPD Officer delivers the Return of Canvass sheets to his or her police precinct to be entered into the NYPD computer system. The computer records are then transmitted to the Associated Press. The Associated Press then shares the preliminary results with its colleagues in the news media. These preliminary results, however, do not include thousands of absentee, affidavit, and military ballots (see NYS Election Law, Section 9-102).

New York State has one of the most meticulous canvass procedures in the country. New York State Election Law requires all Boards of Elections, within 15 days of the election, to canvass all the votes cast in that election. The canvass is conducted by bipartisan teams of Board employees. As an extra layer of oversight, representatives of the campaigns involved are notified of the canvass schedule and invited to monitor the official canvass and ensure its accuracy. The absentee, military and affidavit ballots are then opened and tabulated after staff review. The campaigns are once again invited to monitor the opening and counting of these paper ballots (see NYS Election Law, Section 9-208).

Subsequent to the recanvass the Board certifies the election result pursuant to and in accordance with the procedures set forth in the applicable portions of New York State Election Law (see NYS Election Law, Sections 3-222, 9-200, 9-208).

###