

Bronx Independent Living Services (BILS) • Brooklyn Center for Independence of the Disabled (BCID) • Brooklyn Voters Alliance • Center for the Independence of the Disabled, NY • Citizens Union • Common Cause/NY • League of Women Voters of the City of New York • New York Civil Liberties Union
New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) • VoteEarlyNY

Frederic Umane, President
NYC Board of Elections
32-42 Broadway, 7 Fl
New York, NY 10004

February 22, 2021

By Email

Dear President Umane,

We are writing to request that the New York City Board of Elections reinstate a public comment period for its Board meetings. In an era where public confidence in our elections is under increased stress, we think it vital to allow for a public participation component to your meetings once again.

We understand the extraordinary pressures faced by the Board over this past year. However, we believe there are no fiscal, administrative, or legal rationales for a continuation of meetings without a public comment period. Various platforms can be used to allow for public input that would also prevent disruption of meetings and we remain available to discuss such options with you. We believe restoring this small measure of transparency and accountability will serve the Board well in the long term.

We look forward to a prompt resumption of public sessions. If the Board decides otherwise, we look forward to a written response detailing the Board's rationale and position not to proceed.

Sincerely,

Brett Eisenberg
Executive Director
Bronx Independent Living Services (BILS)

Joseph G. Rappaport
Executive Director
Brooklyn Center for Independence of the Disabled (BCID)

Jan Combopiano
Senior Policy Director
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Monica Bartley
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New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG)

Jarret Berg
Co-Founder
VoteEarlyNY

cc: Board Commissioners , Michael Ryan, Dawn Sandow, Pam Perkins