

RESOLUTION NO. 578 -2020, REQUIRING THE SUFFOLK COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO PUBLISH TRANSLATED ELECTION NOTICES IN A SPANISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER

WHEREAS, Suffolk County has an obligation to protect the interests of all of its residents; and

WHEREAS, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as applied to Suffolk County, requires that all election notifications be posted in English and Spanish; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to a consent decree entered into with the Department of Justice in 2004, the Suffolk County Board of Elections is required to publish election notices in Spanish-language media; and

WHEREAS, currently, election notices are posted in Newsday, which is not widely read in Suffolk County's Spanish-speaking communities; and

WHEREAS, in order to adequately notify Spanish-speaking residents of upcoming elections, election notices should be translated and published in the Spanish language newspaper which has the highest circulation rate in Suffolk County; and

WHEREAS, the Suffolk County Board of Elections should be directed to publish elections notices in the Spanish language newspaper with the highest circulation to ensure that all eligible voters have the information they need in advance of elections; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that the Suffolk County Board of Elections is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to print and publicize election notices translated into Spanish in the Spanish language newspaper with the largest circulation in Suffolk County; and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, that this publication requirement shall take effect immediately and apply to all elections that the Board of Elections is involved with administering and overseeing; and be it further

3rd RESOLVED, that this Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this resolution constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(26) and (33) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW insofar as these actions constitute routine or continuing administration and management not including new programs or major reordering of priorities that may affect the environment, and the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this resolution.

DATED: July 21, 2020

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: August 3, 2020