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WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE
OF THE
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE
MINUTES

A meeting of the Ways & Means Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York on May 18, 2023.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leg. Robert Trotta, Chairman
Leg. Leslie Kennedy, Vice Chair
Leg. Bridget Fleming
Leg. Stephanie Bontempi
Leg. Tom Donnelly (excused)
Leg. Manuel Esteban

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Presiding Officer Kevin J. McCaffrey, 14th Legislative District
William Duffy, Counsel to the Legislature
Frank Tassone, Clerk of the Legislature
Hope Clark, Chief Deputy Clerk/Legislature
Chris DeLuca, Aide to the Presiding Officer
And all other interested parties

MINUTES TRANSCRIBED BY:

Gabrielle Severs, Court Stenographer

1
2 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

3 It is now 12:30, May 18. We are going to start the Ways and Means
4 Committee with the pledge led by Legislator Kennedy.

5
6 (Pledge of Allegiance)

7
8 Okay, Mr. Clerk. Roll call.

9
10 (The roll was called by Clerk Tassone.)

11
12 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

13 Here.

14
15 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

16 Here.

17
18 **LEG. FLEMING:**

19 Present.

20
21 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**

22 Present.

23
24 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

25 Here.

26
27 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

28 Present.

29
30 **CLERK TASSONE:**

31 Six.

32
33 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

34 Correspondence?

35
36 **CLERK TASSONE:**

37 All correspondence have been distributed accordingly, Mr. Chairman.

38
39 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

40 Okay. We have a few speakers for public portion. Mr. Rosato is up
41 first.

42
43 **MR. ROSATO:**

44 Good afternoon, Legislators.

45
46 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**

47 Good afternoon.

48
49 **MR. ROSATO:**

50 At the April 26 Economic Development Committee meeting, Suffolk
51 County Land Bank staff members made numerous false statements to
52 the committee to justify the undermining of my team's winning bid
53 to clean up and cap a toxic Sandy landfill in Kings Park. Their
54 mismanagement of this project has resulted in the further
55 contamination of the area's groundwater and has caused taxpayers
56 hundreds of thousands of dollars. I outlined many of those false

1 statements in an e-mail I sent to those committee members on May 1.
2 However, I'm here today to focus your attention on just two of
3 those false remarks involving the person they are currently in
4 contract with for this site. Starting in May of 2018, the Land
5 Bank began steering the Steck Philbin Landfill Project to Mr. Mike
6 Cox and his son Kevin of Pioneer Paving and Asphalt. Even after
7 repeated warnings about Mr. Cox's land use issues in the Kings Park
8 industrial area, the Land Bank continued to push their partnership
9 forward with Mr. Cox to cover up their mistreatment of my team.
10 Although the Land Bank claimed that the April 26 meeting that
11 Mr. Cox had no open violations before they went into contract, the
12 truth is that he's had no approved site plans on any of his seven
13 properties in Kings Park's industrial area dating back over 20
14 years. He also has no COs for many of the structures on his sites
15 that house dozens of tenants, even received several code violations
16 from the Town of Smithtown and another parcel he purchased in 2020
17 after going into contract with the Land Bank including illegal
18 excavation of a steep slope and operating without an approved site
19 plan.

20
21 The Land Bank also claimed at the April 26 committee meeting that
22 it is the land bank's discretion to sell property to someone who is
23 not in compliance with town codes even though their own disposition
24 policy reads otherwise. It clearly states that individuals and
25 entities shall be prohibited from acquiring ownership on property
26 rights from the Land Bank if they own property within Suffolk
27 County that is in violation of town codes. Recently, their
28 attorney claimed that only the entity buying the property has to be
29 in compliance with town codes not the other entities that may
30 associated with the principals. This is relevant because Mr. Cox's
31 seven properties are owned by different LLCs; however, the Land
32 Bank's disposition policy again clearly states that the provisions
33 cited in this section shall apply to individuals and/or any
34 entities controlled by the same individuals.

35
36 It could take Mr. Cox years, if ever, to come into compliance with
37 town codes, and even if he does, is this the person the county
38 wants responsible for a toxic C&D landfill. The county legislature
39 has to hold the Land Bank accountable for their unethical behavior
40 and mismanagement of this project. They must be told to rebid this
41 property together with the adjacent site which should be used for
42 the landfills's drainage basin to protect my community's drinking
43 water. If the people responsible for this debacle are not held
44 accountable, this travesty could happen again in your district.
45 Thank you.

46
47 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

48 Thank you. Our next speaker is Patrick Wynn.

49
50 **MR. REYNOLDS:**

51 Do you mind if I speak instead of Patrick, and Patrick will follow
52 me; is that okay?

53
54 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

55 Oh, okay. Roy, go ahead.

1 **MR. REYNOLDS:**

2 We're like a team. Okay. My name is Roy Reynolds. I'm from East
3 Moriches. I'm working with a group of concerned citizens from
4 Nassau and Suffolk Counties. Several from our group are here
5 today. It's our understanding that your committee reviews and
6 considers all actions and legislation affecting to Board of
7 Elections and all matters related to the conduct of elections. We
8 are giving this presentation to all towns and cities of Nassau and
9 Suffolk Counties. We are involved with voting integrity,
10 especially the voting roles. It is our goal today to raise your
11 awareness of voting irregularities in New York State and ask for
12 your help.

13
14 The voter rolls are supposed to be an accurate list of people who
15 are eligible to vote. In 2021, a copy of New York State voter
16 rolls, also known as the New York State Database, was obtained and
17 reviewed for accuracy and integrity. The data came from the New
18 York State Board of Elections, the county voter rolls, and New York
19 State Secretary of State. Anyone here can obtain the voter
20 database from the state and confirm our findings if you FOIL the
21 information. There are over 21 million records and between three
22 and four terabytes of data.

23
24 You should have had a copy of this report. It is known as "The
25 Deficits Report." The report is result of analysis of voter
26 database by computer scientists and data analysts. The report was
27 prepared by New York Citizens Audit, and it found serious
28 inconsistencies in the voter rules. This affects residents of
29 Suffolk County and all of New York State. What the report found
30 are the voter rolls are not accurate, unqualified voters are
31 voting, and number of votes are not equalling the number of voters
32 who voted. As an example, for the 2020 general election, the
33 report found over 338,000 more votes were cast than voters who
34 actually voted. There were over 740,000 ineligible votes cast
35 statewide. Over 2.4 million New York State ID numbers were
36 assigned to less than 1.2 million registrants. These 2.4 million
37 registrants are known as "clone voters," which have multiple voter
38 ID numbers and can vote and have, in some cases, voted multiple
39 times in the same election. These are not duplicate voters. There
40 should be only one state voter ID number per voter. We found one
41 man with 21 voter ID numbers. We have knocked on hundreds of doors
42 and confirmed the existence of clone voters. Clone voters have
43 been found in Suffolk County and other counties throughout the
44 state.

45
46 Corrupted voter rolls open the door for fraud. The Deficit Report
47 concluded that a full end-to-end audit by professionals is
48 warranted, and to this end, we could use your support. In the
49 upcoming weeks, a resolution will be submitted for your
50 consideration calling for a statewide audit of New York State voter
51 database. The voter rolls have been compromised, and they need to
52 be corrected. We need your help.

53
54 I thank you for your time, and, as I said, some of my colleagues
55 would like to speak after me unless you have questions.

1 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

2 Quick question: Are these in reference to the signs you see
3 floating around, like 380,000 people more?
4

5 **MR. REYNOLDS:**

6 Signs, bumper stickers; you name it, that's us. Flags. We do it
7 all.
8

9 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

10 And when I read those when I go by it -- what is a "clone voter"?
11 What is that?
12

13 **MR. REYNOLDS:**

14 We have a speaker that specializes in clones.
15

16 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

17 Okay. We'll wait for her, then.
18

19 **CLERK TASSONE:**

20 Excuse me, Mr. Chair. If the gentleman could just fill out a card
21 for the record so that we have.
22

23 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

24 We got you. All right. Thanks. All right. Our next speaker,
25 we'll go to Patrick if he's ready. Patrick Wynn.
26

27 **MR. WYNN:**

28 Hello. My name is Patrick Wynn. I live in Nesconset. My wife and
29 I have raised four kids, all of whom have gone to Sachem schools.
30 I'm also a citizen volunteer as was the previous speaker, Roy. As
31 such, we have spent our own time and expense learning about the
32 many discrepancies that exist in our voter rolls, the voter rolls
33 of our counties and state, and I'd like to take a minute to inform
34 you about the sets of data that I've become familiar with known as
35 "clone voters." Now any dates that they may exist, as far as I'm
36 concerned, is irrefutable because I've canvassed at least 50 so far
37 in Suffolk County personally myself along with another volunteer.
38

39 To vote more than once, only two things are needed: An additional
40 state board of election ID number, and a source voter to which that
41 state board of election ID number can be attached to. We have
42 categorized clone voters into four types: Change of address,
43 married name, exact match, and modified spelling. The type of
44 clone we have found in Suffolk County thus far, including the Town
45 of Brookhaven, Islip, all the towns within Suffolk County are
46 modified spelling clones. Modified spelling clones are exact
47 matches to voters already in the voter roll with respect to address
48 and date of birth with one exception: The spelling of the name is
49 modified, and that's what makes them easy to canvass because the
50 address is the same and so is the date of birth.
51

52 These modifications are subtle, sometimes just changing a single
53 letter and appeared to be driven by an automated software driven
54 process. The modifications we have found in Suffolk County occur
55 when a voter's name is transposed, substituting the first name for
56 the last name, the last name for the first name, and then adding or

1 deleting a middle initial. The latest information we have received
2 reveals that there are 2.4 million state board of election ID
3 numbers attached to only 1.2 million voters.

4
5 Recently, there has been some doubt cast about how we have gathered
6 the information, and that no one, including the press, have been
7 privy to the data. The agency that provided us the information via
8 a FOIL request has doubts about the information they provided us
9 with. That alone is reason enough for an audit of the New York
10 State Board of Elections. Should the press be interested enough to
11 pursue the truth regarding the matters that too many -- matters,
12 they, too, may obtain this information via FOIL request.

13
14 What I have touched on here is a brief summary of our finding but
15 is enough to question whether the authority and consent of the
16 people of the state referred to by Alexander Hamilton in Federal
17 Newspaper number 16 as the "natural guardians of the constitution,"
18 which are guaranteed a republican form of government by Article 4,
19 Section 4 of the United States constitution has been usurped.

20
21 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

22 Your three minutes is up, but we have a question from Legislator
23 Donnelly.

24
25 **THE WITNESS:**

26 Absolutely.

27
28 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

29 Hi. Good afternoon. Did you make any inquiries with our board of
30 elections? I get the whole New York State inquiry. I'm just
31 wondering if your group has made any inquiries with our --

32
33 **MR. WYNN:**

34 They have spoken, not me personally. I don't know what the results
35 of that have been.

36
37 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

38 Okay. Through the chair, is it possible to file a resolution
39 requesting an audit of our board of election rolls?

40
41 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

42 Let me ask the legal counsel.

43
44 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

45 I'm just curious just as a policy decision. I think it makes
46 sense.

47
48 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

49 You can write a letter.

50
51 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

52 Maybe we should talk to the comptroller. He can audit anything.

53
54 **MR. WYNN:**

55 Part of this is also is we are looking to present a resolution as
56 well that we would expect to be adopted simply because what we are

1 looking to do is audit the New York State Board of Elections.

2
3 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

4 Like you say you have 50 -- have you provided any agency with --

5
6 **MR. WYNN:**

7 I have affidavits, yeah, that I have signed.

8
9 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

10 And what did you find, like, you know, Robert Trotta and Robert E.
11 Trotta or?

12
13 **MR. WYNN:**

14 Well, let's say Smith, John F, and then it will be switched to John
15 Smith.

16
17 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

18 Are you taking an affidavit from the person and they are admitting
19 they did this?

20
21 **MR. WYNN:**

22 No. I'm signing an affidavit saying I have interviewed this
23 person, and they've told me they are unaware that they have a
24 cloned voter registration. That's basically --

25
26 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

27 Did they vote twice? Could you check if they --

28
29 **MR. WYNN:**

30 In some cases, not in all cases. But the very fact that these
31 cloned voters exist makes it much easier to vote twice or even
32 several times. There are voters with 11 clones. There's one in
33 upstate New York that's 25.

34
35 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

36 I think this has to come to the state comptroller. I haven't heard
37 from legal.

38
39 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

40 I think, based on what we are hearing, to follow up with what they
41 are saying.

42
43 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

44 So you have gone to a guy, he says, *I voted twice*.

45
46 **MR. WYNN:**

47 Oh, no. I've gone to 50 so far. There's much more than that.

48
49 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

50 But one or two or three or five have said to you, *I voted twice*?

51
52 **MR. WYNN:**

53 No, no. They haven't said that.

54
55 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

56 But their names have voted twice from the same address and the same

1 date of birth.

2

3 **MR. WYNN:**

4 Yes.

5

6 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

7 You FOILed to see if they voted.

8

9 **MR. WYNN:**

10 No, no. The FOIL came from the original set of data obtained from
11 the New York State Board of Elections. That was the data that was
12 FOILed. There are roughly 20 million registered voters throughout
13 the state. Many of those, at least 1.2 million voters, have cloned
14 registrations.

15

16 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

17 Not the same address but not date of birth.

18

19 **MR. WYNN:**

20 Exact matches, yes. The date of birth and address.

21

22 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

23 Can you -- let me just change the subject slightly. Can ou
24 register to vote in Florida and in New York?

25

26 **MR. WYNN:**

27 I don't know.

28

29 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

30 Do they talk to each other and say --

31

32 **LEG. THORNE:**

33 There's a national registry.

34

35 **MR. WYNN:**

36 Well, what you can do -- you can get a county ID. You can get a
37 different county ID depending on which county -- let's say you move
38 to a different county. Let's say from Nassau to Suffolk. But what
39 you are not supposed to get is a state board of election ID number.
40 That number is similar to that of a social security number. You
41 have one for the entire length of your residency in New York State
42 or your citizenship in New York State, but what we find is people
43 have moved and been assigned a new state board of election ID.
44 That's illegal, actually.

45

46 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

47 Move within the state?

48

49 **MR. WYNN:**

50 Yes. They'll get a new county ID, but they should never get a new
51 state board of election ID number.

52

53 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

54 So I have two? I have a county and a state ID?

55

56 **MR. WYNN:**

1 Yes.

2

3 **CHAIRMAN TROTTA:**

4 Okay. Thank you.

5

6 **MR. WYNN:**

7 You're welcome. Thank you.

8

9 **CHAIRMAN TROTTA:**

10 Tammy is up next. Is Tammy Tape1 (ph) here?

11

12 **MS. TAPEL:**

13 Hi. Good afternoon. Thank you for allowing us this opportunity.
14 So what we are requesting is an end-to-end audit of the 2022
15 election because just according to federal law, if there are
16 irregularities and questions around those irregularities are not
17 answered, than an election should not be certified. There were
18 over a million irregularities of the 2020 election, and they
19 proceeded to not only certify that election but then go on and have
20 the 2022 election and certify that election as well on a voter
21 database, voter roll database that is inaccurate, grossly
22 inaccurate.

23

24 So to Mr. Trotta, your question with regard to if you move and
25 then, you know, those -- your information from your first -- all
26 the information from where your live should be purged, but that
27 purging isn't happening. And additionally what is happening now is
28 the motor vehicle and Department of Social Services is connected to
29 the board of elections, and when a person gets their driver's
30 license or goes on food stamps or sees a doctor or, you know,
31 whatever -- gets whatever information from DSS, their information
32 goes to the voter roles. They are automatically, unless you opt
33 out, you are automatically opted in as a registered voter. The
34 board of elections has 21 days in which to vet that person and make
35 sure they're actually -- they have a residence, they are actually
36 registered, and they have the registration information. Twenty-one
37 days and that information, though, has not been vetted.

38

39 So in the state that we are in now with the people who are coming
40 into our country and getting driver's licenses, they are all going
41 onto the voter database. This is our sovereign right. We are
42 citizens of the United States, and we have a sovereign right to
43 provable elections, and that is not happening, and we're not
44 convinced. We can't say with any assurance at all that these voter
45 rolls are accurate.

46

47 So this report that is in front of you, the 16-page report plus the
48 summary, was presented to -- on May 9, over a year ago, 2022, to
49 the New York attorney general, the New York State secretary of
50 state, the New York State board of election commissioners, and the
51 leaders of the democratic and republican parties. No response was
52 received from any of them and the information that went to the
53 secretary of state was returned to us. Volunteers also presented
54 this report and all the facts contained within the report on June
55 27 of 2022 to the New York State police. The materials --

56

1 **CHAIRMAN TROTTA:**

2 Okay. Your three minutes are up, but we do have a question for
3 you, which will allow you to continue.

4
5 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

6 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So I just know this because I heard a
7 floor speech. It was probably two years ago when the bill was
8 passed about driver's licenses. They can use that driver's license
9 number. They can vote even if they are not a citizen, and the
10 only reason we know that people who aren't citizens are voting is
11 because in order to gain citizenship, you can't be registered to
12 vote if you are here illegally, so they have to call the board of
13 elections to have their names removed --

14
15 **MS. TAPEL:**

16 Right. That's the opting out.

17
18 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

19 Correct. So that is a problem.

20
21 **MS. TAPEL:**

22 It's a huge problem, yes.

23
24 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

25 Yeah. You know, how to fix that problem, only the state can do
26 unfortunately.

27
28 **MS. TAPEL:**

29 Well, correct me if I'm wrong, but it is my understanding that the
30 Ways and Means committee oversees the state board of elections. Is
31 that true?

32
33 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

34 No. Maybe the Ways and Means in the state does, but not in the
35 county legislature.

36
37 **MS. TAPEL:**

38 Okay. So would you have any input into the state Ways and Means
39 committee? Would this committee? You know, the chain of command.

40
41 **CHAIRMAN TROTTA:**

42 I think that there was an idea that an illegal alien would have an
43 additional or one less number in their driver's license number so
44 the board of elections could distinguish, okay, most people have
45 nine numbers, this one has 10, this is an illegal alien.
46 There was a bill put in to do that, but I don't think it went
47 anywhere.

48
49 **MS. TAPEL:**

50 But you have jurisdiction over the Suffolk County board of
51 elections?

52
53 **CHAIRMAN TROTTA:**

54 Correct.

55
56 **MS. TAPEL:**

1 So we're trying to start -- we're attacking it from the top, we're
2 attacking it from the bottom, and that's what we, as a grassroots
3 group of individuals are doing. We went to all the town boards.
4 We have a resolution that we are asking them to sign to support,
5 and we know that you can't do anything single-handedly nor can
6 they, but it will facilitate pushing it up the chain and telling
7 the state that your constituents, you know, us, who you represent
8 are in favor of an audit of the 2022 election in order to continue
9 to show that things are not happening the way our constitutionally
10 -- constitutionally they should be happening, and our rights are
11 being violated.

12
13 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

14 Have you spoken to an attorney about filing suit?

15
16 **MS. TAPPEL:**

17 Oh, many, yes.

18
19 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

20 And has anybody filed suit? Has a judge wanted to hear the case?

21
22 **MS. TAPPEL:**

23 You know what, yes. It hasn't been filed yet, but there are things
24 that are happening of which I'm not even privy to. I'm just a
25 lowly volunteer at this level, but I know things are really
26 happening, and we just ask that you support us in this and that
27 when we present our resolution to you and when we present it --
28 because we are also going to present the same thing to the full
29 legislature at the Suffolk County Legislature at the next meeting,
30 and we'll present the resolution, and we would like you to sign it
31 because we are just trying to get everybody, every elected official
32 to support the resolution so that it shows that all of us here on
33 Long Island, anyway, are in favor of getting this rectified.

34
35 **CHAIRMAN TROTTA:**

36 Okay. Legislator Thorne.

37
38 **LEG. THORNE:**

39 Hi. Thank you for your advocacy to ensure that our elections are
40 certainly fair and equitable.

41
42 **MS. TAPPEL:**

43 Thank you.

44
45 **LEG. THORNE:**

46 I worked for the board of elections for over six or seven years.
47 I'm a little confused by a couple of the statements, and maybe you
48 can help me, and I'm not trying to be argumentative, but I know that
49 Suffolk County Board of Elections actually has a department
50 assigned to the national and the state registry to weed these
51 problems out. I also know there's a separate department that
52 compares some of the information received from the Department of
53 Health, which often takes too long to get there when somebody
54 expires. Are you saying that those departments are not meeting the
55 requirements? Because when I was there, we, bipartisanly, a
56 republican and a democrat, looked at these files every day for

1 hours on end.

2

3 **MS. TAPEL:**

4 Okay. So if I can give you a couple statistics from the 2020 audit
5 for Suffolk County. There were more than 64,000 duplicate IDs
6 found. There were over 3500 discrepancies existing between Suffolk
7 County and the New York State secretary of state.

8

9 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

10 Ma'am, just real fast. 60,000 duplicates, how many of them voted
11 twice?

12

13 **MS. TAPEL:**

14 388

15

16 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

17 Out of sixty thousand?

18

19 **MS. TAPEL:**

20 (Affirmative response.)

21

22 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

23 And the voter ID number --

24

25 **MS. TAPEL:**

26 That's one county.

27

28 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

29 No, no. I'm just trying to write the numbers down. So out of
30 60,000 duplicate IDs, 388 from your data says they voted twice.

31

32 **MS. TAPEL:**

33 (Affirmative response.) And what was the number from -- do you
34 know, Barbara?

35

36 **LEG. THORNE:**

37 So, again, and please understand I don't mean to be argumentative,
38 but I know that there are people working 35 plus hours a week to
39 compare all of this information. In fact, often, some of my voters
40 that are snowbirds will have to go down and come back and register
41 that, No, I didn't move, I go down for the winter and I come back
42 for the elections. So, you know, it definitely presents a problem
43 for the legal voters or the voters that really should have the
44 right to vote in their hometown in the district in which they live
45 in, so that's why I'm a little concerned knowing how hardworking
46 the Suffolk County Board of Election is.

47

48 **MS. TAPEL:**

49 Of course, and I'm with a group, and we have the Suffolk County
50 Board of Elections, the head of, speak with us and it sounded
51 great, but when you look at the numbers, regardless if 388 voted,
52 if one person voted that was a clone voter, that is not
53 appropriate. That should not be happening and there are --

54

55 **LEG. THORNE:**

56 I tend to agree with you that it's not appropriate for anybody to

1 break the law, but my second question is out of the 388 voters that
2 you spoke of where they voted more than once, was any of that
3 referred to the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office?
4

5 **MS. TAPEL:**

6 All of it, yes.
7

8 **LEG. THORNE:**

9 And when was that was reported?
10

11 **MS. TAPEL:**

12 That was reported in May of '22.
13

14 **LEG. THORNE:**

15 May I suggest you resubmit that information back to the district
16 attorney's office, because I know that when I worked there, there
17 was a gentleman in Greenport that had voted a couple times and was
18 arrested for it.
19

20 **MS. TAPEL:**

21 Okay. The Suffolk County -- all the county rolls are compared to
22 the New York State Board of Election rolls, the county voter rolls,
23 the New York State secretary of state; they all have to match, and
24 there were 4800 discrepancies with the New York State Board of
25 Elections and 3500 discrepancies between the Suffolk County Board
26 and the secretary of state. Those numbers for a county are huge.
27 That should not be happening.
28

29 **LEG. THORNE:**

30 I agree with you. Don't be confused.
31

32 **MS. TAPEL:**

33 Okay.
34

35 **LEG. THORNE:**

36 I'm just concerned about when I hear that the county, which is
37 directly under the legislative's oversight, when you put up a
38 number like 388, I know both of the commissioners over there, and I
39 know that they would not put up with that, and that's why I'm not
40 asking the questions.
41

42 **MS. TAPEL:**

43 Okay, and I get that. 176 people voted without an address. Is
44 anyone looking at that? 4,000 people registered after the cutoff
45 date and still continued to vote. 4,000.
46

47 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

48 Is that in Suffolk County?
49

50 **MS. TAPEL:**

51 In Suffolk County 31 people --
52

53 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

54 They voted after the cutoff date. Were they registered prior and
55 the moved and they re-registered?
56

1 **MS. TAPEL:**
2 I don't know the answer to that --

3
4 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**
5 Well, that's --

6
7 **MS. TAPEL:**
8 Probably not if they had to register. They registered to vote
9 after the cutoff date and proceeded to vote. 4,000. 31 people
10 were older than the oldest person living in the United States, 30
11 people. 116 years old, 125 years old. Those people don't exist.

12
13 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**
14 I just -- these are just questions. We're trying to --

15
16 **MS. TAPEL:**
17 Sure. Of course, of course.

18
19 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**
20 So you said 4,000 or some odd number registered --

21
22 **MS. TAPEL:**
23 4,066.

24
25 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**
26 So when they showed up, were they allowed to vote on the machine,
27 or did they have to fill out an affidavit ballot, and was that
28 affidavit ballot adjudicated at the board of elections and counted,
29 or was it not counted because they missed the cutoff date?

30
31 **MS. TAPEL:**
32 No, it was counted. These are counted votes. Absolutely counted.

33
34 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**
35 But we don't know -- how do you know they were counted? Just
36 because it says it was cast doesn't mean it was counted. Those are
37 two different scenarios.

38
39 **MS. TAPEL:**
40 I was not part of the audit, so I don't know the answer. We can
41 get you the person -- the executive director of Citizens's Audit
42 will make a presentation to the full legislature, and it is
43 compelling, extremely compelling, on the whole state.

44
45 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**
46 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

47
48 **CHAIRMAN TROTTA:**
49 Okay. Legislator Esteban.

50
51 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**
52 Hi. I am Suffolk County Legislator Manuel Esteban, and I want to
53 thank you for your presentation.

54
55 **MS. TAPEL:**
56 Thank you. Yes.

1
2 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**

3 The work that volunteers, such as yourself, do is very, very
4 important for the integrity of all our systems. Question is, one
5 thing that would be helpful is on the larger numbers, you know, of
6 course we don't want any deviations, not one clone voters, but we
7 also understand that no system is perfect. So if you could tell us
8 -- not today, in your other report -- you know, what is an
9 acceptable deviation, and what is our deviation? So this way we
10 know how far off of normal we actually really are.

11
12 **MS. TAPPEL:**

13 The acceptable deviation is one in 10,000.

14
15 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**

16 Okay.

17
18 **MS. TAPPEL:**

19 Ten million. One in 10 million. There were a million
20 irregularities, over one million irregularities in the 2020
21 election.

22
23 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**

24 One million.

25
26 **MS. TAPPEL:**

27 And by federal law, that should never have been certified. This
28 has been going on for decades.

29
30 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**

31 Repeat that again. I didn't get that. So what is the normal?

32
33 **MS. TAPPEL:**

34 What is the normal?

35
36 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**

37 The acceptable -- you said it earlier.

38
39 **MS. TAPPEL:**

40 One irregularity in 10 million.

41
42 **LEG. ESTEBAN:**

43 And what are we at?

44
45 **MS. TAPPEL:**

46 Oh, my gosh. Like one in 10, maybe. I'm not a mathematician, so I
47 don't know the answer to that, but it's high. It's just -- there
48 are a lot of -- that's it. Does anyone else have any questions?

49
50 **CHAIRMAN TROTTA:**

51 Yes, we have one more. Legislator Fleming.

52
53 **LEG. FLEMING:**

54 Thank you, ma'am. I appreciate your concern.

55
56 **MS. TAPPEL:**

1 Thank you.

2

3 **LEG. FLEMING:**

4 I question your data. I would say that there were 60 lawsuits in
5 the national election, the presidential election, which were
6 brought, and not a single one was found to have merit. This is not
7 -- I appreciate that you put so much effort into your report and
8 that you all are working so hard. I would say, however, that this
9 is something that has garnered a great deal of attention, and that
10 there really is not a single criminal prosecutor in New York State,
11 republican or democrat, who is willing to go forward with anywhere
12 near a number of 300 people. I think there was one person, our
13 district attorney, actually, who was a democrat at the time,
14 prosecuted for one absentee ballot that was filed. He filed it for
15 his mother, and he was prosecuted and that was a case that had
16 merit, and it was one case in recent history.

17

18 Can I just ask you, when you say 388 voters voted twice, what is
19 the specific evidence supporting the finding that they voted one
20 and that they voted again? What's the evidence? Did someone watch
21 them? Is there written evidence? Is there video evidence? What
22 is the evidence that 388 individuals voted once and then voted
23 again?

24

25 **MS. TAPPEL:**

26 I don't know the answer to that. I don't know the answer to that,
27 but what I do know is that 388 --

28

29 **LEG. FLEMING:**

30 You've answered the question. My question is simply that: What is
31 the evidence that anyone voted twice? And I think what you're
32 saying is you don't know. My suspicion, as a former criminal
33 prosecutor, who has watched prosecutor after prosecutor with
34 enormous pressure on them being asked to bring these cases and
35 saying there's no there, there. We can't bring the cases. We
36 cannot prove beyond a reasonable doubt that 388 here in Suffolk
37 County voted twice because the evidence isn't there.

38

39 So my second question is what is the evidence that you have, sort
40 of following up on Mr. Piccirillo's question, that not only did 388
41 people vote twice but that those votes were actually counted; what
42 is the evidence for that? I mean actual evidence, written
43 evidence, video evidence, testimony. Where do we know John Smith
44 showed up here and voted, John Smith voted here, and John Smith's
45 vote was counted 388 times.

46

47 **MS. TAPPEL:**

48 The information was taken from the Suffolk County Board of Election
49 data base, voter roll data base.

50

51 **LEG. FLEMING:**

52 So are you saying that the voter roll database confirms that 388
53 people voted twice? You're saying that the rolls confirmed that?

54

55 **MS. TAPPEL:**

56 Yes.

1
2 **LEG. FLEMING:**

3 Because nobody else has said that, ma'am, and the evidence that was
4 brought to the district attorney resulted in one prosecution for an
5 absentee ballot, and no one has proved any evidence with merit, has
6 shown any evidence with merit that any votes that were duplicates
7 were actually cast.

8
9 Let me ask you another question about the voter rolls. You've
10 thrown out lots of very, very large numbers about irregularities in
11 voter rolls. Are you aware when folks go in to cast their ballot
12 how many rolls are being consulted at that time? Is it one, is it
13 two, is it three? Do the rolls include just the Suffolk County
14 roll -- maybe some of our former employees can answer -- or all of
15 these other rolls that you say contain discrepancies? What's being
16 considered when people walk in and try to cast their vote?

17
18 **MS. TAPPEL:**

19 I don't work for the board of elections. I don't have that
20 information.

21
22 **LEG. FLEMING:**

23 It's one, ma'am. It's the Suffolk County roll. So that you have
24 found discrepancies in a state list versus a Suffolk list, there's
25 one list that you have to be part of in order to cast your vote in
26 Suffolk County. That's it, so those discrepancies may exist. You
27 may have typos. It doesn't mean that people are voting more than
28 once. It just doesn't.

29
30 **MS. TAPPEL:**

31 The data explains itself and --

32
33 **LEG. FLEMING:**

34 And that's what I was trying to understand: What is the data? The
35 data doesn't really exist. There's no evidence that those 388
36 people voted twice. I haven't heard it. Who observed it? Where
37 is it documented? It doesn't exist. 388 people did not vote twice
38 in Suffolk County. If they did, maybe our congressional
39 candidate --

40
41 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

42 Would you yield for a question, Legislator Fleming?

43
44 **LEG. FLEMING:**

45 -- he's a former commissioner of the Board of Elections. He was
46 elected in the election that you're saying 388 people committed
47 felony election fraud, and nobody is interested in looking at it.
48 Sorry, ma'am. I just don't think that the evidence exists.

49
50 **MS. TAPPEL:**

51 Okay. Well, I can appreciate that.

52
53 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

54 Mr. Chairman, I just have a follow up. I'm just trying to write
55 all this down. 2020 New York State law -- I'm on the mic. You got
56 me? And I could be out of the county. If not, if I'm home that

1 day but I've already sent in my absentee ballot, I can still go
2 vote on the machine. Only one would be counted. Of those 388, I
3 wonder how many either sent it and absentee ballot and then voted
4 on the same day on election day because that might account for
5 using the state or county voter ID number.

6
7 **MS. TAPPEL:**

8 I do not think that's the case, but I would have to get that
9 information.

10
11 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

12 (Inaudible) in 2020 which is the election in question, that was the
13 law when you cast an absentee ballot.

14
15 **MS. TAPPEL:**

16 Well, when we come back and present our resolution, I'll have the
17 information and your answers, ma'am.

18
19 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

20 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21
22 **CHAIRMAN TROTTA:**

23 That actually happened in a few cases for me. We have one more
24 question for you. I'm sorry.

25
26 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

27 Thank you for coming out and speaking about this. The lawn sign
28 that says 300 and something thousand more people voted than are
29 registered to vote. What is that exact number?

30
31 **MS. TAPPEL:**

32 The exact number of people who were registered to vote?

33
34 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

35 The exact number of people who actually voted. 300 and what? I
36 don't remember. I see it driving by. Yeah.

37
38 **MS. TAPPEL:**

39 Yeah. 388,356 more votes were cast than there were people
40 registered to vote -- than people who voted.

41
42 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

43 Than people who?

44
45 **MS. TAPPEL:**

46 The actual physical bodies that voted versus votes cast.

47
48 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

49 I'm not understanding that. Can you state that again? I thought
50 it was --

51
52 **CHAIRMAN TROTTA:**

53 It says it right here. More votes cast than people who voted in
54 2020. I don't know how that happened. I don't know how that
55 happened.

1 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

2 I don't know how that happened. That's something that should be
3 looked into because that does not make sense.

4
5 **MS. TAPPEL:**

6 Absolutely. It's with the machines. There's an algorithm that
7 we've found or that they have found.

8
9 **CHAIRMAN TROTTER:**

10 It seems like a statement with zero way to back it up. It seems
11 like a statement with zero way to back it up.

12
13 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

14 Well, they count the ballots that go through the machine, and then
15 they count the ballots that don't go through the machine.

16
17 **LEG. THORNE:**

18 If I may, let me just shed some light on this only because I worked
19 those 22-hour days of elections, and again, if there's voter fraud,
20 there's not a person on this dais that doesn't want that cleared
21 up. Let me be very clear about that. So two things: You know
22 that the Suffolk County machines are not uploaded through the
23 internet, right? Are you aware of that?

24
25 **MS. TAPPEL:**

26 Okay.

27
28 **LEG. THORNE:**

29 Okay. Let me tell you how it happens so you know because if there
30 are issues, I'm going to want to talk to you. But currently what
31 happens is the votes get casted on the machines in question. Those
32 machine cards, the data cards that are in them, there are three of
33 them: Two on the outside, one buried in the machine. They get
34 taken out bipartisanly brought with a police escort to a dropoff
35 location. Those locations and the ballot bags go in a trunk with a
36 bipartisan team and a law enforcement officer following it. Then
37 they get locked in the back room until they are able to quantify
38 the election.

39
40 Also, on early voting, because I have heard this, and I have seen
41 firsthand some of the complaints, but they say that, you know, you
42 can vote at one place and then wind up going to the other. As soon
43 as you vote on those tablets and they print out your ballot at the
44 early voting because you can vote anywhere in the county, which I
45 don't entirely agree with, by the way, but you can vote anywhere in
46 the county. What happens is as soon as that name registers that
47 its voted, it gets uploaded to the central to BOE, and it goes out
48 to all the machines countywide. So John Smith goes to ABC school
49 to vote, then he goes to east frog Long Island and tries to vote
50 again. His name has been registered, and it won't allow him to
51 vote. On election day when you go there to vote, if you're in the
52 wrong polling place, the iPads have an opportunity to hit a print
53 thing where they can actually print out the directions to the
54 appropriate polling place.

55
56 Again, I'm trying to get to the end of this and figure out what's

1 going on because if there's a problem in the county, none of us
2 want that, republican or democrat. So I just want to make sure we
3 understand the whole process. If you have explicit cases of that,
4 I would love to hear them. If you can narrow down the cases, I
5 will make sure that the district attorney looks at them because
6 that's a problem. But I just want to make sure we understand the
7 process. I worked 125 people. I worked side-by-side across the
8 desk from my partner bipartisanly, and that's the way it happens in
9 the board of elections. You don't do anything short of lunch
10 breaks without your partisan partner, and you can look at each
11 other's computer on a regular basis. So that's why I'm very
12 concerned about the accusations I hear about in the county. Am I
13 saying this may occur somewhere else in the state? I can't speak to
14 that because I just don't know, but I do know about this county,
15 and I'm concerned when I hear these numbers.

16
17 **MS. TAPPEL:**

18 I appreciate all of the input, and I promise you that we will have
19 the information you asked at the next meeting so thank you.

20
21 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

22 One more. Sorry. Don't run away. The majority of us are willing
23 to write a letter to the New York State comptroller requesting that
24 he do an audit, but you're coming back to the legislature on
25 Tuesday to discuss this? Because we would need the entire
26 legislature to agree.

27
28 **MS. TAPPEL:**

29 Yes. Everyone's available Tuesday? Yes.

30
31 **LEG. KENNEDY:**

32 Okay. We'll see you then.

33
34 **LEG. FLEMING:**

35 Rob, can I ask for one piece of clarification? Could I just get
36 clarification on what is meant by the bullet point that we were
37 just discussing: 338,000 thousand plus more votes cast than voters
38 who voted. What does that mean?

39
40 **MS. TAPPEL:**

41 Since it's a question that I --

42
43 **LEG. FLEMING:**

44 Absolutely. Before Tuesday, if we could just understand more votes
45 cast than voters who voted. Just need some clarification on that.

46
47 **MS. CATALETTO (ph):**

48 May I?

49
50 **LEG. FLEMING:**

51 I think the chairman said that's fine.

52
53 **MS. CATALETTO:**

54 Hi. Barbara Cataletto.

55
56 **CHAIRMAN TROTTA:**

1 Fill out a card when you're done, okay?

2

3 **MS. CATALETTO:**

4 Yes, sir. Huntington. Can I ask you -- you all received a copy of
5 this report. Could you go to page 10. If we look at the top
6 chart, Discrepancies in Every Comparison, it gives you the max
7 discrepancy at the end. So we have 8.690 -- shorten it up -- votes
8 recorded by the secretary of state.

9

10 **LEG. FLEMING:**

11 But the secretary of state doesn't record a vote.

12

13 **MS. CATALETTO:**

14 I'm not -- I'm going to --

15

16 **LEG. FLEMING:**

17 I'm just trying to understand the data, ma'am, because I think this
18 may be a list --

19

20 **MS. CATALETTO:**

21 We can go into this deeper. You're asking where the numbers come
22 from, but this is our level of knowledge.

23

24 **LEG. FLEMING:**

25 But I'm just -- that's not voters who voted. That's voters on a
26 list with the secretary of state, correct? These are lists that
27 contain big numbers, but the claim is that more voters voted than
28 what? More votes cast than voters who voted; just can you, common
29 sense, answer that question?

30

31 **MS. CATALETTO:**

32 If I can finish this, maybe it will work out.

33

34 **LEG. FLEMING:**

35 But, unfortunately, I already don't understand. When you say the
36 secretary of state has a list that has eight million names on it --

37

38 **MS. CATALETTO:**

39 I didn't say that.

40

41 **LEG. FLEMING:**

42 Okay. Go ahead.

43

44 **MS. CATALETTO:**

45 I just said votes. New York State secretary of state. That's all
46 I said.

47

48 **LEG. FLEMING:**

49 No, you said New York Secretary of State said eight million people
50 voted.

51

52 **MS. CATALETTO:**

53 Then I'll correct myself.

54

55 **LEG. FLEMING:**

56 Okay. Thanks.

1
2 **MS. CATALETTO:**

3 Thank you. On the document that we have here, the report says
4 "votes NYSOS," 8,090,614. This is part of their record that was
5 FOILED.

6
7 **LEG. FLEMING:**

8 But what does it mean?
9

10 **MS. CATALETTO:**

11 You could tell me what it means if I don't get this right. Let me
12 finish what I'm saying. These are the records that we have that
13 they say that they have for voters.

14
15 **LEG. FLEMING:**

16 "For voters," meaning -- I'm sorry. That's a list of voters.
17

18 **MS. CATALETTO:**

19 I don't know if it's a list. I only know it's a number.
20

21 **LEG. FLEMING:**

22 And I think that's the central question is we're not really sure
23 what these numbers mean, but I do know looking -- we have 1.4
24 million people in the County of Suffolk. We have 1.041 registered,
25 and in the last election 566,000 of them voted, so half the number
26 of people who could vote voted.
27

28 **MS. CATALETTO:**

29 I don't know what that has to do with the number, though.
30

31 **LEG. FLEMING:**

32 Right? We always have way less than a hundred percent vote, the
33 percentage of voters. We wish we would have so much participation.
34 We don't have too much participation, we have half the people who
35 register to vote actually vote. Out of a million registered
36 voters, 550 cast their vote. These are the votes that counted that
37 were part of the calculation that determined who won the race,
38 right? You can go on the website and --
39

40 **MS. CATALETTO:**

41 But no one mentioned winning races at all.
42

43 **MS. TAPPEL:**

44 We're answering the question about the 338,356 people in New York
45 State, in all of New York State; we're answering that question.
46

47 **LEG. FLEMING:**

48 But you're not in that you're not telling us that there's evidence
49 that they voted.
50

51 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

52 With all due respect, can you -- I would like to just have you
53 finish your statement.
54

55 **MS. CATALETTO:**

56 Thank you.

1
2 **LEG. FLEMING:**

3 I think technically usually a legislator will speak through the
4 chair if she's trying to correct another legislator.

5
6 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

7 So, Mr. Chair, may I ask that the statement is completed.

8
9 **CHAIRMAN TROTTA:**

10 Go at it.

11
12 **LEG. FLEMING:**

13 Thank you.

14
15 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

16 Thank you.

17
18 **MS. CATALETTO:**

19 So the way that we derived at the max discrepancy came from the
20 identification of number of votes and voters within the New York
21 State systems, whatever they may be. New York State secretary of
22 sate identified votes of 8.690614. New York State Board of
23 Elections identified voters as 814179. Precincts identified votes
24 as 8.627153. Voters in 43 counties were identified as 6.656149.
25 The minimum discrepancy is 19,000 266,000 (sic). The maximum
26 discrepancy is 338,356. Why is there a minimum and why is there a
27 maximum?

28
29 **CHAIRMAN TROTTA:**

30 Okay. I think I could explain this.

31
32 **MS. CATALETTO:**

33 Thank you.

34
35 **CHAIRMAN TROTTA:**

36 Based upon what Legislator Piccirillo said and my own experience, I
37 know many people that have filled out absentee ballots and then
38 later decided, because up until 2000, you were allowed to go vote
39 on election day even if you put in an absentee ballot. So I would
40 say -- I'm sorry, what year? 2020. I would say that maybe the
41 secretary of state is total votes counting the absentee and the
42 other one, and the board of elections is probably just counting the
43 one vote, the last vote, because the way the law was written was
44 your absentee ballot gets throw in the garbage if you voted, so I
45 think that's one explanation. I'm not going to get into it now
46 because we're not going to be able to figure this out.

47
48 Our next speaker is Bill Hedges.

49
50 **MS. CATALETTO:**

51 Could I just add one last comment?

52
53 **CHAIRMAN TROTTA:**

54 Sure.

55
56 **MS. CATALETTO:**

1 None of this here is to say who won, who lost; none of it. It is
2 all about fixing our voter rolls, so we're not here to change any
3 election. We're not here to pull anyone out of a seat.

4
5 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

6 Okay. So what I suggest you do is go back to the New York State
7 Department of State and ask them, Is that all the votes? Is that
8 the absentees and the other ones? Then go to the board of
9 elections and say, How many absentees did you drop out? Because
10 people then went and voted. I'm sure if there's one instance,
11 there's other instances similar to that that might have occurred.

12
13 **MS. CATALETTO:**

14 All right.

15
16 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

17 Could have to do with affidavit ballots or something like that. I
18 don't think there's a mass conspiracy to do this. As Legislator
19 Thorne said, there's, at least in Suffolk County, there's a
20 republican and a democrat sitting there, you know. Generally,
21 elections are not won by two or three or five votes.

22
23 **MS. CATALETTO:**

24 Right. Thank you very much.

25
26 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

27 All right. Thank you. Mr. Hedges, you're next.

28
29 **LEG. FLEMING:**

30 Mr. Chair, can I just put -- the only reason I said what who -- you
31 know, what determined who won --

32
33 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

34 Don't worry. It doesn't matter. I know.

35
36 **LEG. FLEMING:**

37 -- is the real question is what the impact is, right? It's just,
38 like, the numbers that matter are the numbers that are in the
39 calculation that leads to an outcome. That's what matters: Who
40 voted and who was counted. If they're on somebody's list and it
41 doesn't match up with Suffolk County, that's not relevant. What's
42 relevant is if they voted and it impacted something and they voted
43 more than once, but we don't have evidence that that happened.
44 Thank you.

45
46 **MR. HEDGES:**

47 Good afternoon. My name is Bill Hedges. I live in the Town of
48 Brookhaven. I don't know how I could add any more to all of that.
49 I want to thank all of you for your questions and for your
50 interest, and in my humble opinion from the information that I've
51 seen, there is more than enough evidence to run an audit.

52
53 Having said that, I'm going give you some interesting statistics.
54 Did you know that a gentleman in Hicksville who was born March of
55 1908 is still currently on the voter rolls in Nassay County? At
56 115 years old, he would be the oldest person in New York, second

1 oldest person alive in the United States, and the fourth in the
2 world. He's one of 315 people in Nassau County that was born
3 before 1910, which is really amazing. He was chosen as an example
4 because, according to Nassau County records, he has cast a vote in
5 the 2022 midterm election. What makes that even stranger, this
6 individual registered to vote in 2008 at the age of 100. He must
7 have decided that he waited long enough to exercise his right to
8 vote.

9
10 New York Citizens Audit analyzed the voter rolls in election data
11 of the 2020 election. They found 19,712 age discrepant
12 registrants, which are underage voters or voters older than the
13 oldest person known be alive in the U.S. A total of over 1300 of
14 those individuals voted in 2020.

15
16 He is not the only example. There is another young lady who lives
17 in Freeport that was born in November of 1900 who also voted in the
18 2022 midterm elections at the age of 122. This individual would
19 have been the oldest person alive on election day. No one is
20 saying that fraud was committed. These could be simple errors in
21 the database. Someone could have hit a zero on the keyboard
22 instead of a six, but these errors and other types of inaccuracies
23 are just a small example of just the millions of issues found in
24 our voter rolls.

25
26 Confidence in our elections is at our lowest point ever in this
27 country, and New York is no exception. You can't restore
28 confidence if the data used in our election is flawed just like you
29 would not start a cross country road trip in your car if you know
30 it needs a major overhaul. How do you expect the voters of New
31 York to believe in the results of any election if the foundational
32 data is so flawed? These rolls need to be audited, which is what
33 we, the people, are asking of our elected officials, and I believe
34 our executive director can answer a lot of the questions that you
35 had today and will clear up a lot of those questions. Thank you.

36
37 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

38 Thank you very much.

39
40 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

41 I have a question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. Thank you, Mr.
42 Chairman. That's what, actually, my bill in front of the committee
43 does today. Unfortunately, it has to be tabled because it needs be
44 amended for a legal issue, but it starts the process of making sure
45 that the voter rolls are accurate and up to date as far as people
46 being deceased that are still on the voter rolls. We all voted in
47 our school board elections a couple days ago. I know for a fact
48 Legislator Trotta's parents passed away about two months now. They
49 are still in the voter roll. So there's a problem. We're not
50 saying anybody voted. We know they didn't vote, but they shouldn't
51 be there. They should be accurate, up to date, and it should be
52 done in a timely fashion. The state does have a lag for quite
53 some time as far as people appearing on voter rolls and appearing
54 on board of election's sheets that you get to walk door to door. I
55 walked probably 15,000 doors every two years running for office,
56 and I have knocked on plenty of doors where people said, Oh, no,

1 they died five years ago, three years ago, a year ago, 10 years
2 ago, so that's a problem, and that's what 1369 looks to cure.
3 There's some legal minutia that we have to get through, but I
4 believe it's -- we should be doing this at the local level
5 especially at the county where the medical examiner or the town
6 clerk's can then send those death certificates to the board of
7 elections and they can be purge immediately and that's really the
8 support we're looking for for 1369, so I look forward to you
9 supporting it.

10
11 **MR. HEDGES:**

12 And if I may add, and my colleagues could perhaps answer this
13 question, I believe an audit is required every four years -- four
14 or five years -- purging is required every four years, and just as
15 an aside, I worked the 2022 election last year as a poll inspector,
16 and someone made a comment earlier that those -- the ballots are
17 escorted with police escort and so forth. That was not done where
18 I worked, so I don't know how many other places that's going on
19 but. Also, just to add one other thing, and I don't know if it's
20 neither here nor there, but the other day it was reported in Nassau
21 County, not so in Suffolk County from what I've understood, that
22 over 900,000 voter registrations came back as democrat.
23

24 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

25 Yeah. It was a printing error that was corrected.
26

27 **MR. HEDGES:**

28 So errors can be made. We want to uncover the problem areas and
29 restore confidence in the voters of New York State.
30

31 **LEG. PICCIRILLO:**

32 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
33

34 **LEG. THORNE:**

35 Mr. Chairman, can I just clarify something?
36

37 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

38 Sure.
39

40 **LEG. THORNE:**

41 It's just an overall comment because I want to make sure that the
42 record is extremely clear. So when the voting ballot bags and the
43 chips come out of the computer, what happens is the chairperson of
44 that brings it to a drop off location. So in Brookhaven, it might
45 be maybe town hall or the fifth precinct or something like that --
46 I don't remember where the drop off location is for there -- where
47 it is in the custody of the police, and the chips go into a room,
48 wherever the upload center is, where there is a republican and
49 democrat present. The point of me telling you that is that I know
50 there's a lot of confusion and concern, and I'm not saying that's
51 either because I have personal of Suffolk County not the rest of
52 the state. What happens is that data is uploaded, but it's not
53 uploaded through an internet connection where we just plug in the
54 back of the machine, and I just want to make that abundantly clear.
55

56 I also want to make abundantly clear is if anybody, everyone in the

1 group, has personal data about Suffolk County, I want to know about
2 it, as with anybody else, I assume, so please feel free to reach
3 out to me, but I want to make the record clear on how that process
4 happens.

5
6 **MR. HEDGES:**

7 Thank you.

8
9 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

10 Mr. Chair, I have a question.

11
12 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

13 Sure. Legislator Bontempi.

14
15 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

16 I don't know if it's a question to you, sir, or maybe it's just a
17 general comment. A concern of mine is so I have two older children.
18 One lives in North Carolina and one in Illinois. They vote in
19 those states, but they still appear on the voter rolls here. How
20 do we solve that problem? Because we are not showing ID. Anyone
21 can go in and vote.

22
23 **MR. HEDGES:**

24 You just put a signature with your finger on a pad and the
25 inspectors -- I was an inspector. I did not turn anyone away.
26 Everyone came in and voted after they signed in, so that's a great
27 question. I don't know how to do that. That's something that
28 needs to be addressed. I personally would like to see paper
29 ballots and no machines.

30
31 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

32 All right. Well, more to come on that, I think.

33
34 **MR. HEDGES:**

35 I'm sorry. I couldn't answer that.

36
37 **LEG. BONTEMPI:**

38 No, it's just something that's been on my mind for a long time.

39
40 **MR. HEDGES:**

41 There's many concerns, so that's why we're bringing it forward.
42 Thank you so much.

43
44 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

45 All right. Do we have anymore speakers? Seeing none, I will close
46 the public portion.

47
48 Before we get into the agenda, I believe we have or we are supposed
49 to have Mark Kapell from the Land Bank, an attorney from the Land
50 Bank. Is anybody here from the Land Bank?

51
52 **MS. ZARIFIS:**

53 Hi. Our office had spoken to the Presiding Officer and was
54 informed that no one needed to attend the committee today.

55
56 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

1 Excuse me?

2

3 **MS. ZARIFIS:**

4 We were told that no individuals from the Land Bank needed to
5 attend the committee today.

6

7 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

8 By who?

9

10 **MS. ZARIFIS:**

11 By the Presiding Officer.

12

13 **CHAIRMAN TROTТА:**

14 Okay. I received a call this morning from the county attorney,
15 Dennis Brown, who told me that the attorney for the Land Bank was
16 going to be here today with the chairman Mark Kapell. He called me
17 about 9:30 this morning and said to me that I was right and that
18 the ruling by the Land Bank that they could sell to this one entity
19 and if the other person didn't have interest in there, it didn't
20 matter in direct contradiction of what they said in their minutes,
21 so I'd suggest you go back to the county executive and you tell him
22 the war is on. I have 26 acres of polluted land, landfill in my
23 district that's leeching into the groundwater that makes Roberto
24 Clemente park look like Poland Spring water, and that he can stand
25 up with his press conferences and say, I'm for clean water, yet he
26 let's 26 acres of my district dug 80 feet down direct to the
27 groundwater leech into the groundwater poisoning my citizens,
28 poisoning them. You tell him that because I'm going tell him that.

29

30 **MS. ZARIFIS:**

31 Okay.

32

33 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

34 If I could, through the chair. Hi, Michelle. So I would just
35 suggest that there's a lot of serious concerns, and I'm not on the
36 Land Bank, but Legislator Trotta as the representative of that area
37 is raising serious concerns, and I think this issue needs to get
38 the attention it needs to get in all due fairness.

39

40 **MS. ZARIFIS:**

41 Understood. There have been several back and forth communications
42 in regard to this matter already with the legislator.

43

44 **LEG. DONNELLY:**

45 As a fair minded legislature on this body, I think that each
46 legislator, and I have stuck up for other legislators before,
47 particularly when they have environmental and public works issues
48 specifically in their district, they do have to get the attention
49 and respect that they deserve, so I just wanted to very politely
50 and respectfully put that out there in defense of Legislator
51 Trotta.

52

53 **MS. ZARIFIS:**

54 Understood.

55

56 **LEG. FLEMING:**

1 Can I ask a question?

2

3 **CHAIRMAN TROTTA:**

4 Sure.

5

6 **LEG. FLEMING:**

7 I saw some correspondence from Mr. Kapell. I just want the record
8 to be clear because it sounded as though the Presiding Officer said
9 almost don't answer Mr. Trotta's questions, but I think everyone on
10 the committee, or it might even be all legislators, are copied on
11 pretty extensive response, Rob, to your questions. Are those the
12 questions that you have that are being answered by this written
13 response here? It's pretty lengthy.

14

15 **CHAIRMAN TROTTA:**

16 What I was going through was the fact that reading the Land Bank's
17 minutes, they were trying to sneak around their own disposition
18 policy by saying, Oh, this guy who is buying this property, the
19 entity that's buying it is not out of compliance but other
20 properties that he owns doesn't matter. But the Land Bank
21 disposition police right here states that you cannot sell land to a
22 person who owns property within Suffolk County that is in violation
23 of town codes, and then it goes through a few different ones, and
24 it says "These provisions cited in this section shall apply to
25 individuals and/or any entities controlled by the same
26 individuals." So I called Dennis Brown yesterday, and I asked him
27 to look at this for me, and he called me back this morning, and I
28 can tell you the exact time, and he said they are going to be there
29 today. I said, Do me a favor. He said to me, You're right,
30 there's no way they can be selling this property based upon this
31 disposition policy. He said they are going to be here today. I
32 said, Send me an e-mail stating that. He said, Don't worry,
33 they're going to be here today, and they are going to tell you
34 that. So now I get here.

35

36 **LEG. FLEMING:**

37 I'm just wondering, was that part of --

38

39 **MS. ZARIFIS:**

40 If I may respond to Legislator Fleming's question, I just wanted to
41 clarify for the the record, it was not that the Land Bank would not
42 be responsive of any questions of the legislator. It was just that
43 we were informed that no one needed to attend the committee today
44 in regard to this issue.

45

46 **CHAIRMAN TROTTA:**

47 Well, why wasn't I notified? How come I wasn't called?

48

49 **MS. ZARIFIS:**

50 I'm not sure.

51

52 **LEG. FLEMING:**

53 There is -- I don't know if you've seen it. We've all been in
54 committees all day, but there was a 2:20 -- oh, no. That's from
55 April 24. I apologize. Has there been any written correspondence
56 in response to Mr. Trotta's questions?

1
2 **MS. ZARIFIS:**

3 I don't know the latest status of that.

4
5 **LEG. FLEMING:**

6 Because I know from from time to time, we see a lot of back and
7 forth. We are all copied. We know that you've got very -- you
8 have concerns. We heard about a dustup that happened in the lobby
9 in the last meeting, confrontation in the lobby, and I think that
10 might -- I'm just wondering if that informed some of the concerns
11 that you know the administration wants to deal with in writing.

12
13 **CHAIRMAN TROTTA:**

14 I think that's a big stretch.

15
16 **LEG. FLEMING:**

17 I'm just asking. I want the record to be clear. I agree with Tom
18 that the chair should get answers, but I think maybe it's just a
19 different version of how effectively --

20
21 **CHAIRMAN TROTTA:**

22 I have a landfill that's leeching into groundwater that could've
23 been capped about three or four years ago that's not been done
24 because of political complexities and politics, and, believe me
25 you, I will get to the bottom of it because the party's over. I
26 thought they were going to come here, do the right thing, admit
27 they were wrong, admit they were trying to cover this up, and now
28 they just raised the bar a lot higher. I'm not putting up with
29 this.

30
31 I'm going to make a motion to recess this meeting until they come
32 here. Second.

33
34 **LEG PICCIRILLO:**

35 Second.

36
37 **CHAIRMAN TROTTA:**

38 I'm recessing the meeting until they arrive.

39
40 **LEG. FLEMING:**

41 Can we just get sense of how long this will take, Mr. Trotta? Is
42 this an ultimatum?

43
44 **CHAIRMAN TROTTA:**

45 You'll have to talk to the county executive's people.

46
47 (The meeting was recessed at
48 1:35 p.m. and resumed at 2:46 p.m.)

49
50 Okay. We're back in session. Just for the record, yesterday I
51 asked at the Economic Development meeting that Commissioner
52 Lansdale have someone available to speak to us about the Land Bank
53 and some potential litigation that we might be involved in. She
54 stated to me that she would have the chairman of the Land Bank and
55 an attorney here. This morning, I -- yesterday, I reached out to
56 Dennis Brown to advise him of what was going on and asked him his

1 opinion on something. He called me back at 8:57 this morning and
2 told me that what I was talking about, I was correct in, and that
3 he would have the attorney from the Land Bank and the Land Bank
4 person come and tell me in person. I requested to send me an
5 e-mail. He said, Oh, don't worry, they are coming. So at 12:30,
6 the meeting was progressed. I asked for -- about 1:00, I asked
7 for the people from the Land Bank to come here. They were not
8 here. We've now waited close to two hours. They are not here, so
9 I am going to adjourn the meeting. Thank you.

10
11 (The meeting was adjourned at 2:47 p.m.)
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