DANIEL DROMM

COUNCIL MEMBER 25TH DISTRICT

CHAIR Education



BENJAMIN J. KALLOS

COUNCIL MEMBER
5th District

CHAIRGovernmental Operations

June 9, 2014

Chancellor Carmen Fariña Department of Education Tweed Courthouse, 52 Chambers Street New York, NY 10007 Mike Ryan, Executive Director New York City Board of Elections 32-42 Broadway, 7 Floor New York, NY 10004

Dear Chancellor Fariña and Executive Director Mike Ryan,

We are writing to you as chairs of the Education and Governmental Operations Committees to thank you for your leadership in being part of the first administration to follow the "Young Adult Voter Registration Act" and for your commitment to providing a tracking number next year so that we can measure the success of this initiative.

The Young Adult Voter Registration Act (YAVRA) requires the Department of Education (DOE) "shall provide applications for registration and enrollment, and may assist in the execution of such applications" and "shall deliver such voter registration form to each graduating student at the same time and in the same manner as it delivers diplomas to each such student."

According to the School Demographics and Accountability Snapshot for school year 2013-14, there are 73,790 high school seniors. If they all complete the voter registration forms along with their soon to be graduating peers, by 2021 public school graduates eligible to vote could grow to 630,166, which would mean nearly as many 18 to 26 year old public school graduates would be eligible to vote as voted for mayor in the 2013 election.

Thank you again for taking the initiative to secure 100,000 voter registration cards this year and for your commitment to tracking registrations next year. We look forward to working with your agencies on our proposed "Citywide Senior Year Voter Registration Pilot" for teachers to distribute and collect voter registration cards in classrooms during advisory period on a citywide "Senior Year Voter Registration Day."

Regards,

Daniel Dromm, Chair Education Committee

Ben Kallos, Chair

Governmental Operations Committee

cc: Mayor Bill de Blasio

Voter Assistance Advisory Committee



New York City Administrative Code § 3-209 Young Adult Voter Registration Act

- a. Short title. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Young Adult Voter Registration Act."
- b. Registration of voters. Each public or private high school within the city shall make available during the school year to seniors such materials as may be published by the board of elections relating to voter registration and, where appropriate, shall provide applications for registration and enrollment, and may assist in the execution of such applications.
- c. Registration of graduating seniors. The department of education of the city of New York shall provide a postage paid board of elections of the city of New York voter registration form to each graduating student who receives a high school diploma, including but not limited to a Regents, local, general equivalency or Individualized Education Program diploma. The department shall deliver such voter registration form to each graduating student at the same time and in the same manner as it delivers diplomas to each such student.
- d. Forms to be available at school. The department of education of the city of New York shall ensure that postage paid board of elections voter registration forms are available in the main or central office of each high school under the jurisdiction of the department for students who wish to obtain one. The department shall also ensure that each such high school provides adequate notice to its students of the availability of such forms in its main or central office.
- e. Sufficient quantity of forms. The department shall request from the board of elections of the city of New York a sufficient quantity of voter registration forms to meet the requirements of this subdivision.