

From:
To: <HAVA1F@elections.state.ny.us>
CC:
Date: 4/16/2009 2:04 PM
Subject: Public Comment on HAVA Implementation Plan 2009

Dear NYS Board of Elections,

I read with great interest the draft HAVA Implementation Plan for 2009.
I have the following comments to make:

* Regarding alternative language accessibility, BOE should also specifically dedicate funding towards the creation and use of alternative communication formats for voter registration and voter information materials. Such alternative formats would include printed materials in Braille and large print; audiotapes or audio CD-ROMS; use of closed captioning in any televised public service announcements; availability of TTY information hotlines; and availability of sign language interpreters at select voter education workshops. Provision of such alternative communication formats ensures compliance with the law and spirit of HAVA in seeking to implement equitable access to voting to all.

* From the HHS federal grant awards earmarked toward improving poll site accessibility, provide direct funding to relevant community-based organizations (e.g. disability advocacy or disability service agencies, independent living centers) to conduct required accessible poll site surveys on behalf of the counties/the state, as these organizations will have the most knowledge and competency to determine compliance with accessibility standards and provide recommendations where accessibility is lacking.

Sharon Fong

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