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For Immediate Release

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Statement on the Unofficial Nature of Election Night Returns

The preliminary Election "results" reported on Election Night are just that---preliminary. New York State Election Law requires a complete recanvass of all votes cast on Election Day and the counting of all valid absentee, affidavit, and military ballots before the Election Results can be certified. Effective for the November 5th, 2013 General Election, the Unofficial Election Results will be uploaded wirelessly in order to improve the accuracy of the results that both the public and media have come to rely on.

After the polls close on Election Night, poll workers will shut down the scanner and print out the results tape. They also will remove the Portable Memory Device (PMD) and insert it into a sealed pouch. They will hand the sealed pouch to an NYPD Officer who will take it back to their respective precincts.

At the precinct, the Police Officer will hand over the pouch to the Board's bipartisan team of specially trained Election Night clerks, who will be waiting with equipment to upload the Unofficial Election Results. These poll workers will use RFID scanning technology first to track receipt of the PMDs and then upload the data from these PMDs to the Board's secure servers that will compile the results.

The data will be transmitted to the Board and we will make such unofficial results available to the media and the State Board of Elections. The Board will place running totals at the Board's public hearing room at 42, Broadway, 7th Floor starting at 9pm and on its website as required by law. The website is www.vote.nyc.ny.us

New York State has one of the most meticulous recanvass procedures in the country. New York State Election Law requires all Boards of Elections, within 15 days of the election, to recanvass all votes cast in that election. The recanvass is conducted by bipartisan teams of Board employees. As an extra layer of oversight, representatives of the campaigns involved are notified of the recanvass schedule and invited to monitor the official recanvass and ensure its accuracy. The absentee, military, and affidavit ballots are then opened and tabulated after staff review. The campaigns are once again invited to monitor the opening and counting of these paper ballots (see NYS Election Law, Section 9-208 & 9-209).

After the recanvass, the Board certifies the election result pursuant to and in accordance with the procedures set forth in the applicable portions of New York State Election Law (see NYS Election Law, Article 9, Title II).

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