I've been a poll worker here in Whitestone for the last 9 or so
years. While I didn't observe as many problems with people going to the wrong polling place (as many said yesterday---and of course that's concerning) I do think that there need to be MAJOR reforms in how we hold elections, and how we, as poll workers, are treated and trained.

   First, the hours for voting, and working, are too long. There is NO need (especially now, with early voting) for a primary to start at 6 AM, or to go till 9 PM. Having more sane hours (like 8 AM to 7--8 PM) would really help us, as most of us are just exhausted by the end of the night, and of course we have to stay after that to pack up, count votes (more than once!), etc. For a major election like mayoral, presidential, etc. I can understand having longer hours.

   The MAJOR problem we had in Whitestone was staffing; when I got to the school (PS 193) I saw we didn't have enough people. Apparently some just didn't show up, resulting in some of the ED/AD tables (7 total) having only ONE person, if that. The supervisors did call some people a few hours later to come in, but the woman I was eventually paired with said that she had offered to work & was turned down (or no one called her back)!. I don't understand how this happened---how do you not know the number of people you need & then not have people on stand-by, etc.? It seems there were major communication problems this time (I got a text a few days before the election, telling me to report to Springfield Gardens, nowhere near me! although a corrected text was sent later that day), even though there's now an Election Day Worker site where you can see your assignment, and I always get a phone call a day or so before, just to confirm I'm working. Also, there are several "veterans" like myself who've been doing this for awhile, and pairing one of us with a new person would certainly help things; I'm not sure if that's the current MO. There's also the unpacking/set-up in the morning & the pack-up, tallying and filling out forms after the polls close, both INCREDIBLY chaotic & detailed, and which I still haven't gotten the hang of (involving special envelopes, keys, locking & unlocking materials, etc.). It would greatly help if we all did these TOGETHER---having a leader in front of the room to guide us through EACH step, whether we're at a table or working the scanners, and then making sure each step is followed and completed. When we go for training, they make a point of saying you don't have to remember anything, but EVERY single election we're left on our own to go through the manual, figure out the 50 or so procedures and forms to fill out, before we can open for business or pack up. It just keeps us there later and hinders the whole process.

   As for the ballot, it needs to be re--designed. This doesn't apply to the last election, since there were only 1-2 races, but the one last November was needlessly complicated, and I cannot tell you the number of them that we had to VOID because people kept blacking in more than one candidate, couldn't read it, etc. (granted, some of this was on them). We also had numerous non-English-speaking people who couldn't figure out the ballot (other than finding the Republican line & voting it straight down----which sometimes resulted in those mistakes) and, in this largely-Greek neighborhood, there were NO Greek translators (I literally had to call a couple of voters over to translate for some older people). I don't understand why we have Chinese, Spanish, etc. and not Greek.

   Note that this is not my first time weighing in on this. After the disastrous experiences of the 2018 Election I emailed Kenneth Coughlin at the Board of Elections (I'd called there & they gave me his name, I don't know his title), detailing the broken-down scanners, the complicated ballots (which, at 4 pages, may have led to the scanner problem), the unmanageable crowds, etc. I got an email back, saying partly
   "The BOE fell short on our preparation for the event and the overall
information sharing on Election Day was lacking. Our most capable
Coordinators had difficulties managing staff and the large Voter
turnout. The scanners, ballots and weather all played a role in the wild day
we all experienced at the poll sites. Moving forward we will hopefully

continue to improve and to use the advancements made in Election Technology."

But they haven't (in fact, one scanner didn't even work when we were setting it up at 5 AM). If you want to see this email (granted, it's from a few years ago) please let me know and I can forward it.

Thanks for your consideration, and reply back if you want any further info, etc.

Sincerely,
DAVID GOLDMAN