

**Erie County Board of Elections
134 West Eagle Street
Buffalo, NY 14202**

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Ralph M. Mohr, Commissioner

Dennis E. Ward, Commissioner

March 10, 2011

Hon. Christopher C. Collins
Erie County Executive
95 Franklin Street - 16th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202

Gregory G. Gach
County Budget Director
95 Franklin Street - 16th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street - 4th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202

Hon. Mark C. Poloncarz
Erie County Comptroller
95 Franklin Street - 11th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202

Re: Upcoming Special Election
26th Congressional District

Gentlemen/ Mesdames:

As you are all aware, on May 24, 2011, there will be a special election held for Member of Congress in the 26th Congressional District.

Costs of such a special election are borne 100% by the local county Boards of Elections. Special elections are usually totally unpredictable and thus are never included in budget requests nor in approved budgets for the Board of Elections. Such is the case for this one, as well.

The Erie County Board of Elections has endeavored to significantly reduce the cost of operations over the past few years. All of New York State has seen the advent of a new (and more expensive) optical scan voting system, to meet compliance requirements for the 2002 Federal "Help America Vote Act" (HAVA). We are one of only two counties which have already implemented our own in-house ballot printing on demand system – which has allowed us to actually cut the cost of ballot printing while other counties are bearing significantly higher costs. In fact, as you probably recall, we were able to actually propose for this year a budget containing a 15% reduction in the department's total cost.

Nonetheless, the cost of this special election was in no way anticipated or budgeted for in this year's approved spending. We estimate that such additional out of pocket cost will be about \$100,000.

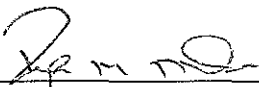
At this time, we are not requesting any additional funding. We will attempt to absorb such costs in the existing approved budget by way of a shifting of priorities and some possible deferral of other expenditures. Since in recent years, we have always attempted (and succeeded in) coming in under our overall budget, hopefully we can absorb such unanticipated expenditures within the current budgetary allocation.

However, we do want to put you on notice that in the event that it is not entirely possible, we may need to request some additional supplemental funding later in the year. We hope that it will not be necessary, though at the very least, there may be a need to request some transfers within existing budget lines.

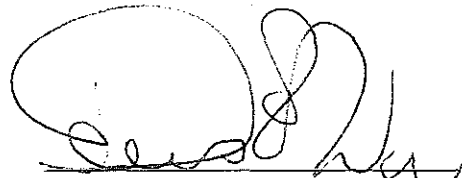
We will do our best to stay within our budget all the while recognizing our statutory and constitutional duties to safeguard the electoral process in Erie County.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, or to have us appear before the Legislature, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Very Truly Yours,



Ralph M. Mohr, Commissioner



Dennis E. Ward, Commissioner