



Board of Elections | The City of New York

Annual Report 2008



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The Board is headed by ten Commissioners, two from each borough representing both major political parties for a term of four years approved by the New York City Council...

...A similar bipartisan arrangement of over 316 deputies, clerks and other personnel insures that no one party controls the Board of Elections. The Board appoints an executive staff consisting of an Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director and other senior staff managers charged with the responsibility to oversee the operations of the Board on a daily basis. Together, the executive and support staffs provide a wide range of electoral services to residents in Manhattan, The Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island.

The Commissioners of Elections meet every Tuesday at the Executive Office, in addition to the special hearings, legislative sessions and specific issue-oriented meetings (electronic voting, election legislation, labor management, rules and budget) during the calendar year.

Commissioners of Elections in the City of New York

	BOROUGH	PARTY
ANTHONY COMO	Queens	Republican
TERRENCE C. O'CONNOR	Queens	Democrat
JAMES J. SAMPel, PRESIDENT	Staten Island	Democrat
MARYANN YENNELLA	Staten Island	Republican
NANCY MOTTOLA - SCHACHER	Brooklyn	Republican
JULIE DENT	Brooklyn	Democrat
NERO GRAHAM JR.	Bronx	Democrat
JUAN CARLOS J.C. POLANCO	Bronx	Republican
GREGORY C. SOUMAS	Manhattan	Democrat
FREDERIC M. UMANE, SECRETARY	Manhattan	Republican



From left to right (top row):
Juan Carlos J.C. Polanco, Frederic M. Umane,
Gregory C. Soumas, Nero Graham Jr.,
Nancy Mottola-Schacher, Julie Dent
(bottom row):
Maryann Yennella, Anthony Como,
James J. Sampel, Terrence C. O'Connor

Mission Statement



The Board of Elections in the City of New York, as provided under Section 3-200 of the New York State Election Law, is responsible:

- 1. To conduct fair and honest elections, from local to federal levels;**
- 2. To enfranchise all eligible New Yorkers to register to vote and to practice those rights;**
- 3. To conduct elections, certify the canvass and to retain the official records;**
- 4. Voter outreach and education.**

Briefly stated, this means:

First, the preparation of the ballot for Primary, Special and General Elections to the extent that all vacancies for public office and party positions may be filled.

Second, that qualified voters may exercise their right to franchise and that every opportunity be given to voters to execute that right and to vote for whom they choose.

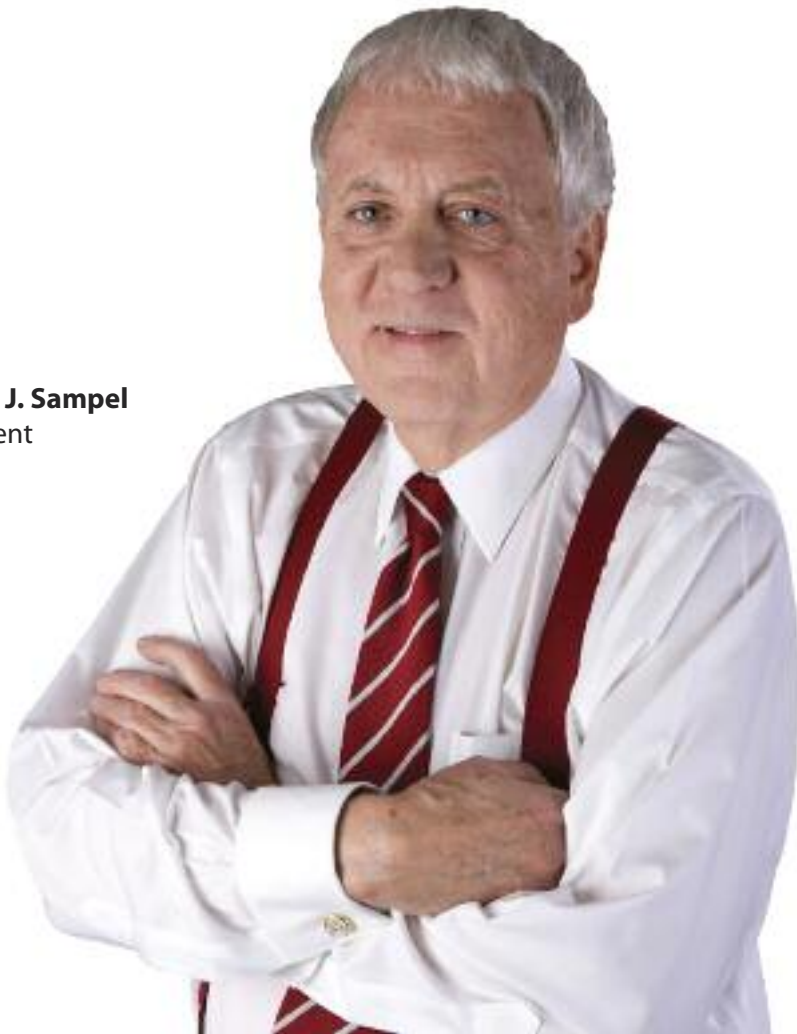
Third, that the votes of the electorate at Primary, Special and General Elections be properly canvassed and that a true count be given for each candidate voted for.

Finally, that we make every effort to inform and educate the voting public of their rights as a voter and also to reach out to all Americans to instruct them in the voting process.

The following pages of this report will illustrate some of the duties as classified in the above synopsis.

President's Message

James J. Sampel
President



It has been my privilege to serve the people of the City of New York as one of the City's ten Election Commissioners. In 2008, as President of the Board of Elections, I interacted on a daily basis with dedicated public servants who have affirmed my conviction that the Board of Elections is an agency with which the people of the City of New York may take pride.

2008 was an historically remarkable year for many reasons. At the Board of Elections, 2008 was remarkable as a year during which four separate election events were conducted. The first election event was the Presidential Primary on February 5th, followed by a City Council Special Election on June 3rd, a Party Primary Election on September 9th, and the last election event was the November 4 General Election. In 2008, more than 4 million votes were cast by New Yorkers.

At the General Election of 2008, approximately 2.64 million people voted during the course of a 15 hour voting day. That breaks down to 2,889 people voting every minute, or 48 people per second, historic high voter turnout numbers. On Election Day votes were cast at 1,349 poll sites staffed by more than 36,600 poll workers, including 5,700 poll workers trained to assist voters using handicapped accessible Ballot Marking Devices. In addition, nearly 1,900 Spanish, Chinese, and Korean language interpreters were deployed to the various poll sites to assist voters. The Board of Elections' phone bank, staffed by 58 operators at two separate call centers, assisted 20,573 callers on Election Day. In addition, 111,715 people visited the Board's web site the day before Election Day and 101,651 used the poll site locator. On Election Day itself, 111,134 people visited the web site and 96,196 used the poll site locator.

During the period commencing January 1, 2008 through October 10, 2008 (the last day to register to vote in the 2008 General Election), the Board received and processed more than 700,000 new voter registration forms. By contrast, the Board received approximately 253,000 in all of 2007.

The 2008 voter turnout numbers are historic not only for the fact that they are the highest voter turnout numbers in the history of New York City, but also because this election was likely the last election in New York City to be conducted through the use of our existing 60 year old mechanical lever voting machine. The fact that 2.64 million people were able to cast their ballot for the General Election using a voting machine, a machine deemed to be a stone age relic in use during the electronic era, is evidence that the Board of Elections, its employees, and poll site personnel performed admirably in administering this election.

GREGORY C. SOUMAS ESQ., Commissioner

Gregory Soumas is the New York City Board of Elections Democratic representative from Manhattan and was appointed by the New York City Council in 2005.

Mr. Soumas graduated from Syracuse University with a bachelor of arts degree in political science and earned a juris doctor degree from Suffolk University Law School in Boston, MA.

A native New Yorker, Mr. Soumas was born in Manhattan and raised in the Riverdale section of the Bronx. He currently lives on the Upper West Side of Manhattan with his wife, Robin. He has been a Democratic Party district leader since he was first elected in 2002.



Manhattan

FREDERIC M. UMANE ESQ., Commissioner

Frederic M. Umane has served as a commissioner of the New York City Board of Elections since 1995. A Republican from Manhattan, he was president of the Board during the 2005 mayoral election and has been active in local politics for more than twenty years.

An attorney, Mr. Umane is a partner at Zeichner Ellman and Krause and heads the firm's transactional banking, corporate and real estate group. He has substantial experience in bank regulatory matters and issues involving mortgage fraud, automobile and hotel finances.

Mr. Umane is admitted to the practice of law in New York State and the federal courts. He is an active member of the American Bar Association as well as the Associations of the Bar of the City of New York and New York State.

He received his J.D. from Albany Law School and his B.A from Union University. Mr. Umane is married to Susan Umane and they have two children, Ryan and Bradley.





NERO GRAHAM Jr., Commissioner

In 2001, the New York City Council elected Nero Graham Jr. to be the Democratic commissioner for the Bronx County Board of Elections. In 2004, his colleagues elected him to serve as president of the New York City Board of Elections for that year.

For 28 years, Mr. Graham worked for the New York City Fire Department's Emergency Medical Services, retiring as its chief in 1999. He has won numerous awards and citations, among them a proclamation from the City of New York declaring June 23, 1988 as "Nero Graham Jr. Day." Mr. Graham is the President of the Mount Hope Housing Corporation.

Mr. Graham was one of the founders of the Morris Avenue Block and Tenants' Patrol which grew into the Morris Avenue Community Action Program. He serves on the boards of the Bronx Heritage Society, Inc. and Latinos Making a Difference, Inc.

Bronx



JUAN CARLOS "J.C." POLANCO ESQ., MBA, Commissioner

J.C. (Juan Carlos) Polanco is the New York City Board of Elections Republican representative from Bronx County and was appointed by the New York City Council in 2007.

Mr. Polanco presently serves as director of the New York City Regional Office for State Assembly Minority Leader James N. Tedisco. He is the principal of Polanco Law, PLLC and is licensed to practice law in the states of New York and New Jersey. He is a real estate broker for the Polanco Organization, LLC. In addition, Mr. Polanco is an adjunct professor at Boricua College and CUNY/Borough of Manhattan Community College, where he specializes in ethnic studies, history and political science.

Previously, Mr. Polanco spent three years teaching social studies at Harry S. Truman High School in the Bronx. He earned his bachelor's degree in History / Political Science from The State University of New York. In 2005, as a night student, he completed a Juris Doctor and a master of business administration degree at Fordham University.

A member of the New York Republican State Committee, Mr. Polanco serves as executive district leader for the 80th Assembly District and is a vice president of the GOP in Bronx County.

Mr. Polanco lives with his wife, Sandra, and their two children, Savannah and Sebastian, in the Morris Park section of the Bronx.

JAMES J. SAMPEL ESQ., Commissioner

James J. Sampel is the Staten Island Democratic representative and was appointed by the New York City Council in 2005.

An attorney, Mr. Sampel opened his own firm, Sampel & Nalley, Esqs., in 1987 where he focuses on civil, criminal and matrimonial law.

After Mr. Sampel graduated from high school in 1957, he joined the U.S. Army where he served in Germany for two years. He was honorably discharged in 1960.

Mr. Sampel spent three decades in the New York City Police Department. After rising to the rank of detective in the Organized Crime Control Bureau, he attended college and law school. In 1979, he was assigned as a prosecutor in the Police Department's Advocates' Office and ended his service in the Staten Island Detective Area – Crimes Against Property Squad.

Mr. Sampel graduated magna cum laude from City University of New York, John Jay College of Criminal Justice and earned his J.D. from Fordham University School of Law. He is admitted to the practice of law in New York State and the federal courts. He is married to Mel Chamberlain and has two children, Michael and Allison, and is the proud grandfather to Matthew, Taylor and Steven.



Staten Island

MARYANN YENNELLA, Commissioner

MaryAnn Yennella is the New York City Board of Elections Republican representative from Staten Island. She was appointed by the City Council in 2004.

Ms. Yennella has served the Board of Elections in the City of New York and the people of Staten Island since 1976. Prior to her appointment as Republican Commissioner, Ms. Yennella was the Staten Island Deputy Chief. As Deputy Chief, Ms. Yennella ensured the Board's compliance with election law, judicial and executive orders and any Commissioners' directives.

Ms. Yennella enjoys baking and cartooning. Ms. Yennella has two daughters, Michelle Cascio wife of John Cascio and Alexandra Lundberg wife of Eric Lundberg. Ms. Yennella is the proud grandmother of Sara & Michael Cascio and Alyssa Lundberg.





NANCY MOTTOLA-SCHACHER ESQ., Commissioner

Nancy Mottola-Schacher is the New York City Board of Elections Republican representative from Kings County and was appointed by the New York City Council in 2001.

An attorney, Ms. Mottola-Schacher has served as the law judge for the New York State Workers' Compensation Board. She was the law secretary for Judge Joseph Soviero and served as the senior attorney for the New York State Mental Health Information Service, second Judicial Department.

Ms. Mottola-Schacher earned her B.A. from St. John's University and her J.D. from St. John's Law School.

She has been the president of the Brooklyn Women's Bar Association and was named the Kings County "Republican of the Year for Community Service" by the Brownstone Republican Club. Ms. Mottola-Schacher has been honored with the national achievement A.M.I.T.A. award as the most distinguished American woman of Italian descent in the field of law.

She was also named Republican of the year by the Kings County Republican party in 2001.

Brooklyn



JULIE DENT, Commissioner

Julie Dent was appointed to the New York City Board of Elections in July 2007 as the Democratic commissioner representing Kings County.

A community activist, counselor and teacher, Ms. Dent is the executive and educational director of the Audrey Johnson DayCare center and chairs the local Community Board where the preschool is located. She is a former Executive Board member of School Board District 32, the former vice chairperson on the Advisory Board of Woodhull Hospital and she has collaborated with the New York City Police Department and Citizen Committee of New York to engage youth in responding to the needs of the elderly in the community.

Ms. Dent is listed in *Who's Who in American Education* and *Who's Who of American Women*. She has been honored by the Professional Association of Day Care Directors, the New York City Council and the Federation of Protestant Welfare, Inc, NY State Senate, NY State Assembly, Brooklyn District Attorney, Former Mayor Giuliani and current Mayor Michael Bloomberg. She is also the recipient of the 2007 National Association of Childcare Professionals.

Ms. Dent has earned a M.S. degree with honors in education from City College of New York. She and received her bachelor's degree from Empire State College in Saratoga Springs, NY and associate's degree from the Borough of Manhattan Community College.

ANTHONY COMO ESQ., Commissioner

Anthony Como is the New York City Board of Elections Commissioner from Queens County and was appointed by the New York City Council in 2005.

An attorney, Mr. Como opened his own law office in Queens County after four years as a prosecutor in the Queens District Attorney's office. Following an unsuccessful run for the New York State Assembly, Mr. Como was appointed to the Board of Elections. He is also chief counsel to State Senator Serphin R. Maltese of the New York State 15th Senate District.

Mr. Como is a member of the boards of directors of the Peter Cardella Senior Center in Ridgewood, Queens, Italian Charities of America, Christ the King Regional High School and the Italian American Federal Credit Union

He received his B.A. from Queens College and his J.D. from Hofstra University School of Law. Mr. Como was admitted to the New York State Bar in 2001.

Mr. Como is married to Tiziana Como, a school psychologist who helps young children with disabilities.



Queens

TERRENCE C. O'CONNOR ESQ., Commissioner

Terrence C. O'Connor, a Democrat, is one of two New York City Board of Elections commissioners from Queens County and was first appointed in 1998.

An attorney, Mr. O'Connor has practiced in his own firm since 1983. His prior experience includes serving as counsel to New York State Assemblyman Saul Weprin, law secretary to Queens County Administrative Judge Francis X. Smith and as an assistant district attorney in Queens County.

Mr. O'Connor received his bachelor's degree from Fordham University and his J.D. from St. John's University School of Law.

In 2001, he was named "Attorney of the Year" by the Catholic Lawyer's Guild of Queens County. He is the chairman of the Board of Directors of that organization and is the past president of both the Fordham University, College at Lincoln Center Alumni Association and the Saint Patrick's Society of Queens County. He is a member of the New State and Queens County Bar Association.

Mr. O'Connor is the President of the Continental Regular Democratic Club.

His wife, Sheila, is a health insurance consultant and they have two grown children, Siobhan and Daniel.



Executive Management



MARCUS CEDERQVIST
Executive Director



GEORGE GONZALEZ
Deputy Executive Director



PAMELA GREEN PERKINS
Administrative Manager

Senior Staff

JOSEPH LARocca

Coordinator of Candidate Records Unit

VALERIE VAZQUEZ-RIVERA

Director of Communications & Public Affairs

BETH FOSSELLA

Coordinator of Voter Registration Activities

ROSANNA KOSTAMOULAS RAHMOUNI

Coordinator of Election Day Operations

JOHN P. O'GRADY

Chief Voting Machine Technician

NICHOLAS SQUICCIARINI

Facilities Manager

ELLIOT B. BORACK

Agency Chief Contracting Officer

LUCILLE GRIMALDI

Director of Electronic Voting Systems

DOROTHY DELAYO

Director of Personnel/Records Management Officer

JOHN WARD

Finance Officer

STEVEN H. RICHMAN

General Counsel

STEVEN FERGUSON

Director of Management Information Services

CHARLES WEBB, III, STEVEN DENKBERG

Counsels to the Commissioners

Borough Offices

MANHATTAN

200 Varick Street, New York, NY 10014
(212) 886-2100

TROY JOHNSON
Chief Clerk

TIMOTHY GAY
Deputy Chief Clerk



BRONX

1780 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10457
(718) 299-9017

DAWN SANDOW
Deputy Chief Clerk

ANNA TORRES
Deputy Chief Clerk



BROOKLYN

345 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201
(718) 797-8800

DIANE HASLETT-RUDIANO
Chief Clerk

MARYROSE SATTIE
Deputy Chief Clerk



Borough Offices Cont'd

QUEENS

126-06 Queens Blvd, Kew Gardens, NY 11415
(718) 730-6730

BARBARA CONACCHIO
Chief Clerk

KATHERINE JAMES
Deputy Chief Clerk



STATEN ISLAND

1 Edgewater Plaza, 4th Fl., Staten Island, NY 10305
(718) 876-0079

SHEILA DELGIORNO
Chief Clerk

ANTHONY ANDRIULLI
Deputy Chief Clerk



Candidate Records Unit



JOSEPH LAROCCA
Coordinator, Candidate Records Unit

The Candidate Records Unit (CRU) of the Board of Elections in the City of New York is responsible for the receiving, recording, processing and tracking of all candidate and objector document filings as well as ballot production for Primary, General and Special Election Events.

The CRU staff maintains candidate status on all these items in order to ensure an accurate ballot. The staff prepares, reviews, updates and corrects errors identified on all proofs of voting machine and paper (absentee, military, Ballot Marking Device, and standby emergency) ballots.

The unit is also responsible for receiving, recording and monitoring candidate compliance documents as part of the Campaign Financial Disclosure requirements. CRU received 2,331 financial disclosure reports from various candidates, political party committees and political action committees in 2008. Non-compliant candidates and committees are reported to the Commissioners of Elections, who instruct the Agency Enforcement Officer to begin legal proceedings against those in violation.

2008 DESIGNATING AND INDEPENDENT NOMINATING PETITIONS RECEIVED

	Designating	Independent
Petitions Received	3,770	22
Challenged	346	8
Specifications Filed	137	6
Found Invalid by Board	116	9

Communications and Public Affairs



VALERIE VAZQUEZ-RIVERA
Director of Communications and
Public Affairs

MEDIA/PRESS

The Communications Department works closely with the working press, radio and television stations to assist them with any information they need pertaining to election, candidate information and other election related subjects. This year, we continued the dissemination of information by distributing information kits to members of the press and any other interested groups that requested them. These kits contained a poll site list and any pertinent press releases.

OUTREACH

The Outreach Team, comprised of staff from each of the boroughs, continued its agenda of visiting various organizations and community groups that request our presence. We visited public and private school providing school auditorium programs and individual classroom instruction, neighborhood block associations, health fairs and local civic organizations.

LEGAL NOTICES

In accordance with New York State election law, legal notices were placed in newspapers one week before the election. These ads contained the names, addresses and political party affiliation of each candidate running in every election throughout the city. Ads were also placed the day before the election and the day of the election that contained the date of election as well as the hours that the polls are open. We also placed a full page ad informing the public of the availability of the Ballot Marking Device at their respective Borough Super Poll Site.

Voter Registration



BETH FOSSELLA
Coordinator, Voter Registration

As the Coordinator of the Voter Registration Department, I am, along with my staff, responsible for all activities that pertain to registering people to vote in the five boroughs of New York. This includes:

- Overseeing the Boroughs' responsibility to maintain the records of all registered voters. The total number of registered voters in the City of New York as of November 1, 2008 was 4,614,932 according to the New York State Board of Elections Data Base.
- Reaching out to all eligible voters in the City of New York and making them aware of the importance of being a registered voter and how much their vote counts. This is accomplished by:
 1. conducting registration drive at various community activities (street fairs, work fairs, community organization meetings, senior citizen community centers, etc.)
 2. visiting the high schools within the city informing students who are going to be eligible to vote, how important it is to be a registered voter
 3. distributing voter registration materials to the public. It is to be noted that all voter registration material is translated, in accordance to law, in the four languages – English, Spanish, Chinese and Korean.
- Providing and ensuring that all voter registration material is updated in accordance with New York State Law and that it is translated into the four languages required by the Department of Justice: English, Spanish, Chinese, and Korean.
- Updating all voter registration material and information on the Board of Elections' web site and that it is provided in these four languages.

CODE 9 – AGENCY REGISTRATION

In accordance with Local Law 29 of 2000, the Board of Elections coordinates with twenty City agencies to provide voter registration forms to any individuals that the agency encounters throughout the course of their regular operations. The Board supplies these agencies with voter registration forms, display boxes, booklets, and posters in English, Spanish, Chinese, and Korean. The Board distributed 299,250 of these "Code 9" registrations to the various City agencies in 2008.

Voter Registration Cont'd

CODE D – CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK (CUNY)

There is a special voter registration form that contains a special “Code D” demarcation and is distributed to the various schools of the City University of New York (CUNY) system. This special form helps the Board and CUNY track how many registrations originate from the efforts with CUNY. The Board distributed 109,000 Code D registration forms to CUNY in 2008.

LIBRARIES AND POST OFFICES

The Board of Elections regularly distributes registration forms and other materials to libraries and post offices throughout New York City.

In 2008, the Board distributed a total of 50,500 registration forms to 202 libraries and 61,500 forms to 246 post offices.

2008 REGISTRATION SUMMARY FROM ALL SOURCES

FORMS RECEIVED BY EXECUTIVE OFFICE	787,664
NEW REGISTRANTS PROCESSED	501,359
MOVED WITHIN CITY PROCESSED	308,352
ENROLLMENT CHANGES	116,407
NAME CHANGES	85,951
DUPLICATE REGISTRATIONS	13,842

2008 CANCELLATIONS

TOTAL REGISTRATIONS CANCELLED	58,450
CANCEL NOTICES SENT TO COUNTIES OUTSIDE NYC	37,943
CANCEL NOTICES FOR OTHER STATES	13,041

2008 GENERAL INFORMATION

MILITARY VOTERS ON FILE	8,604
PERMANENT ABSENTEE/DISABLED VOTERS ON FILE	30,770
SPECIAL FEDERAL VOTERS ON FILE	41,574
INACTIVE VOTERS (AS OF 12/31/2008)	435,637

Election Day Operations / Poll Site Management



ROSANNA KOSTAMOULAS RAHMOUNI
Coordinator, Election Day Operations

POLL WORKER RECRUITMENT AND OUTREACH

This department is charged with the responsibility for the recruiting, training, placing and tracking the performance of approximately 90,840 individuals who “man” the polls and serve voters on Election Day. There are several different Poll Worker positions varying in qualifications and degrees of responsibility:

COORDINATORS are placed in polling sites with multiple Election Districts (EDs) and serve as the managers for the poll site to troubleshoot any problems and ensure that voters receive courteous, prompt and proper service.

INFORMATION CLERKS are placed at sites with multiple EDs to help direct and guide voters to their correct voting districts and/ poll sites by using street directories and poll site lists.

DOOR CLERKS are assigned to polling places with alternate handicapped accessible entrances where the doors cannot remain open or assistance is required.

INSPECTORS and **POLL CLERKS** are the backbone of the Board’s Election Day workforce. There are four **INSPECTORS** at each Election District or board, two enrolled Democrats and two Republicans – a system of “checks and balances” that is required by New York State Election Law. **POLL CLERKS** are similarly divided and are mainly used to help speed along the voting process in EDs where there are more than 750 registered voters. The poll clerks collect the cards from the voters and adjust the party lever on the side of the voting machine to activate the proper Primary ballot that reflects the political party enrollment of the voter. These individuals may also stand in for Inspectors when there are vacancies.

INTERPRETERS assist voters with limited English proficiency at poll sites in various neighborhoods in New York City and are a major component of the Board’s Language Assistance Program. The Board provides Spanish, Chinese (Cantonese/Mandarin) and Korean Interpreters in targeted areas in conjunction with the plan based on recent census data.

Election Day Operations / Poll Site Management Cont'd

A.D. POLL SITE MONITORS are a group of specially trained Poll Workers that monitor an Assembly District on Election Day. They are rapidly dispatched to address and correct any problems at poll sites within their districts.

While the Coordinators, Inspectors and Poll Clerks are required by law to be both a citizen and registered voter, the Information Clerks, Interpreters and Door Clerks do not have such a requirement. County Committee applicants make up a great portion of the total complement needed to staff the polls but thousands of positions still must be filled. To this end the Board trains and assigns poll workers recruited from various sources, including the City University of New York and numerous civic and advocacy groups. Poll worker applicants also submit forms obtained from the Board's phone bank, web site and the Borough Offices or by indicating interest in serving when completing their voter registration applications.

POLL WORKER TRAINING AND INITIATIVES

During 2008, eighty four Adjunct Trainers conducted Poll Worker training by conducting 2,463 classes at 77 sites throughout New York City. These four hour classes train the poll workers to use the Poll Worker Manual, visual aids, various voter information forms and materials used in elections. Also included in the training session in 2008 in addition to a demonstration of the mechanical voting machine was a demonstration of the new AutoMARK ballot marking device. In total, the Board trained 43,097 poll workers in 2008. Although the Board did not receive the resources it sought to man these BMDs with poll workers dedicated specifically to assist voters who wished to use them, we were able to train 7,664 poll workers to assist voters on the BMDs in addition to their myriad other responsibilities on Election Day. We also produced laminated materials on using the BMD that were available at all poll sites.

The Poll Worker Manual contains a section concerning diversity and incorporates the customer service training from the poll worker classes. The Board also recently

produced VOTE-NOTES, a quick reference tool the Poll Workers to use on Election Day. The Board's poll worker training video is accessible on our web site, enabling poll workers to log on and brush up on procedures before an election. Poll site signage has been reworked to provide voter information and assistance in all four mandated languages. These multi-language materials include the "How To Use The Voting Machine" stickers located in the voting machines, laminated handouts and the NYS Voters Bill of Rights.

NURSING HOMES PROGRAM

The Board of Elections provides special services to Nursing Care Residential Facilities and their occupants. During the 2008 Primary and General Elections, Board staff made 238 visits to Nursing Home facilities and delivered 9,019 absentee ballots to residents of these facilities.

2008 ELECTIONS

There were 112,813 positions established for the Presidential Primary Election, City Council Special Election, Primary Election and General Election. There were 90,840 applicants who were assigned and worked one of these elections. There were also 4,099 standby poll workers that were dispatched and worked during the 2008 elections.

EDO HAVA DEPARTMENT

This department was newly created in 2008 to help educate voters, Adjunct Trainers & Poll Workers on the BMD. These staff members organized and performed numerous demonstrations of the BMD throughout the year in all five boroughs of New York City. They also created a "BMD Poll Clerk Guide" for the Poll Workers and a similar voter guide. Finally, they were instrumental in training and testing both the Adjunct Trainers and the Election Day stand-by poll workers on the BMD.

Election Day Operations / Poll Site Management Cont'd

2008 POLL WORKER COVERAGE ANALYSIS

	Presidential Primary	6/3 Special Election	Primary Election	General Election
A.D. Monitors	259	8	221	372
Coordinators	1,515	37	1,194	1,548
Inspectors	19,932	350	15,908	21,440
Poll Clerks	4,083	14	1,827	6,345
Information Clerks	1,513	27	1,328	3,204
Door Clerks	1,138	41	1,022	1,568
Spanish Interpreter	911	22	810	1,138
Chinese Interpreter	625	26	513	646
Korean Interpreter	625	1	102	122

Voting Equipment Operations Department



JOHN P. O'GRADY
Chief Voting Machine Technician

The Board's aggressive maintenance program in 2008 for the 45 year old mechanical voting machines resulted in strong performance results for all three major citywide election events where they were deployed – the Presidential Primary, Primary, and General Elections. There were 18,492 machine deployments between all of these elections and over 3.6 million votes cast on the machines. Of these, only 32 machines were replaced during the course of an election day with an incident rate of 8.26% (total number of necessary incidents reported divided by the total number of machines deployed).

We continue to enhance our fleet management system to more efficiently record all Election Day incident reports, dispatch staff, and record incident resolutions. In 2008, over 7,800 calls were recorded into the system and addressed by our staff. The Board continued to improve its response time for Election Day trouble calls.

In 2008, the Board of Elections received and tested 1,798 Ballot Marking Devices (BMD) for use at poll sites in New York City. Under a federal court order, at least one BMD was used in each of the city's poll site during the Primary and General Elections. The Board's 65 voting machine technicians were trained to use the new technology. For these elections, the technicians were responsible for setting up, testing, and deploying machines twice – once on the mechanical voting machines and once of the electronic Ballot Marking Devices.

	Presidential Primary	6/3 Special Election	Primary Election	General Election
Machines deployed	6,293	102	4,748	7,451
Incident reports	1,045	4	317	1,752
Unnecessary reports (false calls)	0	0	0	0
Poll sites used	1,324	29	1,135	1,349
Poll sites opened on time (6:00AM)	99.7%	100%	99.0%	98.3%
Poll sites opened late	4	0	11	23
Other poll site related calls	129	5	126	126
Poll sites with a BMD	5	0	1,135	1,349
BMDs deployed	23	0	1,156	1,434
Complaints regarding BMDs	19	0	258	435

Facilities Operations



NICHOLAS SQUICCIARINI
Facilities Manager

In 2008, the Board of Elections moved forward in acquiring additional facilities to store the new Ballot Marking Devices (BMD) that were deployed to every poll site throughout New York City for the 2008 Primary and General Elections. Working with the City's Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS), the Board was able to acquire a new facility at 5112 Second Avenue in Brooklyn to serve as both a short-term facility for the BMDs in 2008 and eventually as the long-term consolidated Voting Machine Facility for Brooklyn.

The Board was also able to use a vacant City-owned building located at 1932 Arthur Avenue in the Bronx to serve as a short-term facility to deploy the BMDs in that borough. In Queens, additional space was acquired adjacent to the current Voting Machine Facility, located at 66-26 Metropolitan Avenue, to accommodate the BMDs. This space was not upgraded prior to occupancy and presented many challenges in setting up the new electronic machines for Election Day. Both the Manhattan and Staten Island Voting Machine Facilities were reconfigured to accommodate the additional BMDs.

Procurement Department



ELLIOT B. BORACK
Agency Chief Contracting Officer, CPPB

The function of the Procurement Department is to monitor and oversee all Board of Elections spending and contracting for goods and services, and to ensure compliance with the New York City Procurement Policy Board Rules (known as the PPB).

The PPB was developed to ensure that all city agencies' procurement practices are uniform in application; and provide fair and equitable treatment to all persons doing business with the city.

VENDOR DATABASE

The Board's vendor database continues to expand. Financial Management System has provided access to a wider range of vendors. The Board continues to look for ways to increase competition for goods and services and cost savings to the agency.

VENDEX CONTRACTOR PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS

All Board of Elections' contracts are evaluated annually and several are reviewed twice a year. The evaluations provided positive responses to vendors, and helped the Board quickly identify vendors that did not fulfill their contractual responsibilities.

MONITORING CONTRACTORS

Since the inception of this program in 1996, the Boards' contractors' damages to Board owned equipment continues to decrease significantly. This monitoring continues to save the Board money and improves the overall quality of service from contractors.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (FMS) PROCUREMENT PROJECT

The department continues to participate in the citywide training for the Financial Management System known as FMS. Although the system is operational, enhancements are on-going for adjustments to accommodate additional procurement needs and new ideas.

Electronic Voting Systems Department



LUCILLE GRIMALDI
Director, Electronic Voting Systems

The Electronic Voting Systems Department (EVS) is responsible for technical support for the Board's computerized voting systems. These currently include the central scanning and tabulation system for affidavit, emergency and absentee ballots and the management system for ballot marking devices. EVS prepares these systems for an election by populating them with an election's specific parameters and ballot elements. EVS also prepares, tests and coordinates the canvass functions related to these systems.

The affidavit, emergency and absentee ballot central scanning system, the Sequoia TeamWork system, has been in use since its introduction in 2000 and was used in three elections conducted in 2008 – the Presidential Primary in February, the September Primary Election and the November General Election. The Avante Vote-Trakker Ballot Marking Device (BMD), which had been used in the Primary and General Elections of 2006 and 2007 at the borough office "Super Poll Sites," was used in the 2008 February Presidential Primary at these sites as well. A new BMD, the ES&S AutoMARK, was introduced in the 2008 Primary and General Elections for use at each poll site throughout the city.

The central scanning system processed just under 270,000 affidavit, emergency and absentee ballots. The bulk of these – about 214,000 ballots – were from the November General Election. Just over 900 ballots were cast on the BMDs at the borough office "Super Poll Sites" in the February Presidential Primary, while just over 800 ballots were cast on the BMDs at the poll sites in the September Primary. Almost 9,000 BMD ballots were cast in the November General Election.

Prior to the selection, the Board issued a Request for Information and set in motion the Selection Plan that the Commissioners adopted in 2006. EVS and the project team reviewed the responses to the RFI and the Board's Evaluation Team evaluated and rated the equipment. There were demonstrations of the various Ballot Marking Devices for Board staff, the Commissioners and the public and the Commissioners held a hearing to solicit input from the public before they made their selection. Following the selection of the new Ballot Marking Device, EVS worked extensively with ES&S right up to the Election to bring the new system into conformance with requirements for elections in New York City.

Another selection process began toward the end of 2008 to select a new voting system that will replace the city's aging mechanical lever voting machines.

Personnel and Records Management



DOROTHY DELAYO
Director of Personnel/
Records Management Officer

The Director of Personnel processes all new employees upon their appointment. In addition to various documents, the Director of Personnel advises all new employees of their responsibilities and requirements. Picture identification cards are issued to all employees during their orientation.

The Director of Personnel is directly responsible for maintaining and updating health benefits, pension, management benefits fund, deferred compensation as well as other NYC benefits. Additional responsibilities include serving as liaison to the New York City Law Department in filing and maintaining all Workers' Compensation claims.

It is also this department's responsibility to work directly with the NYC Office of Safety and Health to maintain a safe and healthy work environment for all employees.

Other direct responsibilities include serving as Employee Assistance Programs officer in referring employees with needs to counseling programs. The number of employees entering the Employee Assistance Programs and details concerning the nature of their needs remains confidential to ensure a level of trust is maintained that will encourage employees to feel comfortable about seeking help. All employees are urged to avail themselves of this benefit.

The Director of Personnel also holds the title of Equal Employment Opportunity Commission officer responsible for ensuring all referable laws are enforced. Investigations are conducted as required when complaints are filed.

It is the standard operating procedure of this agency that a fact-finding inquiry be conducted to determine what action, if any, should be taken in cases of harassment charges being filed. That inquiry will be conducted with the Director of Personnel and General Counsel serving as the panel.

The responsibility of discipline also falls to the Director of Personnel. The Personnel Guidelines must be updated as needed and all rules and regulations are enforced through the disciplinary process by the Director of Personnel. Investigations and hearings are conducted as required. Disciplinary hearings are conducted and actions taken under direction of the Commissioners of Elections. Determinations of such hearings varied from termination to various levels of probation and/or suspensions.

The job responsibilities also require substantial travel around the city to visit all offices and voting machine facilities as needed, at times with only a moment's notice.

The Director of Personnel also serves as the Records Management Officer for the agency. These responsibilities include monitoring the storage and disposal of all records in all media and responding to Freedom of Information requests.



JOHN WARD
Finance Officer

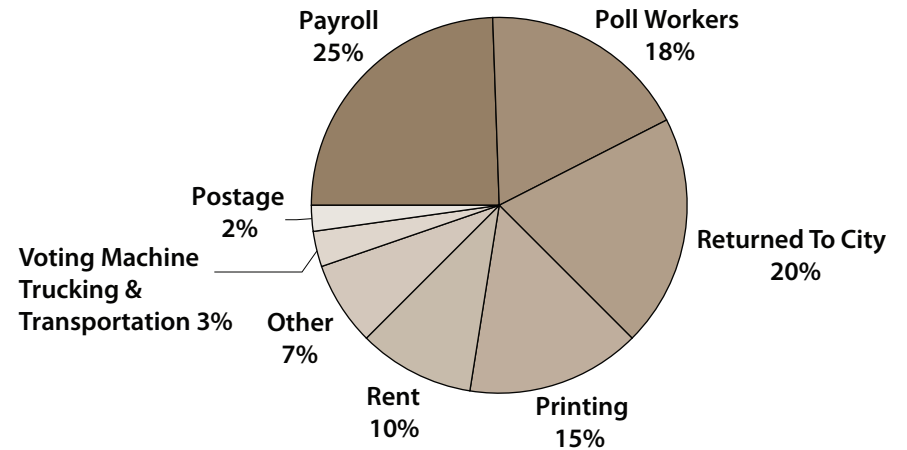
FY08 BUDGET HIGHLIGHT

The City's Fiscal Year 2008 (FY08) began on July 1, 2007 and concluded on June 30, 2008. There were three citywide election events during FY08. In addition to the 2007 September Primary and November General Elections, the Board conducted a Presidential Primary Election in February 2008.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

	FY08 Adopted Budget	FY08 Final Budget
Personnel Services	21,511,036	24,725,270
Other Than Personnel Services	79,353,248	63,088,728
Total	100,864,284	87,813,998
Full Time Staff	351	

BOARD OF ELECTIONS BUDGET BREAKDOWN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008



General Counsel



STEVEN H. RICHMAN
General Counsel

The General Counsel provides legal counsel to the Commissioners of Elections and to the Board's executive staff on a wide range of matters relating to ballot access, the conduct of elections, and governmental agency administration.

ADMINISTRATION

General Counsel drafts for consideration and adoption by the Commissioners all election calendars. General Counsel drafts for consideration and adoption by the Commissioners proposed Rules for Designating and Independent Nominating Petitions. In addition, General Counsel recommends to the Commissioners revisions of formal Board policies and procedures to insure legal compliance.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

General Counsel regularly monitors all legislative and judicial action that impacts election administration and advises the Commissioners on all legal developments affecting the administration of elections, including statutory compliance with State and Federal mandates related to the Voting Rights Act and the Help America Vote Act and related judicial directives. In addition, General Counsel drafts for consideration by the Commissioners the Board's annual proposal of legislative amendments for presentation to, and consideration by, the State legislative leaders.

COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

General Counsel advises the Commissioners on all elements of the Board's compliance with the federal Voting Rights Act. Any change in election administration affecting voter election participation in a covered county* must be approved in advance by the Department of Justice. To ensure compliance with the Voting Rights Act, General Counsel oversees the preparation and filing of all applications necessary for filing with the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice and General Counsel advises the Commissioners accordingly.

BALLOT ACCESS

In addition to drafting the proposed Rules for Designating and Independent Nominating Petitions, General Counsel oversees all aspects of the process for candidate filing and Board review of nomination petitions. In addition to overseeing this Board function, General Counsel acts as liaison with the Board's trial counsel in connection with any judicial review of related Board function.

LITIGATION

General Counsel acts as the Board's liaison with the Board's trial counsel on all matters of litigation involving the Board of Elections, its operations, and personnel.

* In New York City the counties covered by the Voting Rights Act are New York County, Kings County, Queens County, and Bronx County.

Management Information System Department (MIS)



STEVEN FERGUSON
Director, MIS

OVERVIEW

The Management Information Systems Department (MIS) operates the Board's Data Center, Help Desk, System Elect (S-Elect) – the framework for the Candidate Processing and Election Support System (CPESS) and the Poll Worker Requirements and Support System (PWRSS), and Maptitude software for district maps. In addition, the Department is responsible for the Board's Phone Bank Interactive Voice Response System (IVR).

DATA CENTER

We continue to add high-speed data lines to replace slower existing lines. MIS continues to maintain system backups for mass storage devices and DLT tape cartridge for backup of all files. Updating and correcting of voter addresses is performed on an ongoing basis. The department has provided necessary programming and training internally.

The MIS department continues the use of the Help Desk System. This system tracks all trouble calls and assigns them to appropriate staff for resolution and closure. In-house staff of other departments have been very satisfied with this system to resolve their MIS-related problems. The Board continues to work in conjunction with the Department of Information Technology & Telecommunications (DoITT) for web site hosting and to augment our phone bank during peak elections cycles. New servers were installed last year and an IT infrastructure upgrade program has begun.

PHONE BANK

Our voter hotline, 866-VOTE-NYC, has been a great resource since its inception and continues to aid thousands of callers.

Peak amounts of calls arrive a few weeks prior to Election Day and in tremendous volumes on Election Day, trailing off in the following few weeks afterwards. Questions concerning registration, accessibility and absentee applications are just a few of the questions posed to our call agents. A poll site locator feature was added to provide information through the IVR system and proves to be very useful. Due to the extremely high volume of calls anticipated for the 2008 election cycle, the Board worked closely with DoITT to augment and enhance the phone bank's capabilities. The 2008 call volumes were, as anticipated, the highest ever. Despite the record number of calls, the 2008 election cycle went smoothly.

INTERACTIVE VOICE RESPONSE SYSTEM

The Interactive Voice Response System (IVR) continues to be successful. The system is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and gives the public direct access to registration data in all four languages. Enhancements to the system, including text-to-speech, are slated to be implemented in 2009.

Management Information System Department (MIS) Cont'd

PRINT SHOP

The Print Shop produces large volumes of regular weekly mail, Party Enrollment Books for all political parties, street finders, National Change of Address (NCOA) notices and counter copy. All of these were produced on schedule despite the heavy demands of the 2008 election cycle. Poll list books for Special Elections are also produced in-house by the Print Shop. MIS and the Print shop meet regularly with Xerox Business Systems (XBS), the equipment vendor.

MIS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

The MIS department undertook myriad significant development projects in 2008, including hardware and software updates, S-Elect expansions that included Poll Site and Fleet Management applications, and the enhancement of AVID III (voter registration system).

Hardware and Systems Software – MIS continued major upgrades of all its servers, storage arrays and a significant number of the desktop workstations. These included HP385 and HP 585 Servers, HP4000 storage arrays and workstations with Windows XP operating systems and widescreen monitors. Systems software was upgraded to use the latest server OS (Microsoft Server 2003), database (Microsoft SQL 2005), development platform (Microsoft Visual Studio 2005) and Microsoft XP.

Hardware and software for Disaster Recovery (DR) was installed for testing with the transfer with the transfer to the new permanent DR site in Queens scheduled for 2009.

S-Elect Expansion – S-Elect 3.5 was developed and implemented featuring updates to CPSS and PWRSS for the Presidential Primary. The version contained new candidate processing productivity features and expanded S-Elect with the new Facilities System (Poll Site, Training Sites, etc.) and the Affidavit Ballot tracking application. We were able to interface S-Elect with systems for the BMD data requirements in 2008 and are preparing to interface with the replacement voting system when it is selected.

AVID III Installation – AVID III is a major update developed and implemented in 2007 that continues to be upgraded and enhanced to meet the myriad changes the Board has been required to make. These changes include:

- Recent requirements for the Help America Vote Act
- New York State Board of Elections interface and reporting requirements
- NYS Voter II statewide voter database updates and network interface
- Integration with S-Elect and database commonality among all applications
- Preparation for new poll list book and report/notice development in 2009

Phone Bank



DANIEL LAVELLE
Phone Bank Supervisor

The Board of Elections' Phone Bank is an inbound call center with two locations. The Manhattan phone bank has a staff of up to 40 operators and the Staten Island phone bank has up to 20 operators to handle calls citywide during peak election season. The phone bank is operational with a reduced staff throughout the year to accommodate any voter requests and is staffed with members who can handle calls in English, Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin and Korean. These operators handle a diverse range of calls, ranging from inquiries concerning a voter's registration status or poll site location to information concerning their elected officials. The phone bank system has an interactive component that allows members of the public to retrieve information after hours and on weekends. As the first line of communication between the Board and the voting public, the phone bank staff receives training on various aspects of Board operations to ensure that they are able to accommodate the voters' requests for information.

The phone bank operators answered 339,647 calls from the public in 2008.

2008 ELECTION DAY CALLS TO PHONE BANK

Presidential Primary	Primary Election	General Election
20,044	10,534	20,573

General Elections Turnout

	Registered Voters	Voter Turnout	Percentage
1969 Mayor	3,026,745	2,458,203	81%
1970 Governor	3,046,373	2,290,020	75%
1971	3,068,015	Non-citywide	Non-citywide
1972 President	3,067,749	2,267,237	73%
1973 Mayor	3,565,147	1,790,053	50%
1974 Governor	3,161,656	1,822,567	58%
1975	2,912,126	Non-citywide	Non-citywide
1976 President	2,720,105	2,143,345	79%
1977 Mayor	2,887,530	1,486,536	51%
1978 Governor	2,714,331	1,526,574	56%
1979	2,237,193	Non-citywide	Non-citywide
1980 President	2,525,464	2,013,164	80%
1981 Mayor	2,345,001	1,305,368	56%
1982 Governor	2,544,394	1,685,956	66%
1983	2,489,526	Non-citywide	Non-citywide
1984 President	3,014,459	2,340,181	78%
1985 Mayor	2,842,517	1,170,904	41%
1986 Governor	2,614,470	1,288,842	49%
1987	2,514,605	Non-citywide	Non-citywide
1988 President	3,017,013	2,126,418	70%
1989 Mayor	3,183,741	1,899,845	60%
1990 Governor	3,052,259	1,159,134	38%
1991	2,962,958	Non-citywide	Non-citywide
1992 President	3,360,568	2,211,473	66%
1993 Mayor	3,301,683	1,898,437	57%
1994 Governor	3,246,464	1,576,160	48%
1995	3,151,812	Non-citywide	Non-citywide
1996 President	3,532,348	2,028,013	57%
1997 Mayor	3,514,974	1,409,347	40%
1998 Governor	3,415,858	1,537,010	45%
1999	3,426,017	Non-citywide	Non-citywide
2000 President	3,672,265	2,282,944	62%
2001 Mayor	3,715,022	1,520,443	41%
2002 Governor	3,832,437	1,415,095	37%
2003	3,667,266	Non-citywide	Non-citywide
2004 President	4,002,497	2,459,652	61%
2005 Mayor	3,944,831	1,315,360	33%
2006 Governor	3,799,353	1,244,874	33%
2007	3,856,342	Non-citywide	Non-citywide
2008	4,119,923	2,641,970	64%

Active Registration Totals by County

Totals as of: 12/31/2008

County	Democratic	Republican	Independence	Conservative	Working Families	Other	Blank	Total
New York	668,998	101,731	26,375	1,802	1,700	2,181	177,414	980,201
Bronx	476,111	44,617	11,968	3,109	2,395	362	90,385	628,947
Kings	876,385	116,985	25,081	4,299	4,239	2,480	212,564	1,242,033
Queens	649,411	136,013	22,337	5,906	2,731	1,302	199,425	1,017,125
Richmond	113,737	75,233	6,841	3,992	915	292	50,607	251,617
CityWide	2,784,642	474,579	92,602	19,108	11,980	6,617	730,395	4,119,923



CREDITS

**COMPILED AND EDITED BY
COMMISSIONERS ANNUAL REPORT COMMITTEE**

COMM. GREGORY C. SOUMAS

COMM. ANTHONY COMO

COMM. JAMES J. SAMPEL

COMM. JUAN CARLOS POLANCO

VALERIE VAZQUEZ-RIVERA
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Prepared Under The Direction of the
Commissioners of Elections

Board of Elections in The City of New York
Executive Office, 32 Broadway, New York, NY 10004-1609
www.vote.nyc.ny.us
866-VOTE-NYC

James J. Sampel, President
Frederic M. Umane, Secretary

Anthony Como
Julie Dent
Nero Graham, Jr.
Terrence C. O'Connor

Juan Carlos J.C. Polanco
Nancy Mottola-Schacher
Gregory C. Soumas
Maryann Yennella