



Municipal Library Notes - November 2019 Spotlight on Elections

SPOTLIGHT ON: Elections

By Christine Bruzzese, Director, Municipal Library

November 5 was Election Day for 2019. Traditionally the first Tuesday after November 1 is when Americans vote for the candidates of their choice for political offices.

The New York City Board of Elections was established in 1901, replacing the Bureau of Elections. Here is an excerpt from the Board of Elections Annual Report of 1917 with results for Mayor and Comptroller among others:

THE CITY CANVASS.
GENERAL ELECTION, NOVEMBER 6, 1917.

FOR MAYOR.

William M. Bennett.....	56,438
John F. Hylan.....	313,956
Morris Hillpat.....	145,332
David Leigh Colvin.....	897
John Purroy Mitchel.....	155,497
Edmund Seidel.....	858
George Wallace.....	368
Blank.....	12,609
Void.....	5,684

691,809

FOR COMPTROLLER.

William A. Frendergast.....	202,836
Charles L. Craig.....	319,576
Frank A. Siererman.....	123,822
John Robert Taylor.....	3,298
Julson G. Wall.....	1,216
Antonio Bartida.....	1,444
August Gillman.....	2,220
Blank.....	3,303
Void.....	5,394

691,809

FOR PRESIDENT, BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

Robert Adamson.....	211,370
Alfred E. Smith.....	309,675
Edward F. Cassidy.....	122,143
William E. Moore.....	1,780
Jacob E. Alexander.....	1,880
Benjamin W. Burger.....	857
Blank.....	38,887
Void.....	5,826

691,809

FOR JUSTICES OF THE CITY COURT (LONG TERM).*

Benjamin W. R. Brown.....	103,410
Samuel Strasbourger.....	107,209
Douglas Mathewson.....	107,094
Louis W. Stotschury.....	101,616
Leonard M. Wallstein.....	102,482
Edward P. O'Dwyer.....	142,543
Peter Scheruck.....	144,191
Abraham G. Meyer.....	141,736
Alexander Finselite.....	139,287
John L. Walsh.....	145,904
Jacob Hensefeld.....	61,641
William Palmer.....	60,239
Henry Bilde.....	58,071
Hugh O. Donaldson.....	57,972

* Five Vacancies.

Amendment No. 2.

" Shall the proposed amendment to section ten of article eight of the Constitution, extending to all cities of the first class the provisions now applicable to the city of New York, that debts incurred after the first day of January nineteen hundred and four to provide for the supply of water, shall be excluded in ascertaining the debt limit of such cities, be approved?"

WAR BALLOTS.

On December 18, 1917, in 2,046 polling places throughout the city, 31,004 war ballots received from the Secretary of State, and voted by New York City electors in the service of the United States, were canvassed. These ballots were voted by soldiers and sailors at home and abroad; whether in camp, fort, cantonment, army post, local armory, or in France or on naval vessels. The envelope containing each ballot delivered to the Board of Elections bore the official seal of the Secretary of State, and the said seal remained unbroken until it reached the two election officers appointed to make the canvass. The number of war ballots received and distributed among the five boroughs of the city were as follows:

Manhattan	12,372
Brooklyn	11,445
The Bronx	3,799
Queens	2,745
Richmond	643
	<hr/>
	31,004

ENROLLMENT LISTS.

For the first time in the history of the Board, lists of enrolled voters were placed on sale at actual cost per copy. Formerly a uniform charge of five cents a copy was asked, but this year, owing to the increased cost of paper and labor, the prices ranged from twenty to seventy-five cents a copy; the Board being of the opinion that the price for a list containing 88 pages of closely printed matter should be increased in proportion to that charged for one of but 15 pages. This naturally decreased the number of sales, but as a result of this innovation, and although the number of copies sold amounted to 6,659 as against 20,619 for the year 1916, the sum of \$2,622.30 was realized for the year 1917 as against \$1,030.95 for the preceding year.

Note the distribution of "war ballots" to those serving in the armed forces during World War I.

This page from the 1989 Annual Report shows the results of that year's

Mayoral election. David N. Dinkins became the first African-American to be elected Mayor of New York City.

NOVEMBER 1989 GENERAL ELECTION
RECAPITULATIONS

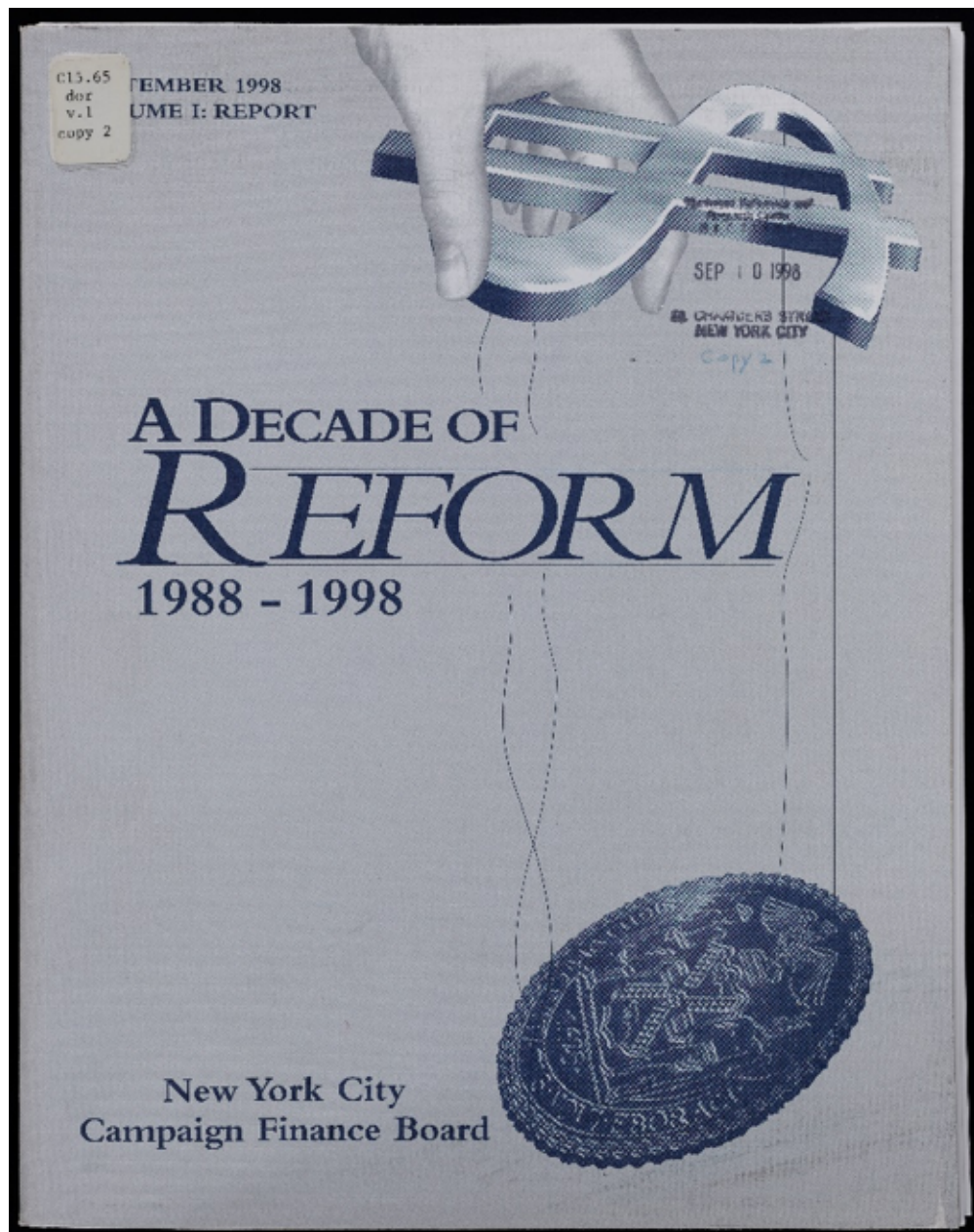
Votes Cast for Office of the Mayor of the City of New York	City-wide
DAVID N. DINKINS DEMOCRATIC	917,544
RUDOLPH W. GIULIANI REPUBLICAN/IND. FUSION	815,387
RONALD S. LAUDER CONSERVATIVE	9,271
HENRY R. HEWES RIGHT TO LIFE	17,460
RUDOLPH W. GIULIANI LIBERAL	55,077
LENORA B. FULANI NEW ALLIANCE	1,732
JAMES E. HARRIS, Jr. SOCIALIST WORKERS	1,671
FRED MAZELIS WORKERS LEAGUE	435
WARREN L. RAUM LIBERTARIAN	1,118
	64
of which were scattered	80,086
of which were unrecorded	1,899,845
TOTAL	

-98-

The New York City Campaign Finance Board was instituted in 1988 through a city voter referendum. This independent agency ensures that private money for political campaigns is limited, by providing matching public funding. The Campaign Finance Board also provides voter

guides, public disclosure reports of candidates' campaign finance information and various other reports for the public interest.

A Decade of Reform describes the first 10 years of the Board's mission.



Fact Sheet from 1997 elections published in the report:

FactSheet				
1.1				
CAMPAIGN FINANCE PROGRAM CONTRIBUTION AND SPENDING LIMITS AND PUBLIC FUNDS REQUIREMENTS FOR THE 1997 ELECTIONS				
Contribution Limits				
Mayor	Public Advocate	Comptroller	Borough President	City Council
\$7,700	\$7,700	\$7,700	\$5,900	\$3,550
Spending Limits				
	Mayor	Public Advocate & Comptroller	Borough President	City Council
1994-1995*	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$65,000	N/A
1996*	180,000	180,000	120,000	\$40,000
1997 Primary Election	4,732,000	2,958,000	1,065,000	221,000
Total Primary Limit*	5,002,000	3,228,000	1,245,000	164,000
1997 General Election	4,732,000	2,958,000	1,065,000	121,000
*Spending in excess of these amounts was charged against the first limit applicable in 1995.				
*For the June 25, 1996.				
*If no primary election was held and a primary election spending limit was not otherwise applied, the amount set forth in this row will apply to the limit for the primary election.				
<i>In return for abiding by the above limits and meeting the relevant threshold below...</i>				
Thresholds				
	Mayor	Public Advocate & Comptroller	Borough President	City Council
Dollar Amount	\$250,000	\$125,000	\$10,000-46,013*	\$5,000
Number of Contributors	1,000	500	100	50
*The dollar threshold, the threshold dollar amount is equal to the number of persons being to each borough listed on the 1990 census multiplied by two cents, or six thousand dollars, whichever is greater. The dollar amount for each borough is: Bronx, \$25,000; Manhattan, \$45,000; Madison, \$20,750; Queens, \$9,000; and Staten Island, \$10,000.				
<i>...candidates could qualify to receive public matching funds up to...</i>				
Maximum Public Funds*				
Mayor	Public Advocate	Comptroller	Borough President	City Council
\$2,366,000	\$1,479,000	\$1,479,000	\$532,500	\$40,000
*Per election (i.e. election year).				
Disclosure				
Candidates who join the Program must submit detailed campaign finance information including names, addresses, and employer and occupation information for contributors and for intermediaries (who deliver contributions from others to the candidates).				

New Yorkers Make Their Voices Heard: a Report on the 2009 Elections was a later publication.

Information on contributions and expenditures of candidates for Public Advocate:

Public Advocate

ANALYSIS: CONTRIBUTIONS

Each public advocate candidate was successful at reaching small donors, and for all four contenders, the majority of contributions received were from New York City residents. The average contribution size for each of the leading candidates — de Blasio, Gioia, Green, and Siegel — was lower than the smallest average contribution among the candidates for comptroller. The public advocate candidates were generally more successful than their counterparts in the comptroller's race at collecting matching claims, the small contributions from New Yorkers that are matched with public funds. (See Analysis, next page.)

Figure 112 — Contributions from New York City Residents, 2009 Election

	Average Contribution Size	Valid Matching Claims	% Contributions Raised in NYC
Bill de Blasio	\$468	2,450	76%
Eric Gioia	\$486	3,043	73%
Mark Green	\$355	1,420	69%
Norman H. Siegel	\$196	1,338	89%

ANALYSIS: EXPENDITURES

A majority of the spending by the leading candidates went toward television advertisements and campaign mailings. While television remains important, direct mail has represented a growing proportion of spending. In particular, de Blasio communicated primarily through the mail, spending \$1.3 million — almost three times the amount he spent on television.

Gioia pledged early on to run the city's first "carbon neutral" campaign, petitioning the Board to allow him to purchase carbon offsets with public funds.²³ In May 2009, the Board declined Gioia's request, though the Board commended his efforts.²⁴ Gioia's focus on mitigating his campaign's carbon footprint may have driven the campaign's choice to focus its communications spending on television ads, rather than mailings.

Figure 113 — Spending for Mass Communications, Democratic Primary Election

	Television	Mail
Bill de Blasio	\$ 456,154	\$ 1,305,559
Eric Gioia	\$ 1,940,250	\$ 492,371
Mark Green	\$ 678,611	\$ 612,404
Norman H. Siegel	\$ 275,000	\$ 243,670
Total	\$3,309,645	\$2,654,004

Vertical File Feature on Consumer Information

By Christine Bruzzese, Director, Municipal Library

The Department of Consumer and Worker Protection began as Department of Consumer Affairs in 1969 with the mission of protecting the public from fraudulent and deceptive business practices. The agency consolidated business licensing and inspection functions along with consumer protection. The agency continues that work today under its new name Department of Consumer and Worker Protection, name change effective January 2019.

Vertical files in the Municipal Library contain some consumer information leaflets and booklets dating from the 1970's to the 1990's.

A pamphlet on Shopping Rights from 1983 in five different languages.

NYC Consumer Affairs
Dept. - Consumer Info. Booklet

NEW YORK CITY

SHOPPING RIGHTS

[1983]

Derechos De Los Consumidores

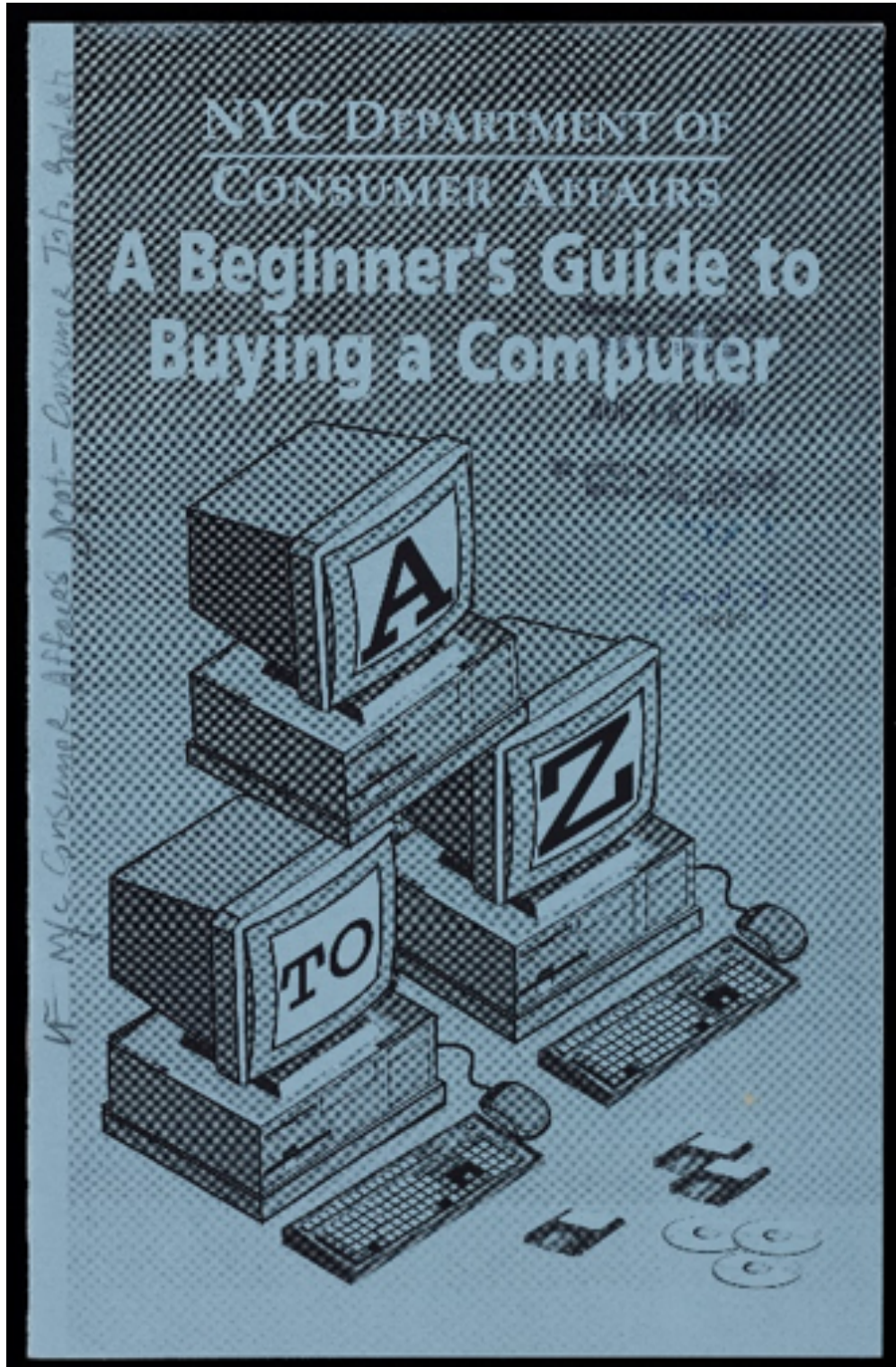
Droits Des Consommateurs

Konsumentenrechte

ニューヨーク市における消費者の権利



“A Beginner’s Guide to Buying a Computer” from approximately 1995:



3 Understanding what you're buying

RAM: The computer's work area or scratchpad. Compare it to a kitchen's countertop. The more space/efficiency you have, the easier it is to work and the more software programs you can run. If you don't want to do a lot of cooking in your computer kitchen, such as running programs for graphics, media, home office or cruising the internet, then you won't need a lot of RAM.

In 1999, a typical system requires a computing speed of **300-300 MHz**, a **4MB** hard drive, at least **32MB of RAM** and **12X CD-ROM** to handle word processing, video games, CD-ROMs and web surfing. Windows 98 software will not run properly without **32MB of RAM**.

PROCESSOR SPEED: The computer chip is the heart of the processor. Intel® which has become the industry's de facto standard, has chips designed for different price points.

Its top of the line chip, **Pentium III®**, is designed for professional and multimedia use. Since its performance is so much faster than other chips, it may be worth the extra money to purchase it. **Celeron** is its least powerful chip and is cheapest. It is designed for home use, while **MMX** is designed for office use. Not recommended for serious games players.

There are other chip brands used in other PCs, for example **Crix** and **AMD**, which have equivalent speed and performance and generally cost less money than Intel's chips.

CACHE: The computer's place to temporarily store data. Higher cache allows for faster processing. Similar to a shelf or canister in your kitchen where you put items regularly used for cooking such as spices, cooking spoons, whisks, etc.

DVD: New technology which many expect to replace **CD-ROM**. Has higher storage capacity than **CD-ROM**, better audio, and allows you to run movies. Be sure the computer has **CD-ROM** capacity, too.

HARD DISK DRIVE: Is the computer's long term storage bin. Comparable to the computer's refrigerator. Where you store food data after it's prepared.

56K MODEM: Used for Internet access and faxing. **V.90** is newest technology.

400MHz
450MHz

• Intel® Pentium III® 400 MHz
 • 128MB RAM • 12GB HDD
 • 512KB L2 Cache
 • DVD II-Rom
 • 32X CD-Rom
 • 56K modem V.90
 • 17" Color Monitor
 • Color Inkjet Printer

Best Price \$2199*
 Leave for \$74 per month

FREE-1394 DV Port

4 5

These are just a few examples of what can be found.

PaperFree NYC Initiative

By Tobias Zimmerman, Director, PaperFreeNYC Initiative

The PaperFree NYC Initiative (PFI) was established by the Department of Records and Information Services (DORIS) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to study agencies' utilization of paper and recommend strategies for reducing paper use in order to implement Mayoral Directive 2015-3. This directive is part of a citywide effort to reform and modernize the City's recordkeeping policies and practices. Specifically, PFI is tasked with reducing the amount of paper records currently on hand, and recommending strategies for digital

recordkeeping going forward. To fulfill this mandate, PFI is investigating the City's current recordkeeping practices. The next steps will involve preparing specific recommendations for developing and implementing a digital recordkeeping system for future use.

One of the initial challenges faced by PFI is to simply locate and identify the estimated 3 million boxes of paper-records already held by the City. To achieve this goal, PFI has been coordinating with OMB and the Department of Citywide Administrative Services to inspect leased warehouses throughout the City and is working with the DORIS Records Management Division to improve the tracking and reporting of data about the City's paper-record holdings.

PFI is also gathering information about the City's current information technology systems and is seeking to engage various stakeholders on the long-term need to develop interoperable systems that will support the unified records management practices envisioned by the Mayoral Directive.

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