



June 6, 2022

Contact:

Alejandra Lopez

The Legal Aid Society

Allopez@legal-aid.org

**\*\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY FOR TUESDAY JUNE 7 AT 12 NOON\*\*\***

## ***Legal Aid and Dozens of Advocacy Organizations Rally to Call for Greater Access to Early Voting for New Yorkers in NYC Jails***

**(NEW YORK, NY) – New Yorkers impacted by lack of access to early voting while in detention, The Legal Aid Society, Freedom Agenda, VOCAL-NY, LatinoJustice PRLDEF, elected officials, and others** will rally outside the New York City Board of Elections to demand greater access to early voting for people incarcerated on Rikers Island, as mandated by New York State law.

Advocates will deliver a letter to Board of Elections President Fredric Umane, Secretary Miguelina Camilo, Executive Director Michael J. Ryan, and Deputy Executive Director Dawn Sandow, at the time the Board's executive leadership is scheduled to hold their weekly meeting.

About 90 percent of those incarcerated at Rikers are eligible to vote because they are not currently serving a sentence for a felony conviction and are being held pre-trial or on a parole violation, or sentenced to misdemeanor offenses.

Because those in pre-trial detention have not been given access to vote as mandated by law, and more than [88 percent](#) of people incarcerated at Rikers are Black and Latinx, this practice effectively lowers voter participation in communities of color and disproportionately impacts people in those communities.

**WHAT:** Rally demanding access to early voting for all incarcerated at Rikers Island

**WHO:** New Yorkers impacted by lack of access to early voting in detention; elected officials, including NYC Public Advocate Jumanee Williams, NYC Councilmembers Carlina Rivera and Tiffany Caban; representatives from the Legal Aid Society, Freedom Agenda, VOCAL-NY, LatinoJustice PRLDEF

**WHEN:** Tuesday, June 7th, 2022 at 12 noon

**WHERE:** Outside the Board of Elections, 32 Broadway, New York, NY 10004

###

*The Legal Aid Society exists for one simple yet powerful reason: to ensure that New Yorkers are not denied their right to equal justice because of poverty. For 145 years, we have protected, defended, and advocated for those who have struggled in silence for far too long. Every day, in every borough, The Legal Aid Society changes the lives of our clients and helps improve our communities. [www.legalaidnyc.org](http://www.legalaidnyc.org)*