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Gale A. Brewer, Borough President

October 8, 2020

Pat Foye, Chairman
Metropolitan Transportation Authority
2 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

Sarah Feinberg, Interim President
New York City Transit
2 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

Dear Chairman Foye and President Feinberg,

I write to request that the MTA begin subway service at 3 a.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, to accommodate the poll workers who must report to their sites at 5 a.m. in order to safely prepare for the opening of the polls at 6 a.m.

These thousands of workers, many of them students and seniors, typically must rely on public transportation in order to play their role in our democracy. But this year's election is like no other in so many ways-- and it will be the first in which our subway system is not in operation during the early morning hours.

I understand and support the MTA's public health shutdown of the subway from 1 a.m. to 5 a.m., and am well aware of the fiscal pressures that you face.

But there is every indication that this year's election will be unprecedented in terms of voter participation. If poll workers are delayed in reaching-- or are unable to reach-- their poll sites in time to open them, it would only exacerbate the challenges in an already difficult year.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Gale A. Brewer
Manhattan Borough President

cc: Mike Ryan, Board of Elections