

From: [Mary Carole Cooney](#)
To: [Barron, Richard L.](#)
Subject: Thinking about summarizing June 9

Rick, I am thinking ahead to statements you may be called upon to make following June 9. I say this because a significant number of friends and neighbors have told me – yesterday and today – that they sent in their requests for absentee ballots in early April and have not yet received ballots. Consequently, they have gone, or are about to go, to early vote in person. Given where I live, Garden Hills is the place to vote and that polling location gets uniformly complimentary comments from my acquaintances. With so many who have tried to vote absentee deciding that they'd better vote in person, I predict that June 9 won't be pretty because of long lines. I hope we accept blame where we're responsible, but I also continue to have great faith in our staff, and I don't want us to take responsibility where it lies elsewhere, whether elsewhere is the State of Georgia or an Act of God. When you're called upon to summarize, please consider starting off by reminding people that the Elections Department has faced a perfect storm of the new state-supplied equipment (flaws of which, like the printers, are becoming apparent very recently), the coronavirus and the requirements for PPE and distancing, the avalanche of absentee ballot applications into a department set up to deal with in-person voting, our polling places and poll workers melting away for good reasons, and – who knows – the civil unrest which might possibly interfere with traffic on Election Day. I read just a few sentences in a news article about Pennsylvania (full article below but I think just these following phrases identify some kindred issues): One of the biggest problems for both sides is that the state election system is cracking under the stress of an enormous expansion of vote-by-mail in a very short amount of time. More than 1.8 million people [Pennsylvania] have requested absentee ballots, compared with just over 100,000 from four years ago, and counties are struggling to keep up. Voters have been calling party hotlines and writing on social media that they haven't received their ballots weeks after applying. In Montgomery County, a populous suburban area outside Philadelphia, [2,000 incorrect ballots](#) were sent to voters of the opposite party. In Philadelphia, the election offices have been closed because of the virus. The phone line to the county elections office leads to a recording, with no general voice mail or ability to reach a human with an election problem. Officials are also bracing for longer voting lines. Every municipality outside Philadelphia and Pittsburgh has only one open polling location, and the locations in the two major cities have been condensed. I think that Georgia's system is sagging, if not cracking, under the strain, and I think Fulton's problems are not the cause but symptoms and by-products of what we faced. Just my take on what's going on. Mary Carole

From The New York Times:

What Pennsylvania's 'Dry Run' Election Could Reveal About November

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/02/us/politics/pennsylvania-primary-election.html?smid=em-share>