

THE BALLOTS

written by

JP Winders, Campbell George

SEINFELD SPEC SCRIPT

4/8/2021

FADE IN:

INT. DINER - DAY

ELAINE, GEORGE and JERRY sit in the usual booth. George is fiddling with airpods.

GEORGE

You know what bugs me about the new AirPods?

JERRY

That you had to take out a loan to afford them?

GEORGE

Very funny. No, it's the sealing. The noise cancelation. I can't hear a thing.

JERRY

I'm pretty sure that's the point.

GEORGE

Why would anybody want that? It's important to be aware of your surroundings.

ELAINE

Right, because you're so aware of yours.

GEORGE

I'm just saying. I mean you're a comedian, you should hate it.

JERRY

Why is that?

GEORGE

Because your whole thing is talking, give the audience all airpods to cancel you out and you're out of the job!

ELAINE

If you gave the audience airpods maybe I'd finally come to one of your shows.

JERRY

Trust me, George, If I'm gonna be canceled, it won't be by some headphones.

GEORGE

Alright, I gotta take off. My parents want me to drop off their ballots for them while I vote.

ELAINE

Aren't you supposed to mail those?

GEORGE

They said they didn't have the right stamps.

KRAMER enters the cafe and slides in next to Jerry.

ELAINE

Ballots don't need stamps.

GEORGE

I know they don't need stamps! But they wouldn't listen so now I gotta go drop them off while I vote provisional.

KRAMER

Provisional ballots, George? I don't know, I hear there's a lot of fraud going around. You don't wanna get caught up in that, tsk tsk.

ELAINE

Oh come on, Kramer, who would want to mess with the mayoral election? The only person the city hates more than the guy who loses is the guy who wins.

KRAMER

It's all over the Internet, Elaine! Facebook, Reddit, 4chan, Snapchat, Elaine! Snapchat!

JERRY

You don't have a Facebook.

KRAMER

I use yours.

Kramer hands Jerry a sticky note with his passwords on it.

JERRY

That explains all the messages
about cheap Ray-Bans.

KRAMER

Be careful, George. If they see
you with all those ballots, you
might get locked up.

Kramer blinks, nodding vigorously. George gulps and begins to
pale.

JERRY

Look, give the guy a break. He's
got it bad enough with his new
headphones as it is.

GEORGE

Jerry, take the ballots and give
'em to Newman, would ya?

JERRY

What? No way!

GEORGE

Please Jerry! I can't go back to
jail!

JERRY

Oh and I can?

GEORGE

This is New York Jail, Jerry! New
York Jail. You can't get out of a
fight just by curling up in a
ball on the floor.

JERRY

Why not, it worked for you in
junior high?

GEORGE

C'mon Jerry, Please!

JERRY

Fine! Fine! I'll do it.

GEORGE

I owe you one Jerry.

JERRY

Pretty sure you owe me several.

George hands Jerry the ballots and exits. Elaine's phone buzzes.

ELAINE

Ooh! It's Jeremy!

JERRY

Jeremy?

ELAINE

Yeah! He's with the Quincy campaign. He texted me Sunday asking me to vote for Quincy and it turns out he's really funny. He keeps sending those memes from Reddit. Look, it's a little Dog-e.

JERRY

It's Doge.

ELAINE

That's what I said, *those* memes.

Jerry shakes his head.

KRAMER

You gotta watch for guys like that, Elaine. They're deep in the fraud business. My buddy Bob Saccamano worked at a phone bank once. Used to inflate his numbers all to win prizes.

JERRY

What kind of prizes?

KRAMER

More phone minutes, it is the phone bank after all.

ELAINE

Jeremy is nothing like that. He's got a great sense of humor and he's civically minded. He even invited me to go canvassing with him later!

JERRY

And you, pillar of citizenship that you are, agreed?

ELAINE

I'm sorry we can't all be as grillpilled as you, Jerry. Anyway, I'm meeting him in an hour.

KRAMER

Careful, Elaine. What if someone thinks you're tampering with the election?

ELAINE

Kramer, one, campaigning isn't tampering and two, no one is tampering, period, and 50 bucks says so.

Kramer begins breathing heavily.

JERRY

Elaine, no! You know how he is with gambling.

ELAINE

Well, I'm sick of hearing him talk about the world like it's some big game.

JERRY

To be fair, to him it is and he has a knack for winning.

KRAMER

[Comes to himself] You're on, Elaine!

JERRY

Alright. I gotta drop off these ballots at Newman's.

Jerry gets up to leave.

EXT. CITY BLOCK - DAY

George is waiting in line and fidgeting, checking his watch.

GEORGE

Come on, this is taking forever.

POLL WORKER 1 walks by.

GEORGE

Excuse me, how long is this going
to take?

She doesn't answer and continues on. George pulls out his phone and sees a Facebook post of Tim Watley holding up voting stickers.

GEORGE

(To self)

Lincoln Square, huh?

George looks up to check how long the line is ahead. He turns to the PERSON 1 behind him.

GEORGE

Hold my place will you?

PERSON 1

Why? So you can get a latte while
I wait?

GEORGE

Please, I have a real quick
errand.

PERSON 1

I said no.

George zips up his jacket and walks away in a huff.

GEORGE

(Yelling)

You know we're living in a
society!

EXT. CITY BLOCK 2 - DAY

George arrives at the 2nd line and sees that it's an equally long wait.

GEORGE

I can't believe it.

INT. JERRY'S APARTMENT - DAY

Jerry stands and Elaine sits on his couch. Elaine gets a text.

ELAINE

Look what Jer just sent me.

JERRY

Jer? Now he's Jer? I thought I was Jer!

ELAINE

You never liked Jer.

JERRY

I don't! but what if something happens to you and your last words are "Jer did it." Now I'm in trouble, all because you can't come up with good nicknames.

ELAINE

Oh shut up Jer. Just read the text.

JERRY

"With Quincy's law enforcement plan, a night out will be safer than ever"

ELAINE

Pretty sweet, huh?

JERRY

Sounds like a campaign text.

ELAINE

What? No. He's flirting. He's saying we're gonna go out.

JERRY

Whatever you say, just don't get your hopes up.

Kramer enters, holding a stack of papers behind his back, hiding it from Elaine.

ELAINE

My hopes aren't up but even if they were it wouldn't matter because Jer is a total flirt, Jer. In fact I am going to meet Jer at Hudson Yards right now. Goodbye Jer.

Elaine exits.

KRAMER

This bet must be getting to her, she's not making any sense. And that's coming from me.

JERRY

Whatcha got there?

KRAMER

Ballots, Jerry! Enough for the whole block!

Jerry takes a couple from the top of the stack.

JERRY

Is this just your mail-in ballot photocopied?!

KRAMER

You betcha! Don't worry, I used white-out so they can't be traced back to me.

JERRY

Kramer, if you're the one passing these out, something tells me they might be able to trace them back to you.

KRAMER

Well, we can't all rely on the government to send us one, Mr. Washington.

JERRY

What do you care if people voted or not? You've never voted in your life.

KRAMER

Jerry, Jerry, I don't care about who wins the election, I care about who wins the bet! I never lose, Jerry, see never.

JERRY

So you're going to commit election fraud, to prove there is election fraud? One might see that as fabrication or... fake news!

KRAMER

I have no doubt that it's happening, Jerry! I'm just giving it a little [twitches vigorously] nudge.

JERRY

Well, I'm headed down to Newman's to drop off the Constanzas' ballot before you photocopy those too.

KRAMER

I wouldn't trust him, Jerry! The mailmen are the drug-runners of voter fraud.

JERRY

Yeah, right.

Jerry exits.

INT. NEWMAN'S DOOR - MOMENTS LATER

JERRY knocks on Newman's door. NEWMAN answers through a slightly open door.

NEWMAN

Hello Jerry.

KRAMER

Hello, Newman.

NEWMAN

What might I do for you on this fine afternoon?

JERRY

George asked me to drop off these ballots to you, his parents were convinced they didn't have the right stamps.

NEWMAN

Oh, simple Jerry, ballots don't need stamps, hahaha!

JERRY

Yeah, well good luck explaining that to the people who raised George.

NEWMAN

I could do this for you... But if I did, what, pray tell, would I receive in return?

JERRY

I won't tell anyone that you use your mail truck to get preferential parking.

NEWMAN

Your point is received. Now hand them over and be off. I have much work to do.

Jerry hands Newman the envelopes, then looks around and sees bags of mail on the floor full of ballots. Newman tries to close the door.

JERRY

Not so fast Newman. Are you hoarding mail again?

NEWMAN

Never you mind, Jerry! The postal service works in mysterious ways.

JERRY

There is nothing mysterious about pretending to do your job. Now give those back!

They tussle, the ballots tear in half.

NEWMAN

Now look what you've done! A sacrilege to the sacred trust of postmaster! It's an outrage, blasphemy!

JERRY

I thought you were committing election fraud! You had the bags and the ballots-

NEWMAN

That's the mail for the Ballot Processing Center! It's on my route. Now out Jerry! Out! What kind of a monster do you think I am?!

INT. JERRY'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Kramer sits on Jerry's couch organizing his fake ballots. Jerry enters.

JERRY

He ripped the ballots.

KRAMER

I told you not to trust him, Jerry.

JERRY

I mean, he didn't rip them. I thought he was hoarding mail again and tried to get them back and- JERRY does a ripping gesture.

KRAMER

Those mailmen are slippery, Jerry. Making you think your mail is safe in their hands when they're actually ripping it up with your own.

JERRY

Yeah, well. Now I gotta tell George his ballots are gone.

KRAMER

Well now, hold on there Jerry.
You didn't do anything wrong.
Why, you were just trying to do
your civic duty!

JERRY

Be as that may, this civic duty
is still showing up empty-handed
to the polls.

KRAMER

Unless...

JERRY

Nope, no way, Kramer. No way.

KRAMER

Jerrrrry, think about it! They go
in the envelope, no one has to
know. You'd be doing me a big
favor, helping me with this bet
with Elaine. I'll cut you in,
10%!

JERRY

You're crazy.

KRAMER

Me, crazy? No. No, no. But Mrs.
Constanza, Jerry? When she finds
out who fumbled up her ballot?
Good luck, buddy tsk tsk.

JERRY

(Playful)

C'mon, this is blackmail!

KRAMER

Jerry, Jerry! That's such an ugly
word. You scratch my back, I
scratch yours, mi casa es su
casa, right?

JERRY

I never even go to your casa!

KRAMER

Well, it's right across the hall
and frankly, I'm a little hurt
you never visit!

JERRY

I gotta call George.

Jerry picks up his phone and dials. The line rings.

KRAMER

What are you gonna tell him,
Jerry? It'd be a shame to ruin
that little friendship you've got
going.

JERRY

Uh-huh.

George answers.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Hey George.

EXT. CITY BLOCK 2 - CONTINUOUS.

GEORGE is waiting in line on his phone.

GEORGE

Jerry, did you drop off the
ballots?

INT. JERRY'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

JERRY

Yeah George I dropped them off
but there was a bit of a problem.

EXT. CITY BLOCK 2 - CONTINUOUS.

GEORGE

A problem? what problem?

INT. JERRY'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

JERRY

Well, Newman had bags full of
ballots and I thought he was
hoarding mail again.

EXT. CITY BLOCK 2 - CONTINUOUS.

GEORGE
Hoarding ballots?!

GEORGE looks around, worried people will find him suspicious.

GEORGE
(quieter)
Listen Jerry, you gotta get those
ballots back. My parents will
kill me if they find out I lost
their ballots.

INT. JERRY'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

JERRY
Well...

JERRY gives an uneasy look over at KRAMER who gives vigorous
nods of encouragement.

JERRY (CONT'D)
Yeah I got them George.

EXT. CITY BLOCK 2 - CONTINUOUS

GEORGE
You're a lifesaver, Jerry!
Alright, meet me at the Lincoln
Square Polling Place.

GEORGE looks ahead of him at the long line.

GEORGE (CONT'D)
Actually, meet me at the one on
31st.

GEORGE Hangs up and turns to PERSON 2 behind him.

GEORGE (CONT'D)
Could you hold my spot in line?

EXT. CITY BLOCK 3 - DAY

Elaine waits on a street corner. JEREMY arrives with a group
of other canvassers.

ELAINE

There you are! I was starting to think Quincy wasn't gonna let you go!

JEREMY

Please, Elaine, no jokes. Q is a very serious man.

ELAINE

Q? What's that, some kind of nickname?

JEREMY

Q is all of us. Any of us. Q speaks truth to power on behalf of the voiceless, wouldn't you like someone like that leading this city?

ELAINE

Oh, uh, sure.

JEREMY

I knew you'd understand; you're a special woman Elaine. With your help Q will end the liberal media and Drain the Hudson of corruption.

The other canvassers begin to chant.

CANVASSERS

Drain the Hudson! Drain the Hudson! Drain the Hudson!

ELAINE

(inquisitive)

Is Q, you know-

Elaine mimes a Nazi salute. Jeremy lowers her arm.

JEREMY

Elaine, Q is just a sensible man who knows that certain groups use hypnosis to control others and is going to put a stop to it.

Elaine is disinterested in him.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

And when he does that the city will be 'safer for that night out.' JEREMY winks. ELAINE forgets her issues with his political views.

ELAINE

(flirtatious)

That sounds nice, Jer.

EXT. CITY BLOCK 4 - DAY

Kramer is holding a stack of ballots and unsuccessfully attempting to distribute them on the street. WOMAN enters.

KRAMER

Extra extra! Vote all about it! Make your voice heard! Don't tread on me! Here, ma'am, let Uncle Sam know what you think.

WOMAN

No thanks! I already voted!

KRAMER

Well back in the day, women couldn't vote so you've got years to make up for.

She storms off. MAN enters.

KRAMER

So much for feminism. Here sir, don't forget to vote!

MAN

Aren't those supposed to come in the mail?

KRAMER

Do you know what else comes in the mail? Glitter bombs, stool samples; and that's just what I sent this week. Do you really want your ballot mixed up in that? These babies are fresh off the press.

He walks away.

KRAMER

Oh come on!

EXT. CITY BLOCK 5 - DAY

George waits in line to vote, looking ahead at the long line. Jerry approaches him.

GEORGE

Jerry! Oh thank God, did you get the ballots back from Newman?

JERRY

Uh, yeah. There right here.

Jerry hands the ballots to George.

JERRY

You've been gone for hours, I thought you'd have voted by now.

GEORGE

I'm trying but lines are too long!

JERRY

Lines? You mean more than one?

GEORGE

Yeah well, I keep trying to vote but the lines are too long so I-

JERRY

You what? Start over someone else?

GEORGE

Well I have people save my spots just in case.

JERRY

What happens when they get to the front? That's why all the lines are too long, the people at the front are waiting for people like you.

GEORGE

This is New York, Jerry! No one is actually saving spots in line, it's just what you say so people don't think you're just leaving for no reason.

JERRY

They don't care, they don't know you! It just sounds like you like waiting in lines.

GEORGE

Let's just say when you've lived a life like mine, you get pretty good at waiting!

JERRY

Hey, is that Elaine?

They look over and see Elaine, Jeremy, and other canvassers handing out flyers and talking to people.

ELAINE

(unenthusiastic)

Vote for Q. Vote for Q.

JEREMY

Keep it up Elaine! I love that passion!

Elaine looks over and sees Jerry and George. They wave knowingly and she looks embarrassed. She approaches them.

JERRY

I see the pillar of citizenship is holding up our democracy.

ELAINE

Yeah, yeah. Laugh it up. He's just so cute and today's the last day of the election so maybe he'll just be a normal guy after.

JERRY

Right because if there's one thing Q guys are good at it's going back to normal after the election.

Jerry gestures to Jeremy who has donned a buffalo headdress.

ELAINE

Hey! Peterman would love that for the catalog!

GEORGE

Shh, I gotta focus. I'm shifting into voting mode.

JERRY

If only you were in voting mode two polling places ago.

ELAINE

Wait, isn't that Kramer?

Elaine points to Kramer on the other side of the street, stack of ballots as big as ever.

ELAINE (CONT'D)

What's he doing?

GEORGE

It looks like he's handing out ballots.

ELAINE

You don't think-

Elaine gasps.

ELAINE (CONT'D)

He's trying to rig the bet!

She turns to address Kramer.

ELAINE

(yelling)

Hey Kramer! I see you, cheater!

Kramer sees Elaine and turns to run but spills ballots everywhere. some blow across the street. George picks one up.

GEORGE

What moron would believe these are real ballots?

Jerry shifts uneasily.

JERRY

Yeah... morons.

POLL WORKER 2 looks over at the excitement and sees George holding a ballot. Poll Worker 2 approaches.

POLL WORKER 2
Sir, is that your ballot?

GEORGE
No, no. I'm here to vote provisional.

POLL WORKER 2
We have reports of a man matching your description at polling places all over the city.

Jerry gives George a look.

POLL WORKER 2 (CON'T)
I'm going to have to search your bag.

GEORGE
Okay, sure. Not a problem.

Poll Worker 2 goes through his bag and pulls out his parent's ballots.

POLL WORKER 2
Sir, what are these?

GEORGE
Those are my parents'. They asked me to bring them because they didn't have the right stamps.

POLL WORKER 2
(suspicious)
Ballots don't need stamps.

GEORGE
I know they don't need the stamps!

POLL WORKER 2
Sir, calm down.

Poll Worker 2 inspects the ballots further, then waves over an OFFICER.

POLL WORKER (CON'T)

You're going to have to come with us. These ballots are counterfeit.

GEORGE

What? No, they're my parents. They didn't have the stamps so I gave them to J-

George looks suspiciously over at Jerry, then over to Kramer, then angrily back at Jerry.

Jerry gives an awkward smile.

GEORGE

(stuttering)

But I- And the stamps- The lines were so long-

George tries to calm down before losing it.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

THIS IS A SET UP! THIS IS ALL A SET UP!

George freaks out and the screen goes still as the Seinfeld Theme plays and the credits roll.

INT. DINER - DAY

CREDITS CONTINUE TO ROLL.

Elaine, Kramer, George and Jerry sit in the usual booth, watching election results on the diner's TV. Elaine flaunts a 50 dollar bill.

GEORGE

Thanks a lot Jerry, now I have to go to Rageaholics Anonymous every week.

KRAMER

Hey at least you're not out 50 bucks.

the NEWSCASTER comes on over the TV.

NEWSCASTER (O.S.)

Andrew Yang has declared victory in the 2021 New York Mayoral Election. The Quincy Campaign has contested the results claiming widespread fraud...

GEORGE

Hey Kramer, isn't that your old intern?

NEWSCASTER (O.S.)

... Darin Quincy attributes his eccentric platform to his time interning at Kramerica Industries...

JERRY

No wonder they lost.

KRAMER

Tell me about it, I couldn't get rid of a single ballot.

ELAINE

So much for "Draining the Hudson".

JERRY

I guess he'll have to settle for the East.

THE END