



Kirkland Democratic Committee

**P.O. Box 74
Clinton, NY 13323**

RESOLUTION ON VOTING MACHINES FOR ONEIDA COUNTY JANUARY 2008

WHEREAS, in order to comply with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA, 2002), the Election Reform and Modernization Act of the State of New York (2005) calls upon each county Board of Elections to choose between two voting systems described as (1) a Paper Ballot Optical Scan Voting System (PBOS) and (2) a Direct Recording Electronic Voting System (DRE); and

WHEREAS, increasing evidence suggests that DRE machines are potentially more vulnerable to software bugs, mechanical failures, and election fraud; and the DRE vendors have refused to open their programming code for expert review, or place it in escrow as required by New York law, putting the viability of most DREs into question; and many states and counties are considering getting rid of their multi-million dollar purchases of DREs and putting paper ballots and precinct scanners in their place; and

WHEREAS, a county-by-county comparison by New Yorkers for Verified Voting of the costs involved in the purchase, upkeep, transport, and storage of the competing systems finds that Oneida County would be paying \$3,083,280 for DREs as opposed to \$1,332,720 for optical scanning, including the additional costs of paper ballots; and

WHEREAS, the PBOS system provides disabled-accessible ballot-marking devices for persons with special needs, enables a rapid preliminary tabulation of election results, is easier for election workers to learn, understand and operate, and retains a secure, auditable record of the voters' choices; and

WHEREAS, on November 5, 2007, the Department of Justice filed a motion in its suit against New York State that calls for full compliance with HAVA by the General Election in 2008;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that if the lever machines must be replaced, we favor the paper ballot optical scanner voting system; and be it further resolved, that we urge the Department of Justice to withdraw their motion, allowing New York State to make an informed rather than a hasty decision on certification of voting machines and permitting a smoother transition by the 2009 election year; and that copies of this resolution be forwarded to our state legislators, Governor Eliot Spitzer, Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, members of the State Board of Elections, Congressman Michael Arcuri and United State Senators Charles Schumer and Hillary Clinton, and the United States Department of Justice.

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