

RESOLUTION ON OPTICAL SCAN VOTING SYSTEMS FOR OTSEGO COUNTY

Whereas, as a result of changes to Federal and State voting laws, the New York State Board of Elections ("NYSBOE") is required to certify new voting systems that meet the standards set forth by the federal Help America Vote Act and New York State law to replace the current lever machines;

Whereas, as a result of said changes to Federal and State voting laws, each County Board of Elections is charged with selecting new voting systems from among those certified by the NYSBOE;

Whereas the Otsego County Board of Representatives has an interest in ensuring that new voting systems ultimately selected for use in Otsego County will accurately count and tally the votes of every eligible voter in Otsego County who chooses to vote;

Whereas the Otsego County Board of Representatives has an interest in ensuring that new voting systems ultimately selected for use in Otsego County are cost-effective such that taxes collected from residents of Otsego County are spent wisely in operating, maintaining and eventual replacement of such systems;

Whereas a voting system that comprises paper ballots read by optical scanners ("PBOS"), accompanied by an appropriate ballot marking device, meets accessibility standards for the disabled required by law;

Whereas PBOS has a far better track record in terms of accuracy and reliability than Direct Recording Electronic voting systems ("DREs");

Whereas the Otsego County Board of Representatives believes that a PBOS voting system is likely to be less prone to error and tampering and less costly than DREs;

Whereas the Otsego County Board of Representatives believes that a PBOS voting system is likely to instill greater confidence in voters that their votes are being counted and tallied accurately and thereby encourage voter turnout;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Otsego County Board of Representatives:

recommends and urges the NYSBOE to use its lawful powers and influence to ensure that voting machine vendors make bona fide and timely submissions of New York State compliant PBOS voting systems, modified for use with New York's full-face ballot if necessary, for certification by the NYSBOE, along with appropriate ballot marking devices for the disabled;

and

recommends and urges the Otsego County Board of Elections to select a PBOS voting system so certified by the NYSBOE;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the corporate and state offices of all voting machine companies who manufacture optical scanners and have shown them in New York State, that may have eligible components of voting machines or systems associated with optical scanning devices, including ballot marking devices, as well as the local vendor representatives, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Senators Schumer and Clinton, Congressmen Boehlert and Sweeney, Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, Members and Co-Executive Directors of the NYSBOE, Governor George Pataki, State Senators Bruno and Seward, State Assembly members Silver, Magee, Hooker, and Butler, the Executive Director of the New York State Association of Counties and all New York State counties.