

**Resolution urging the New York State Board of Elections to certify Paper Ballot/Optical Scan voting systems for procurement by the local Boards of Elections and urging the Ulster County Board of Elections to select a PB/OS system as the new voting technology for Ulster County**

WHEREAS, Honest, observable, and easily-verified public elections constitute the foundation of representative democracy; and

WHEREAS, Public confidence in the outcome of elections depends on voting technology that is reliable, secure, and easy to use; and

WHEREAS, The federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) was intended as a response to the concerns that surrounded the outcome of the Presidential Election of 2000; and

WHEREAS, the two main types of voting machine technologies currently available for implementing the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) compliance of our elections are optical scanning of paper ballots (PB/OS) and touch screen Direct Recording Electronic (DRE), and

WHEREAS, the New York State Board of Elections is accepting voting systems for certification testing, and has not yet mandated that the optical scanners be offered for certification testing, and

WHEREAS, Voter and public confidence would be strengthened by the use of paper ballots which are marked directly by voters, as easily as a lottery ticket or multiple choice test, whether manually by a pen or by use of accessible ballot-marking devices by disabled voters or those for whom English is not their primary language; and

WHEREAS, Paper ballots can be securely stored and handled, and enable election observers to meaningfully witness election procedures and vote-counting and thereby detect, prevent, and correct errors or tampering; and

WHEREAS, Paper ballots facilitate easy and observable recounts; and

WHEREAS, Optical scanners have proven their reliability by being successfully used in elections nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Precinct-based optical scanners can provide the advantages of quick election-day results and accessibility without the risks associated with electronic voting; and

WHEREAS, Voter and public confidence would be lowered by the use of electronic ballots which are recorded in a way that no voter or observer can actually witness; and

WHEREAS, Computer security is very difficult to achieve, and

WHEREAS, DRE voting systems make errors and tampering difficult, if not impossible to detect, prevent, or correct; and

WHEREAS, DRE machines have proven to be unreliable, for example,

- In May 2006 primary elections in PA, over 200 DRE's broke down in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia and paper ballots were used for the entire day in many precincts
- In March 2006 the State of Maryland scrapped millions of dollars of DREs in favor of PB/OS

and

WHEREAS, PB/OS voting machines are less costly to local governments than DRE machines for ongoing support including moving, storage, upgrades, repairs, maintenance and technical support; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Ulster County Democratic Committee urges the New York State Board of Elections to promptly certify precinct based/optical scan voting systems for procurement by the local Boards of Elections and urges the Ulster County Board of Elections to select a PB/OS system as the new voting technology for Ulster County, and, be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to New York State Election Commissioners Neil W. Kelleher, Evelyn J. Aquila, Helena Moses Donohue, and Doug Kellner, the Board of Elections Co-Executive Directors Peter Kosinski and Stanley Zalen, and Ulster County Election Commissioners John Parete and Thomas Turco and New York State Democratic Committee.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of a resolution adopted by Ulster County Democratic Committee on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of June 2006.

\_\_\_\_\_ Gary Bischoff, Secretary