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Testimony re Resolution 131
NYC Council Public Hearing

I am a former Westchester County elected official who has been working since November 2004 to insure that New York not suffer the breakdowns experienced by other states when New York goes to a new voting system. I am Chair of Citizens for Voting Integrity, a Westchester group which is working towards these goals.

I urge the City Council to adopt the resolution in favor of paper ballots and scanners. The decision by New York City will be important to neighboring counties because many districts are overlapping. For example, Congressman Engel's district is in the Bronx, Westchester and Rockland Counties. It is important that the same machine be used in Congressional races, since different systems have different error rates.

PBOS systems are better than DREs in all key areas:

- security
- cost,
- reliability
- ease of use
- storage requirements
- voter wait time

PBOS systems also make the mandated 3% audit easier and more accurate for election workers. Under either system, according to New York law 3% of the paper trail must be counted by hand. The election worker must count either paper ballots prepared by the voter, or the printout of the computerized voting machine. The paper ballot is large and in a readable format familiar to election workers. The paper trail generated by the DREs is in nonstandard sizes and in a form and font that is difficult to read, in a list view. I am attaching an example of such a trail produced by a voting machine. Imagine tables piled with heaps of these strips, with election workers attempting to count the votes for a council candidate somewhere in the middle of the printout.

Please pass this resolution to advance a regional voting system that saves taxpayers money, is easier to administer, and has proven itself more secure and acceptable to voters all over the country.

Allegra Dengler