



ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

G. JEFFREY HABER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Serving Towns Since 1933

October 26, 2009

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE RETENTION OF LEVER VOTING MACHINES

The Association of Towns commends New York City Councilmember Helen Foster's efforts to retain lever voting machines and supports her resolution calling upon the State Legislature, the New York Board of Elections, the New York Congressional delegation and the Governor of New York to take all appropriate actions necessary to allow the continued use of lever voting machines in New York State. The same call to action was made of New York's leadership by the members of the Association of Towns at their Annual Meeting in February of 2009.

As with New York City, lever voting machines have been successfully used in the 932 towns of New York for general and special elections with very few problems. The existing lever machines have proven to be a dependable, secure and economical means of ensuring the integrity of elections and the enfranchisement of voters throughout the state.

The voting machines that have been offered as a replacement to lever machines raise significant concerns with the public and their elected officials about their security, ease of use and costs. Without a change in the NYS Election Law or regulations by the NYS Board of Elections, voters throughout the state will be forced to proceed with these uncertified machines – which have demonstrated a history of not working.

With the attached resolution, the Association of Towns supports Councilmember Helen Foster in calling upon our legislative bodies, as well as the NYS Board of Elections, to remedy this very expensive problem that jeopardizes the legitimacy of our system of elections.

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ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

RESOLUTION NO. 17 OF 2009

RETENTION OF LEVER VOTING MACHINES

WHEREAS, for many decades New York State has successfully used mechanical lever-style voting machines, with very few problems, and is desirous of continuing to do so; and

WHEREAS, the continued use of lever voting machines is in the best interest of the public and should be permitted to be used in future general elections; and

WHEREAS, the elimination of lever voting machines, as required by statute, is costly to taxpayers, will result in another burden upon the local taxpayers and will be confusing to the voting public without adequate time and education, **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, that the Association of Towns hereby requests the United States Congress, Governor of New York, New York State Legislature and the New York State Board of Elections enact laws, rules, and regulations and take all other needed actions to specifically authorize the continued use of lever voting machines.