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Independent Neighborhood Democrats  
498 Court Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Thursday, May 28, 2009

Assemblywoman Joan L. Millman:

Below is a resolution passed by the membership of the Independent Neighborhood Democrats. We are concerned that replacement of our current lever voting machines with paper ballots and electronic vote-counting optical scanners will take money away from other essential services, and that our current security requirements are inadequate for such new technology.

We urge you to take action consistent with the suggestions in our resolution.

Sincerely,



Kenn Lowy  
President  
Independent Neighborhood Democrats

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Whereas New York's Election Law currently requires replacing our lever voting machines, which were designed and built to last indefinitely with routine maintenance and replacement of worn parts, and can be easily and inexpensively renovated to nearly-new condition, and are more secure, transparent and manageable than any computer technology; and

Whereas New York's current economic crisis is already causing the cutback of essential services, and the cost of computerized elections has not been estimated in New York, but in other jurisdictions such cost has been higher than the cost with older non-computerized equipment;

Therefore the Independent Neighborhood Democrats resolve that New York State:

- require counties to either keep their lever voting machines augmented by accessible ballot marking devices, or replace their lever voting machines with voter-marked paper ballots and precinct-based optical scanner systems augmented by accessible ballot marking devices, along with enhanced security requirements to facilitate continuous citizen oversight of the chain of custody of voted ballots until all audits have been completed and the election is certified; and

- require counties to estimate the cost of transition to computerized equipment and the cost of conducting elections with proper audits, and to continue to use our lever voting equipment until the cost of more expensive elections does not require cuts in other essential services.