

**Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law
League of Women Voters of New York State
New Yorkers for Verified Voting
New York Public Interest Research Group, NYPIRG**

NEWS RELEASE

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**State Board of Elections Must Consider All Factors When
Determining Voting Machine Capacity**

SBOE Commissioned Study Fails to Consider Peak Voting Times,
Machine Failures and Other Critical Factors in Timing Study

The American Institute for Research (AIR) has submitted a User Rate Assessment Study to the State Board of Elections. This report will be one factor in a decision to be made in January determining the minimum number of new voting machines needed to be purchased for each election district or polling place across the state.

On page 2 of the report AIR notes "There are many factors that determine how many voters can vote at a polling place during an election day and how many voting systems are required to accommodate them." acknowledging the limitations of the study which make it unrepresentative of polling place conditions during actual elections. The study concludes "We strongly recommend that the NYSBOE take all such factors into consideration in making determinations about the type and number of voting systems to purchase in each district."

"The AIR study fails to consider the number of voters who must be processed during peak voting times in the morning, noon, and evening hours when turnout is very high and the likelihood that lines will form is greatest. This is a serious problem." **said Bo Lipari, Executive Director of New Yorkers for Verified Voting.** "If long lines are to be avoided on Election Day, the State Board must take peak voting times into account when it makes its final determination in January."

"Even with its shortcomings, this study confirms that the state would have to spend huge sums of money to buy enough DRE voting machines to avoid long lines at the polls," **said Neal Rosenstein of NYPIRG,** a supporter of optical scan voting systems. "This should be the final nail in the coffin for this discredited technology," he added.

"This study is far from perfect, but it confirms the Brennan Center's findings that providing enough touch-screen machines to avert long lines at the polls and accommodate the disabled will be outrageously expensive." **said Larry Norden of the Brennan Center for Justice.** "Given all of the other problems with the full face DREs, the choice for new voting machines couldn't be more obvious. Optical scan machines are easier to use, more secure and more cost effective for New York."

"The AIR study shows that a single optical scanner in a polling place can serve thousands of voters, while it would take ten or more \$9,000 DREs to do the same." **said Aimee Allaud, Election Specialist for the League of Women Voters of New York State.** "Counties need to understand that they can't afford the expensive, failure prone DREs when the reliable, cost effective alternative of scanners is available."

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