

**League of Women Voters of New York State
New York Public Interest Research Group, NYPIRG
New Yorkers for Verified Voting**

Press Release

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**Election Integrity Advocates Call For Revisions to
State Plan to Use Uncertified Voting Machines in 2009 Elections**

Report by Citizen Advisory Committee member calls plan "Inadequate"

The New York State Board of Elections has proposed a pilot program allowing county Boards to use new voting systems even though they have not yet completed or passed New York State certification testing. Under the proposed plan, over 900,000 voters will choose local elected officials and vote on local referenda using systems which have not yet completed New York's rigorous testing requirements. 18 counties will deploy the systems county-wide, with all voters voting on the untested machines.

In a newly released critique of the Board's proposed plan, Bo Lipari, League of Women Voters representative to the Citizen Election Modernization Advisory Committee, reported that *"the Proposed Plan gives insufficient regard to the scale of the project, the need for independent verification of results, the potential for problems arising, or a plan for how to learn from and apply the results."* The report can be downloaded here:
<http://www.nyvv.org/newdoc/LipariCEMACPilotComments.pdf>

"The accepted definition of "pilot program" to most people means a limited roll out of a new system in order to test it under real world conditions prior to its use by an entire organization," **said Aimee Allaud, Elections Specialist, NYS League of Women Voters.** "Instead, the New York State Board of Elections is using real voters as guinea pigs in the upcoming elections," she added.

"Elections should be transparent, secure and inspire public confidence," **said Neal Rosenstein of the New York Public Interest Research Group.** "Unfortunately, the Board's plan to have over 900,000 voters use new uncertified voting systems this year without requiring meaningful audits of results undermines the credibility of the election and sets a dangerous precedent for the future," he added.

"Election integrity in New York would benefit greatly if the Board of Elections adopted the report's recommendations for its proposed pilot," **said Dr. Wanda Warren Berry, Director of New Yorkers for Verified Voting.** "The Board should heed the warnings of an expert who understands the pitfalls of test deployments of new technologies and the need for comprehensive audits of paper ballots."

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