

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION



FOR WOMEN



## **BROOKLYN-QUEENS CHAPTER**

P.O. Box 350-746, Brooklyn, NY 11235

718-951-7441, [bklynqnsnow@yahoo.com](mailto:bklynqnsnow@yahoo.com)

[www.brooklynqueensnow.org](http://www.brooklynqueensnow.org)



February 13, 2006

**President**

Shirley Ranz

**Vice-President**

Sherry Rogers

**Treasurer**

Constance

Pigozzi

**Membership**

Judith Ebert

**Legislative**

Julie Kirshner

**Young**

**Feminists**

Rachelle Susisa

### **Resolution in support of "PBOS" voting technology (Paper Ballots, Optical Scanners and Accessible Ballot-Marking machines for voters with disabilities and minority languages)**

The New York City Board of Elections is now preparing to select new voting machines to replace our mechanical lever voting machines. The Board has held no hearings to allow citizens to speak on this issue. **We urge the Board to hold public hearings so that citizens can make their opinions known.**

Women fought for many years to get the vote. We don't want to turn our votes over to companies who make electronic voting systems, whose loyalty is to profit-making rather than to our democracy. Computerized voting would require the Board of Elections to use outside vendor technicians to assist in conducting elections. We believe that the Boards of Elections should conduct our elections and should use voting methods that are manageable for staff, voters, poll workers, and election observers.

We have confidence in the use of paper ballots which are marked directly by voters, but we do not trust computerized voting machines. Computers prevent voters from seeing their own legal ballot. Computer balloting enables us to see only a representation on the computer screen. This is not permanent and is not our legal ballot.

Optical scanners and accessible ballot-marking machines in each poll site would be reliable, secure, and easy to use, and would enable election observers to watch the ballots, ballot boxes, and procedures to ensure the integrity of our elections. Optical scanners have been used nationwide for many years, and these machines work well. Voters have confidence in them.

Even if other considerations were equal, PBOS equipment will cost less for purchase and use than electronic voting systems, and will last many years longer.

**We urge the New York State Board of Elections to certify Optical Scanning machines as soon as possible.**

**We urge the New York City Board of Elections to select Optical Scanning machines as our new voting machines.**

Shirley Ranz, **President**