

CENTER FOR THE WOMEN OF NEW YORK

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RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS AND IN SUPPORT OF PAPER BALLOTS, PRECINCT-BASED OPTICAL SCANNERS, AND ACCESSIBLE BALLOT-MARKING DEVICES IN NEW YORK Adopted February 28, 2006

The Center for the Women of New York (CWNy) is a non-profit membership organization whose mission is to improve women's lives. It serves as a resource and information center for women, offering educational opportunities, support services and social enrichment. It aims to be a "think tank", working with academic institutions and community organizations in developing and demonstrating models for women in all matters to improve their lives and toward realizing full economic, political and cultural life in New York City.

CWNy has explored the issues surrounding the certification and procurement of new voting technology and equipment as required by the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) and the Election Reform and Modernization Act (ERMA).

Whereas, CWNy urges the New York City Board of Elections not to purchase DRE technology and equipment for the reasons stated below, including, but not limited to:

DRE voting systems are error-prone and at risk for tampering, both of which are difficult if not impossible to detect, prevent or correct.

Where DRE voting systems have been in use, there is evidence of many election irregularities.

DRE vendors typically retain an interest in the hardware, software or source code of their voting systems and therefore DREs cannot be completely under public control.

DREs require reliance on private contractors or vendors to assist in the conduct of elections. CWNy believes public employees should perform all work related to the conduct of elections.

As citizens, we must demand an easily verified, audit-friendly system, which DRE technology cannot deliver.

As women, we are aware that equality in society begins with the right to vote, and we do not want to risk our votes by casting them on DREs.

As taxpayers, we do not want our city's resources spent on insecure electronic voting systems when a less expensive, time-tested, and more reliable alternative is available.

Be it resolved, when choosing equipment to replace the current lever voting machines, we urge the adoption of a voting system consisting of paper ballots, precinct-based optical scanners, and accessible devices to assist voters with disabilities and minority languages to mark their paper ballot in a private and independent way.