

For Immediate Release:
Albany, New York
June 20, 2005



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Citizens Organize to Block Computer Voting – Optical Scanners Seen as Better for Voters and Taxpayers

Statement by Richard Kirsch

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“Surprisingly, a citizen’s movement managed to block the assault on the legislature by makers of computer voting machines, bent on maximizing their profits at the expense of New York’s voters and taxpayers. The result was a tie, with the legislature now getting ready to punt the key decision on what kind of voting machine to buy to local elected officials in 58 counties and New York City.

“Citizen Action of New York will be helping citizens around New York in this battle of computer voting machine Goliaths vs. citizen Davids. We will be working with local citizens to protect the integrity of the election process and the pocketbook of local taxpayers.

“We’re asking local elected officials to ask three questions. One: who are you going to believe, newspaper editors and citizen groups who strongly favor optical scanners or computer voting machine salesmen looking to profit from county governments? Second, are you willing to pay thousands more dollars for computer voting machines that are likely to need replacing in a few years instead of purchasing less expensive, more reliable optical scanners? And three – do you want to read the headlines in your local newspaper like the headlines in Florida, telling of election officials resigning because of computer voting machines that lost votes and twice as much as budgeted?

“We urge county legislators and elected officials across New York to stand up for voters and taxpayers and choose optical scanners, rejecting the snake oil being pushed by the companies who want to profit from selling costly, untrustworthy computer voting machines.”

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