

LOCAL 200UNITED



SEIU

Stronger Together

JERRY DENNIS
President

LIZ GOLEMBESKI
Executive Vice President

MICHAEL LONIGRO
Vice President

Dan Verstrete
Vice President

ROBERT CONNOLLY
Secretary-Treasurer

MARK DeSANTIS
Recording Secretary

JOHN WALKER
Sergeant-at-Arms

**SERVICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION
AFL-CIO,CLC**

SYRACUSE OFFICE
1153 West Fayette Street
Suite 302
P.O. Box 1540
Syracuse, NY 13201
Phone: 315/424-1750
Fax: 315/479-9030

BUFFALO OFFICE
2495 Kensington Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14226
Phone: 716/631-8940
Fax: 716/631-3929

Senator Dave Valesky
Legislative Office Building Room 707
Albany, NY 12247

March 10th, 2005

Dear Senator Valesky:

SEIU Local 200United endorses a voting system for NYS which incorporates paper ballots counted by hand or by precinct-based optical scanners. Each polling place would have at least one ballot marking device for disabled voters and voters whose first language is not English. We oppose touch screen voting machines (DREs) even if they have a paper component because they are still vulnerable to software error and fraud. A computer can be programmed in such a way that the paper component shows a different vote than what is actually being counted inside the "black box."

In addition, touch screen voting machines are more expensive than paper ballot systems.

Further, they take meaningful voting oversight out of the hands of poll workers and election commissioners (since most are not computer experts) and put it in the hands of vendors and technicians from computer companies.

We urge our members to exercise their democratic right and responsibility to vote. How can our members take voting seriously if the type of voting equipment can be so easily manipulated to change votes?

Please let me know whether you will support paper ballots counted by hand or by precinct-based optical scanners (along with a ballot marking machine for those who need it). I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Joe Rossi
Political Director

Albany
55 Grant Avenue
Albany, NY 12206
518/438-4206

Binghamton
2006 North Street
Endwell, NY 13760
607/748-0751

Hudson Valley
594 Rte. 299
Highland, NY 12528
845/883-6418

Rochester
225 West Broad St., Suite B
Rochester, NY 14608
585/464-8880

