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Statement in support of returning federal money for replacement of lever voting machines, and keeping the lever voting machines

United Hebrew Trades urges our New York City and New York State officials to take action now to return the federal money that our state accepted for replacement of lever voting machines, and to keep our lever voting machines.

Lever voting machines have been used for over 100 years with few problems. These machines are cost-effective, easy and inexpensive to maintain in nearly-new condition, secure, and perfectly designed for the work of counting votes cast in poll sites.

In contrast, computers have never been a secure technology. Paper ballots are notorious for their history of tampering.

Our nation, state, and city are facing an economic crisis, and we must make responsible choices for our limited resources. The cost of running elections with optical scanners and paper ballots will be much greater than what we now spend for superior elections with lever voting machines. The federal money New York State accepted for replacement of the lever voting machines will not cover the cost of transition or use of the new technology.

The Help America Vote Act of 2002 does not require replacement of the lever voting machines, and New York is in compliance with the federal mandate to provide equipment for voters with disabilities in each polling place.

For these reasons, the United Hebrew Trades urges our state to take all actions necessary to keep our lever voting machines, and to return the federal money that our state accepted for replacement of lever voting machines.

Passed by unanimous vote, June 4, 2009

