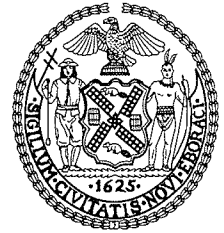




News...

FROM COUNCILMEMBER

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COUNCIL DEMANDS PUBLIC INPUT & RIGOROUS TESTING OF ELECTRONIC VOTING *Resolution Urges NYC Board of Elections to Ensure Secure, Accurate Voting*

City Hall— In a nearly unanimous vote, the City Council today passed a bipartisan Resolution urging the NYC Board of Elections to implement vital measures to insure the integrity of the City's voting system and maintain public confidence as the City and State struggle to comply with the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA). The Resolution has an historic 43 sponsors of the Council's 51 members.

Among the measures recommended for an accountable and transparent process are: public hearings in each Borough; analysis of costs required to implement electronic voting; Mock Election Public Tests to demonstrate accuracy of vote counts and preparedness of election staff; Professional Hacking Tests to detect and eliminate "backdoor" vulnerabilities potentially leading to vote fraud; and thorough inspections and public confirmation that all voting systems equipment is correctly configured, conforms to New York State standards, and does not allow for illegal voting-related activities such as wireless communications.

"Today the Council stands united in demanding public input and accountability to safeguard the most basic right of our democratic society—the right to vote," said Councilmember Robert Jackson, lead sponsor. "We expect the Board of Elections to heed our call to preserve the integrity of our voting system as we move towards electronic voting. All New Yorkers must be confident that their voice is heard in the voting booth."

Mary Lou Urban, Elections Specialist of the League of Women Voters of the City of New York said, "With the integrity of New York elections and the confidence of the City's voters totally dependent upon the security and accuracy of our voting system, it is entirely appropriate and commendable for the City Council to pass the Resolution."

Molly Krakowski, Director of the Joint Public Affairs Committee for Older Adults (JPAC) said the City must "ensure that older adults, individuals with disabilities and those with language barriers have the opportunity to vote. Resolution 228 includes the necessary precautions to maintain public confidence that our votes will be securely cast and counted."

Edward Josey, President of the Staten Island Branch of the NAACP, said "Passage of Resolution 228 by the City Council is a big step toward selecting the best voting machines to ensure that the votes of the people are properly recorded and counted."

"This resolution makes clear that elections belong to the people," said Teresa Hommel, Chairwoman of the Task Force on Election Integrity of Community Church of New York. She cited the strengths of mock election public tests, New York-specific cost estimates and confirmation that equipment conforms to state standards.

Citing the Council's recommendations of a high standard of testing of any proposed voting equipment, Bo Lipari, Executive Director of New Yorkers for Verified Voting said "The federal and state testing normally performed on electronic voting systems tells us nothing about whether they are accurate, secure and will correctly count our votes. The Resolution before the City Council calls for rigorous testing."

Tony Simone, Deputy Director of the Northeast Regional office of People for the American Way, noted the Council's initiative and support of electoral integrity, saying "As the NYC Board of Elections modernizes voting equipment, transparency, accountability and public input through public testing of voting machines is essential to ensure that every vote counts."