

JPAC *for OLDER ADULTS*

Joint Public Affairs Committee / 132 West 31st Street – 10th Floor / NY, NY 10001 / 212-273-5262

Sponsored by Jewish Association for Services for the Aged (JASA)

July 2006

Support Public Testing of All Voting Equipment in New York Prior to Selection and Purchase; Support New York City Council Resolution 228

The Joint Public Affairs Committee for Older Adults (JPAC) supports public testing as well as expert evaluations of all voting systems under consideration for purchase to replace New York's current mechanical lever voting machines.

JPAC urges both the New York State Board of Elections and the Board of Elections in the City of New York to perform full Mock Election Tests in public to show that any system under consideration works. Demonstrations that show only the entry of votes are not sufficient to illustrate that an entire system works properly and can be safely used by voters, poll workers and election staff.

JPAC calls on the New York City Council to pass Resolution 228 as soon as possible. This resolution, introduced by Council Member Robert Jackson, lists the important public testing and evaluations by computer experts that the State and City Boards of Elections should perform.

The tests and evaluations listed in Resolution 228 are reasonable precautions in order to maintain public confidence that votes are securely cast and counted with any new voting equipment under consideration. Such tests and evaluations should be conducted prior to selection and purchase.

The vote represents the people's greatest muscle; it provides citizens with the power to elect government officials and through them to address issues of great concern. It is crucial that any new voting machines in New York protect the integrity of the vote.

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