

Warren County Board of Supervisors

RESOLUTION NO. 354 OF 2009

Resolution introduced by Supervisors Stec, Belden, O'Connor, Bentley, Tessier, Taylor, VanNess, Kenny and Merlino

RESOLUTION TO JOIN THE NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS AND OTHER COUNTIES IN SEEKING COUNTY LEADERSHIP AND SUPPORT FOR FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY BY STAYING WITH LEVER VOTING MACHINES

WHEREAS, for many decades, Warren County has successfully used mechanical lever-style voting machines, with very few problems, and is desirous of continuing to do so, and

WHEREAS, New York State enacted the Election Reform and Modernization Act of 2005 (ERMA) and other laws that require all lever machines to be replaced and prohibit the use of any lever machines in any future elections in New York State, and

WHEREAS, Warren County believes that the continued use of lever-style voting machines is in the best interest of the public and should be permitted to be used in future elections, and

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of this Board that if the State of New York replaces lever voting machines with optical scanner systems, the cost to the taxpayers of Warren County will be insurmountable, not covered by Help Americans Vote Act (HAVA) funds, and the payment thereof will severely strain and possibly break the budgets of all Counties in this time of economic crisis, and

WHEREAS, the expense of the computerized voting systems is exorbitant and will no doubt increase annually, and there will be uncertain costs and expenses, none of which exists with the current lever machine and Ballot Marking Device machines, and

WHEREAS, New York State now has an accurate and reliable electoral system using the lever-style voting machines, and

WHEREAS, the New York State legislation relating to voting machines far exceeds the federal requirements of HAVA, and

WHEREAS, the State's statutorily required elimination of lever-style voting machines is unnecessary, inappropriate and costly to Warren County taxpayers, and in these difficult economic times, the cost to implement elections with these new machines will not be paid by New York State, and is an unfunded mandate, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Warren County Board of Supervisors hereby joins with the New York State Association of Towns and other Counties seeking and supporting the continuation of our lever voting machines, together with Ballot Marking Devices, and opposing the use of a computerized voting system, as the computerized voting system will be a huge expense and undertaking in Warren County during this time of economic uncertainty, and be it further

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RESOLVED, that the Warren County Board of Supervisors hereby requests the New York State Legislature and the New York State Board of Elections to enact laws, rules and regulations as specifically authorized to continue the use of lever-style voting machines, and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the New York Association of Towns, Election Transparency Coalition, Governor David Paterson, New York Senate Majority Leader Malcolm A. Smith, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Minority Leader Brian Kolb, Senator Elizabeth O'C. Little, Assemblywoman Teresa R. Sayward, Assemblywoman Janet Duprey, the Executive Directors of the New York State Board of Elections, Todd Valentine and Stanley Zalen, New York State Board of Elections Commissioners, James Walsh, Douglas Kellner, Evelyn Aquila and Gregory Patterson, United States Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, and United States Members of Congress, John McHugh and Scott Murphy.

STATE OF NEW YORK)
)ss.:
COUNTY OF WARREN)

I, JOAN SADY, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Warren, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy and the whole thereof of a Resolution duly adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Warren, Lake George, New York on the 15th day of May, 2009.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the Board of Supervisors on this 15th day of May, 2009.



Clerk, Board of Supervisors
Warren County