

ELECTRONIC VOTING EQUIPMENT

Since the appointment of a New York State Temporary Commission on Voting Machine Equipment in 1984, the League has favored legislation that would allow local governments the option of using electronic voting equipment. After a year of study and equipment testing, the Commission recommended changes in the state law allowing the use of electronic voting machines. The New York State Board of Elections developed a comprehensive set of regulations and guidelines for the machines' certification, testing and management; the machines would be purchased and maintained by individual counties, cities or towns. In 1986 legislation was passed enabling localities to replace their antiquated, failing equipment with electronic machines. They are being used, selectively, in many areas across the state. Since 1984 the LWVNYS has favored government action to advance the evaluation of electronic voting systems and has favored legislation that would allow local governments the option of using electronic voting equipment.

In 2001, the League supported bipartisan legislation which would allow the State Board of Elections to authorize a county board of elections to use a voting system (i.e., machine) not previously approved by the State Board. By giving this discretionary power to the State Board, county boards would be able to test newer machines before purchasing. With the passage of the Help America Vote Act in October 2002, which will require the replacement of all lever voting machines in the state by 2006, this recommendation became moot.