

**Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley
League of Women Voters of New York State
New York Public Interest Research Group, NYPIRG
New Yorkers for Verified Voting**

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Wednesday, September 19, 2007

For more information contact:
Bo Lipari: 607-351-2314
Aimee Allaud: 518-482-2617
Neal Rosenstein: 917-575-4317
212-349-6460

**State Board of Elections Must Not Allow
Untested DREs into New York's Polling Places**

Citizen advocacy organizations today announced opposition to the New York State Board of Elections proposal to allow touch screen voting machines, or DREs, in polling places in 2008. They expressed grave concerns about the Board's proposal to allow DREs to be used as accessible ballot marking devices in 2008 by disabling the device's vote counting functions and using the Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) as the ballot. Recently at a meeting of the State Board of Elections and county commissioners, Co-Executive Director Peter Kosinski stated that DREs used for this purpose would be subjected to a "truncated certification process."

The groups strongly support implementing accessible voting in all New York polling places in 2008 but are opposed to any plan that allows DREs to be used as accessible voting machines.

"The League of Women Voters of New York State supports the goal of fully accessible voting for all people, but using uncertified, untested and inaccessible equipment does not bring that goal any closer to being met," **said Aimee Allaud, Elections Specialist, League of Women Voters of New York State.** She added, "voting machines used by all voters should be treated equally during the NYS mandated certification process and subjected to the same performance standards for their security, accuracy and reliability."

"Citizens with disabilities just want to exercise their right to vote on an accessible, secure, and verifiable voting system - the same as all other citizens." **said Cliff Perez, Systems Advocate with the Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley.** "But voters with visual impairments cannot verify a VVPAT produced by a DRE."

"The State Board of Elections apparently is looking to sneak untested DREs into every polling site across the state in the guise of allowing them to temporarily function as "Ballot Markers" -- machines that are designed to help voters mark and print out a paper ballot," **said NYPIRG Legislative Counsel, Russ Haven.** "Like the residents of ancient Troy, we should beware such Trojan Horses from the Board."

Other states have had endless problems with their touch screen voting machines and are rapidly abandoning multimillion dollar investments in this bankrupt technology." **said Bo Lipari, Executive Director of New Yorkers for Verified Voting.** "Why does the State Board of Elections want to allow these broken machines into our polling places in spite of the abundant evidence that DREs are a failed experiment?"

####