



March 9, 2006

John Ravitz, Executive Director
Board of Election in the City of New York
Executive Office
32 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

Dear Mr. Ravitz:

New York must soon replace our lever voting machines with one of two options.

ACORN takes the position that New York City should choose Optical Scan systems, rather than computerized touch-screen or pushbutton voting machines:

Paper Ballots and precinct-based Optical Scanners, with accessible ballot-marking machines for voters with disabilities or minority languages, offer a more reliable, auditable, cost-effective alternative to computerized touch-screen or pushbutton voting machines.

Optical Scan systems meet all the federal and state requirements, and local Boards of Election already know how to safeguard and handle the paper ballots. Along with provisions for meaningful audits and basic security safeguards, these systems would increase public confidence in the integrity of elections.

We don't trust the privatized software of electronic voting systems, which studies, experience, and the non-partisan Government Accountability Office have determined to be unreliable, vulnerable to insider and outsider hacking, and very costly.

We ask that our Election Commissioners choose Optical Scan systems for New York City, and that our State Board of Elections certifies Optical Scan systems.

We urge City Council Members to co-sponsor and work toward passage of #131 resolution, requiring selection of PBOS for New York City.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jon Kest
Head Organizer