



**SIERRA  
CLUB**  
FOUNDED 1892

40 Exchange Place, Suite 2010  
New York, NY 10005  
Phone : 646-405-9838  
[nyc.group@sierraclub.org](mailto:nyc.group@sierraclub.org)  
[www.sierraclub.org/chapters/ny/nyc](http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/ny/nyc)

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February 25, 2006

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

Dear Mr. Ravitz:

The Atlantic Chapter of the Sierra Club was one of the first organizations to engage in a statewide campaign for a paper ballot voting system for New York State.

An understanding has begun to grow that touch screen computer voting machines would be a danger to the fundamental democratic concept of expecting that each vote will be counted as the voter intended.

On Jan. 29, 2005 the Atlantic Chapter passed a resolution in opposition to DREs (touch screen or pushbutton computer voting machines) and in support of paper ballots, either hand counted or optically scanned precinct by precinct.

Each polling place would have a ballot-marking device for disabled voters who choose to use them. If counting of ballots is done by optical scanners, these safeguards are needed:

- a. A ban on wireless communication devices;
- b. Source code used in election equipment, and certification reports from independent testing authorities, must be freely available for public examination;
- c. Conduct surprise random recounts of a statistically meaningful number of precincts to compare optical scanner results to paper ballot totals after every election, not just when vote counts are challenged.

We ask that our Board of Elections choose "PBOS," and not electronic voting.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. W. Logan  
Chair