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BOARD OF ELECTIONS

IN
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE OFFICE, 32 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10004-1609
(212) 487-5300
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www.vote.nyc.ny.us

AGENDA COMMISSIONERS' MEETING TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2010 AT 1:30 P.M.

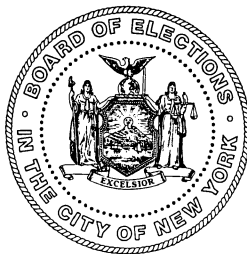
1. Minutes
 - a) 12/15/09
 - b) 12/22/09
 - c) 12/29/09
2. Selection of a New Poll Site Voting System for the City of New York
3. John Ward
 - a) Vacancy Report
4. Election of President and Secretary of the Board for Calendar Year 2010

For Your Information

- HAVA Weekly Status Report – Week Ending December 31, 2009
- Statement of Cost – Board of Elections – November 2009

News Items of Interest

- *The New York Times*: City Finally Poised to Give Up Lever Voting Machines
- *The New York Post*: Vote-Machine lobbyist was in 'rig' trouble
- *The Daily News*: How Political Lobbyists are Rocking the Vote in New York City
- *The New York Post*: Machines 'elected'
- *Newsday.com*: Spin Cycle
- *NY1 News*: City Chooses New Voting Machines
- *Ithaca Journal*: Company says New York jobs riding on voting-machine contract
- *Gothamist.com*: Voting to Become More Like School Exams
- *NYPMag.com*: Mayor Bloomberg Will Never Sashay Out of a Voting Booth Again
- *Cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com*: Goodbye to the Lever, and Hello to the Oval
- *Nydailynews.com*: Your vote, their choice: A cabal of hacks is picking New York's new voting machines
- *1010WINS.com*: NYC Getting Rid of Lever Voting Machines
- *New York (AP/1010 WINS)*: New York City is replacing its old-fashioned lever voting machines
- *(Translation of Korea Daily News Article for New Voting System in 2010)*
Korea Daily News: Voting System Change in NYC... Replacing BMD For Lever Machine From September



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ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER

JOHN J. WARD
FINANCE OFFICER

DATE: January 05, 2010
TO: Commissioners

FROM: John Ward
Finance Officer.

RE: Vacancies

						Inc.	New.
1	Assistant General Counsel						\$75,000
2	Valerie Marshall	Adm. Asst.	N.Y.	Dem.	\$42,659	\$40,628	
3	Robert Helenius	VMT	Bklyn	Rep.	\$30,088	\$28,655	
4	Lisa Sattie	Adm. Asst.	S.I.	Dem.	\$42,659	\$40,628	
5	Angela Petit	Clerk.	Bklyn	Rep.	\$29,323	\$27,927	



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website: www.elections.state.ny.us

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Robert A. Brehm
Executive Director
Kimberly A. Galvin
Special Counsel
Paul M. Collins
Deputy Counsel

December 31, 2009

Honorable Gary L. Sharpe
United States District Court
for the Northern District of New York
James T. Foley U.S. Courthouse
445 Broadway, Room 441
Albany, New York 12207

Re: *United States v. New York State Board of Elections, et al.*
Civil Action No. 06-CV-0263 (GLS)

Dear Judge Sharpe,

We enclose herewith Status Report of the Defendant New York State Board of Elections for the week ending December 31, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

s/ _____
Kimberly A. Galvin (505011)
Special Counsel

s/ _____
Paul M. Collins (101384)
Deputy Special Counsel

HAVA COMPLIANCE UPDATE
Activities & Progress for the Period of 12/17/09-12/31/09

Following is a detailed report concerning the progress in implementing the terms of the Court's Orders for this period as, by consent, no Report was filed for the week of 12/17 to 12/24.

PLAN A

Overall Compliance Status Summary

Overall, activities and progress toward HAVA compliance are on schedule with the revised timeline.

Contracting with Voting System Vendors

Status of tasks in this category: on schedule

- o OGS is working with NYSBOE and both vendors to finalize their most recent add requests.

Testing, Certification, and Selection of Voting Systems & Devices

Status of tasks in this category: on schedule

- o Overall progress of testing :
 - NYSBOE staff will contact Nassau County regarding their anticipated date for their machine system choice.
 - NYCBOE has held a series of demonstrations and on 12/29 held a public hearing. Choosing a voting system will be their first item on agenda at the NYC Commissioner's meeting which will be held on January 5, 2010.

Delivery and Implementation of Voting Systems & Devices

Status of tasks in this category: on schedule

- Acceptance testing continues at Building 3.
- The State Board will meet again on January 14, 2010, at which time it will consider choosing a voting system for both NYC and Nassau County in the event that those jurisdictions have not chosen a voting system.

HAVA COMPLAINT PROCESS

NYC HAVA Complaint

NYCBOE responded to the SBOE inquiry. SBOE is formulating a strategy to move forward and has advised the Department of Justice of the City Board's response. A decision regarding what action will be taken will be made early next year.

Commb
FY1

Steven H. Richman

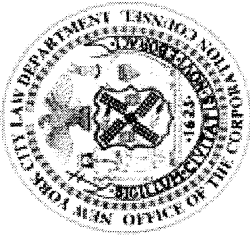
From: Majerus, Kenneth [kmajerus@law.nyc.gov]
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2009 10:46 AM
To: Marcus Cederqvist; Steven H. Richman
Subject: STATEMENT OF COST - BOARD OF ELECTIONS - November 2009

Your agency's statement for November 2009 is attached to this email. Cases have been arranged by division to assist you in identifying the matters. We have included all or part of both the plaintiff and defendant names, also to help identify the matters. A running total of each division's hours is located after the last matter for each division.

As before, if you see a case you believe is erroneously attributed to your agency, please let me know.

Thank you.

Ken Majerus
Chief of Operations
City of New York Law Department
100 Church Street
New York, NY 10007
(212) 788-0373
(212) 788-0386 - fax
kmajerus@law.nyc.gov



Date: 12/22/2009
 Summary Charges to BOARD OF ELECTIONS
 for Nov. 1, 2009 - Nov. 30, 2009

Number of Matters	4				
Total Attorney Hours	13.25		Attorney Hours YTD	343	
Total Attorney Charges	\$2,075.89		Attorney Charges YTD	\$53,064.89	
Total Disbursement	\$0.00		Disbursement YTD	\$0.00	
Total Workers' Compensation Administrative Cost	\$400.00	for 20 claims	WC Admin Cost YTD	\$2,042.00	
Tort - Labor Attribution Summary	\$0.00		Tort Labor Costs YTD	\$0.00	
Grand Total	\$2,475.89		Grand Total YTD	\$55,106.89	

Total Workers' Compensation Actual Expenditure	\$9,363.00	Workers' Comp Actual Expenditure YTD *	\$108,460.00
--	------------	--	--------------

YTD = July 1, 2009 to Present
 * = WC Actual Expenditure July 1, 2009 to Present
 Tuesday, December 22, 2009

Appendix A

Matters Detail BOARD OF ELECTIONS

for Nov. 1, 2009 - Nov. 30, 2009

Caption	Matter Number	Date	Staff	Hour Rate	Description	Amount
Affirmative Litigation						
CITY OF NEW YORK VS NEW YORK STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS	2009009787	11/10/2009	BERNHARDT, DORIS	0.50	\$150.44 Correspondence	\$75.22
			Total Hours:	0.50		
			Case Attorney Total YTD:	\$361.00		\$75.22
			Disbursement YTD:	\$0.00		\$0.00
			Matter Total YTD:	\$361.00		\$75.22
			Total Hours:	0.50		
			Division Attorney Total YTD:	\$610.18		\$75.22
			Disbursement YTD:	\$0.00		\$0.00
			Matter Total YTD:	\$610.18		\$75.22

Caption	Matter Number	Date	Staff	Hour Rate	Description	Amount
Contracts and Real Estate						
CONT & RE ADM TIME-BD OF EL	04CR900036	11/4/2009	COHEN, ANDREA	0.50	\$155.25 Counseling/Opinion/Memo	\$77.62
CONT & RE ADM TIME-BD OF EL	04CR900036	11/5/2009	COHEN, ANDREA	0.75	\$155.25 Drafting/Review of Transactional Do	\$116.43
CONT & RE ADM TIME-BD OF EL	04CR900036	11/16/2009	COHEN, ANDREA	4.25	\$155.25 Drafting/Review of Transactional Do	\$659.79
CONT & RE ADM TIME-BD OF EL	04CR900036	11/17/2009	COHEN, ANDREA	2.75	\$155.25 Drafting/Review of Transactional Do	\$426.93

Appendix A

	Total Hours:	8.25		
<i>Case Attorney Total YTD:</i>	\$2,852.84		<i>Case Attorney Total:</i>	\$1,280.78
<i>Disbursement YTD:</i>	\$0.00		<i>Disbursement Total:</i>	\$0.00
<i>Matter Total YTD:</i>	\$2,852.84		<i>Matter Total:</i>	\$1,280.78
	Total Hours:	8.25		
<i>Division Attorney Total YTD:</i>	\$2,852.84		<i>Division Attorney Total:</i>	\$1,280.78
<i>Disbursement YTD:</i>	\$0.00		<i>Disbursement Total:</i>	\$0.00
<i>Matter Total YTD:</i>	\$2,852.84		<i>Matter Total:</i>	\$1,280.78

Caption	Matter Number	Date	Staff	Hour Rate	Description	Amount
General Litigation						
GEN LIT ADM TIME - ELECTIONS, BOARD OF VS	04GL900014	11/2/2009	KITZINGER, STEPHEN	1.00	\$159.98 Communication with Client	\$159.98
GEN LIT ADM TIME - ELECTIONS, BOARD OF VS	04GL900014	11/2/2009	KITZINGER, STEPHEN	2.00	\$159.98 Intra Office Conf/Communicatn	\$319.95
	Total Hours:			3.00		
<i>Case Attorney Total YTD:</i>			\$4,319.38		<i>Case Attorney Total:</i>	\$479.93
<i>Disbursement YTD:</i>			\$0.00		<i>Disbursement Total:</i>	\$0.00
<i>Matter Total YTD:</i>			\$4,319.38		<i>Matter Total:</i>	\$479.93
LEROY, MIREILLE P. VS ELECTIONS, BOARD OF, NYC, ET AL.	2009035756	11/6/2009	KITZINGER, STEPHEN	1.00	\$159.98 Brief/Motion	\$159.98
LEROY, MIREILLE P. VS ELECTIONS, BOARD OF, NYC, ET AL.	2009035756	11/6/2009	KITZINGER, STEPHEN	0.50	\$159.98 Communication with Client	\$79.99

Appendix A

<i>Case Attorney Total YTD:</i>	<i>Total Hours:</i>	<i>Case Attorney Total:</i>
\$1,039.85	1.50	\$239.97
<i>Disbursement YTD:</i>		<i>Disbursement Total:</i>
\$0.00		\$0.00
<i>Matter Total YTD:</i>		<i>Matter Total:</i>
\$1,039.85		\$239.97
<i>Division Attorney Total YTD:</i>	<i>Total Hours:</i>	<i>Division Attorney Total:</i>
\$42,507.85	4.50	\$719.90
<i>Disbursement YTD:</i>		<i>Disbursement Total:</i>
\$0.00		\$0.00
<i>Matter Total YTD:</i>		<i>Matter Total:</i>
\$42,507.85		\$719.90
<hr/>		
<i>Agency Attorney Total YTD:</i>		<i>Agency Total Attorney Dollars:</i>
\$53,064.89		\$2,075.89
<i>Disbursement YTD:</i>		<i>Total Disbursement:</i>
\$0.00		\$0.00
<i>Matter Total YTD:</i>		<i>Grand Matter Total:</i>
\$53,064.89		\$2,075.89

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City Finally Poised to Give Up Lever Voting Machines

Next Article in New York Region (10 of 19) »

The Old ... New York City's lever voting machines have been used since the 1860s.

... And the New The new system consists of filling in a paper ballot and scanning it to cast a vote.

OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY ELECTION
City of New York
County of Queens
September 12, 2009

Source: Board of Elections in the City of New York

By DAVID W. CHEN
Published: January 3, 2010

Say goodbye to the voting booth with its quaint little curtain. Say goodbye to pulling the lever for your candidate.

Related

- ImageCast Demo (vote-ny.com)
- DS200 Demo (vote-ny.com)

And say hello to filling in SAT-style ovals on Election Day.

After years of delays and missteps, the city's Board of Elections is expected to

choose new electronic voting machines on Tuesday that will be rolled out in time for the September primary. In so doing, New York City will become one of the last places in the country to get rid of its lever-operated voting machines.

The change will improve the way votes are counted, providing a paper trail backup for each vote, and make lines at the polls move faster, according to the Board of Elections. But it will also end another urban ritual, as tactile intimacy gives way to modern efficiency.

"In the context of the history of voting in New York, the shift away from lever machines is a huge milestone," said Lawrence D. Norden, director of the Voter Technology Assessment Project at the Brennan Center for Justice at the New York University School of Law. "Most New Yorkers are nostalgic about lever machines. I know I am. Ask a New Yorker about those machines and they will tell you that there is something reassuring about pulling the lever and hearing the choices register on the machine."

The current Shoup 3.2 mechanical voting machines used in city polling places have been

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in place for about half a century, according to Valerie L. Vazquez, a spokeswoman for the Board of Elections. But lever machines have had their problems. They can break down, causing lines at some polling places. They do not always record votes. And if the machine's counter is broken, there is no paper record of a vote to verify.

To avoid the Florida election debacle of 2000 and to help disabled people vote, Congress passed the [Help America Vote Act](#) of 2002. Several legislatures quickly selected new voting systems for their entire states.

Albany, however, was so delinquent in selecting a system that the [Justice Department](#) sued [New York State](#) in 2006 and threatened to take away federal money set aside for any costs associated with the transition to new technology.

Eventually, the New York Legislature allowed cities and counties to make their own choices, and New York City was one of the last to do so.

[Election Systems and Software](#) of Omaha and [Dominion Voting](#) of Toronto are the finalists for the coveted \$70 million contract. The winner would provide 5,000 to 7,000 new voting machines in the city.

The two voting systems are similar. After signing in, a voter fills out his or her ballots at one of several voting stations, which are like raised desks, with dividers to offer privacy. The voter then walks a short distance to a scanning machine, which displays instructions on a computer touch screen on how to scan in the ballot.

After the voter feeds the ballots into the machine, they drop into a locked box underneath as backup hard copies in the event of any disputes or recounts. The voter is asked, through a series of screen prompts, questions designed to guarantee that the voter's choices are final.

Election Systems and Software, the dominant company in the United States, offers a \$7,800 machine with a bigger and splashier touch screen. It has also provided a specially designed machine for disabled voters, which is already in use in New York City.

"This is the company that has all the experience and the wherewithal to manage a big account — the Detroiters, the Minneapolisites, the Fort Lauderdale-Broward Counties," said Judd Ryan, a sales manager for Election Systems and Software.

The Dominion Voting machines cost about \$7,200 each. Company officials believe their smaller touch screen affords more privacy. And their Canadian headquarters notwithstanding, they are stressing their New York ties, arguing that they would create dozens of manufacturing and sales jobs locally, and that most New York municipalities have chosen them to date.

"We're very New York-centric," said John Poulos, the company's president and chief executive.

Before the Tuesday vote, the city's Board of Elections convened a public hearing on Dec. 29. It has also held demonstrations of both systems in all five boroughs.

Some election experts remain concerned about the possibility of accidental "overvotes," when, for instance, someone fills in ovals for two candidates rather than one (something that the levers would not have allowed). Some are also concerned that the design of the paper ballots might be too confusing or hard to read.

One citizens' group, the [Election Transparency Coalition](#), is preparing to file a lawsuit




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against the state to nait the transition to the new machines.

Still, most election experts predict that the new system should be in place by September.

“We’ve tested these machines to far greater standards than most other states,” Mr. Norden said. “That will hopefully result in more reliable and secure systems.”

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A version of this article appeared in print on January 4, 2010, on page Next Article in New York Region (10 of 19) A18 of the New York edition.

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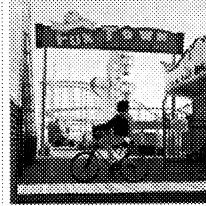
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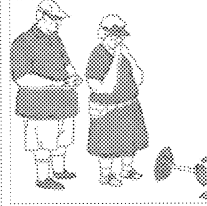
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Vote-machine lobbyist was in 'rig' trouble

A lobbyist working for the company believed to have the edge to win a multimillion-dollar contract to replace the city's lever-operated voting machines was once embroiled in a flap over ballot fixing.

Anthony Mangone, a Westchester-based lawyer and lobbyist hired to help Election Sys-

tems & Software, testified that he tampered with ballots in a voting-fraud criminal case against a political operative working for then-state Sen. Nicholas Spano (R-Westchester) in 2002.

Mangone was called by prosecutors trying Dennis Wedra Sr. on charges of masterminding a ballot-fixing scheme to help Spano win third-party primaries.

Having the minor-party lines increased Spano's chances of holding his seat in the general election in 2000.

Mangone testified that he opened up about 30 Green Party ballots, filled them in, "sealed them up" and then had them sent to the Board of Elections, the Journal News reported at the time.

Spano won the Green Party primary by a thin margin, but lost his seat years later.

Mangone — who declined comment — was never indicted, and Wedra was acquitted.

ES&S is facing off against Dominion, a Canadian company. A decision is expected by the Board of Elections tomorrow.

Maggie Haberman

★

Comments
RVL

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How political lobbyists are rocking the vote in New York City

Errol Louis

Thursday, December 31st 2009, 4:00 AM

A backroom process is choosing new machines

Ten political insiders you've never heard of are about to cast a historic vote replacing New York City's lever-driven walk-in voting booths with modern scanners that many say are unreliable.

There's been precious little news coverage of the runup to a Board of Elections vote scheduled for Tuesday, when the 10 commissioners will select between two competing corporations vying for an estimated \$38 million contract - that's certain to grow over time - to supply and service the new machines and train people in their use.

But this is no ordinary government contract decision. At stake is nothing less than the future of democracy, and whether New York City voters will have their ballots

properly and accurately counted.

As I noted in a column this year, the board is about to choose between systems sold by two companies: Nebraska-based Election Systems & Software and Dominion (formerly called Sequoia), a Canadian-owned firm with offices in upstate New York.

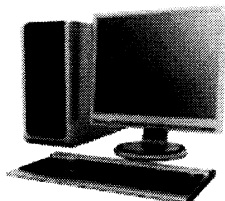
Selection of either machine will fundamentally change the way New Yorkers vote. Instead of pulling a lever, we'll fill in bubbles on a paper ballot, much the way people complete standardized tests or Lotto tickets. Each voter will then feed their ballot into an optical scanner, which records the choices. The filled-out ballots constitute a paper trail that can be checked or recounted if necessary.

There's a strong case for choosing the ES&S machines. They have a larger screen and allow non-English speakers to choose their language almost immediately. The Dominion machines, confusingly, indicate in English that users must punch a particular button over and over, scrolling through multiple languages to find their own.

The staff of the Board of Elections, comparing 34 different measures, has

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formally given the edge to ES&S. But the 10 commissioners of the board - appointed by the Republican and Democratic parties in each of the five boroughs - could end up rejecting the staff recommendation and selecting the inferior machine.

Each firm has spent lavishly on lobbyists. Dominion has paid \$64,000 this year to Stanley Schlein, an ex-chairman of the Civil Service Commission with a client list that includes top Bronx Democrats. ES&S has spent \$193,000 on a bevy of lobbyists including Hank Sheinkopf, Norman Levy and powerhouse firm Davidoff, Malito & Hutcher.

The presence of so many political operators adds a troubling degree of back-room influence to the process. That became clear at the final public hearing on the contract, when Elections Commissioner J.C. Polanco, a talented young reformer, grilled representatives of Dominion.

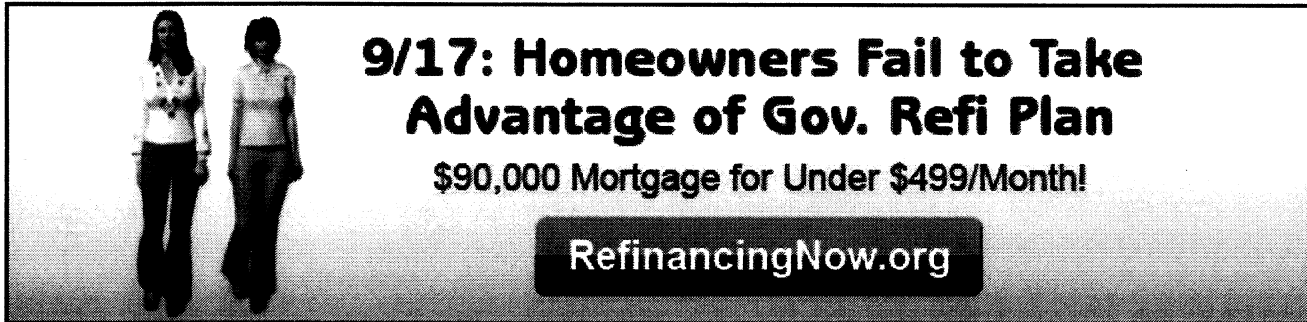
Under questioning, it turned out the company had publicly claimed its selection would create 200 jobs in Brooklyn alone - a gross exaggeration, the Dominion employee finally acknowledged. ES&S, which has 73% of the nationwide markets, has only 350 full-time employees.

Companies have the right to hire lobbyists to help accomplish their goals. But this isn't supposed to be a jobs program, or a back-room deal.

New York is on the verge of turning our future voting process over to an unelected clique of people pursuing profits and power. That's no way to run a democracy.

elouis@nydailynews.com

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**New York Post
Machines 'elected'**

By MAGGIE HABERMAN

Last Updated: 4:56 AM, January 5, 2010

Posted: 2:51 AM, January 5, 2010

http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/machines_elected_8CS8GL2Q05m6iJxnfKm3KJ

A Nassau elections commissioner yesterday said his county will dump one type of electronic voting machine and go with one made by its rival company, a day before Big Apple officials are set to make their own choice between the two.

Democratic Commissioner William Biamonte told The Post he and his GOP counterpart in Nassau opted to buy Elections Systems & Software machines after using the ballot-marking device for some machines made by rival Dominion in the 2008 elections and finding problems with more than half of them.

The commissioners "felt more comfortable going with" ES & S, Biamonte said.

New York City's 10 commissioners are scheduled to choose between the two firms today.

Dominion VP Howard Cramer said the "timing of the decisions is curious."

Newsday.com

Spin Cycle

Nassau switches vote-machine contractors

Monday January 4, 2010 8:19 PM

By Dan Janison dan.janison@newsday.com

<http://www.newsday.com/long-island/politics/spin-cycle-1.812042/nassau-switches-vote-machine-contractors-1.1683978>

Nassau has switched voting-machine suppliers after a series of difficulties. The county is contracting with Election Systems and Software to provide about 1,300 optical scanners and 450 handicapped-accessible ballot-marking devices, according to Bill Biamonte, the Democratic elections commissioner. "New York State and Nassau county are faced with the prospect of full (implementation..."

NY1 News

City Chooses New Voting Machines

01/05/2010 08:54 AM

<http://ny1.com/1-all-boroughs-news-content/111477/city-chooses-new-voting-machines>

The New York City Board of Elections is expected to choose new electronic voting machines today to improve the way it counts votes and speed up lines at polling places.

Ithaca Journal

Company says New York jobs riding on voting-machine contract

By Cara Matthews • clmatthe@gannett.com • January 4, 2010, 7:05 pm

<http://www.theithacajournal.com/article/20100104/NEWS01/1040327/Company+says+New+York+jobs+ri ding+on+voting-machine+contract>

ALBANY -- As New York City prepares to choose a voting-machine system Tuesday, one of two companies vying for the contract says winning it would mean more jobs for New Yorkers, particularly in the Rochester and Southern Tier regions.

The New York City Board of Elections will choose between Toronto-based Dominion Voting, which partners with more than 60 New York employers to make the equipment, and Election Systems & Software of Omaha, Neb.

ES&S received a slightly higher score from New York City Board of Elections evaluators.

On Dec. 15, the state Board of Elections certified both voting systems for use in New York, which means all voters next year will fill in ballots -- either by hand or with the aid of a ballot-marking device -- and have the results optically scanned into machines.

Fifty-three New York counties chose Dominion, but it is battling with ES&S for the lucrative New York City contract, valued at about \$40 million. New York City's five counties are the only ones that haven't picked a vendor.

Four counties chose ES&S -- Rockland, Albany, Erie and Schenectady.

The companies that work with Dominion include 20 in Monroe County, four in Ontario County, five in Broome County and one in Tompkins County.

The New York companies involved in making Dominion's ImageCast scanners employ about 1,700 workers, and getting the contract would add to that, said Howard Cramer, vice president of sales.

"Let me reiterate, there remains one simple and incontrovertible equation," Cramer said in a letter to the New York City Board of Elections last week. "A Dominion order (equals) more NY jobs."

ES&S is touting that it is a United States-based company with "the New York proven scanner, large jurisdiction election management knowledge and 40 year United States election expertise," documents filed with New York City said.

"Your decision will be for a voting system that will be used for years to come, and the City deserves to have an election partner that will be here for the long run," Matthew Nelson, senior vice president of corporate sales, wrote in a letter to the city's Board of Elections.

Andrew Moesel, a spokesman for ES&S, claimed that Dominion officials recently admitted publicly that they had exaggerated the number of jobs that would be created.

"If we can't trust them during the bidding process, how can we trust them to run our elections?" he said.

Cramer disputed that the numbers were exaggerated and said giving the contract to Dominion could lead to 200 or more retentions or new hires in the state. Dominion is a "New York-centric" company, he said.

Under the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002, states were required to modernize voting systems and enable people with disabilities to vote independently by January 2006. New York, which is ditching its decades-old mechanical-lever machines, is the last state in the nation to comply with the law.

The multiple delays in New York prompted a lawsuit from the U.S. Department of Justice.

Ken McAlpin, president of McAlpin Industries of Rochester, said his company had to lay off many of its workers in 2009, but it has brought 20 people back since it began working with Dominion to develop voting equipment for New York counties.

Choosing a company that would provide jobs in New York is an important consideration, said McAlpin, whose workers make 30 sheet-metal parts for the product. He spoke at a public hearing held by the New York City Board of Elections last week.

"The impact to not only us but the suppliers that we use is fantastic. It's just what we need here in New York state," he said Monday.

Gothamist.com

Voting To Become More Like High School Exams

By Ben Muessig in News on January 4, 2010 11:32 AM

http://gothamist.com/2010/01/04/voting_to_become_like_high_school_e.php

After fifty years of service, the city's lever voting machines will be replaced with "SAT-style ovals," according to the Times. When the Board of Elections chooses the city's new voting machines on Tuesday, and it's likely the group will select Scantron-style fill-in-the-blank test forms, which will be in place for the September primary.

Though they're iconic, the current Shoup 3.2 mechanical voting machines can break down, and there's no paper trail left behind in case they act up. That's why officials are leaning towards a standardized-test-style voting process, which they say won't just provide better record keeping, but will also shorten the occasionally lengthy lines at the polls (so long as the Board of Elections keeps enough sharpened #2 pencils on hand). The new procedure would go something like this: Upon signing in, voters will take their ballots to one of several voting stations, "which are like raised desks, with dividers to offer privacy." After making their choices, voters will go to a touch-screen computer, which will show them how to scan their ballots. After being scanned, the paper ballots will fall into locked boxes beneath the machines where they can be checked against the digital results.

New York City will be one of the last municipalities in the country to update its voting protocol — perhaps because some voters are so attached to the old machines. "Most New Yorkers are nostalgic about lever machines. I know I am," said Lawrence D. Norden, director of the Voter Technology Assessment Project at the Brennan Center for Justice at the NYU School of Law. "Ask a New Yorker about those machines and they will tell you that there is something reassuring about pulling the lever and hearing the choices register on the machine."

NYPMag.com

Mayor Bloomberg Will Never Sashay Out of a Voting Booth Again

1/4/10 at 12:20 PM

By: Dan Amira

17 Comments

<http://nymag.com/daily/intel/2010/01/ttk.html>

New York City is finally embracing modern voting technology, and all it took was getting sued by the Justice Department. In time for the September primaries, those lever-operated voting booths that we've been using for a hundred years will be replaced by optical scan machines. The reason? Despite the unexplainable sense of satisfaction that comes with pulling a large lever, the booths don't leave a paper trail and are prone to malfunctioning. With the new ballots, voters will simply have to fill in a small bubble for the candidates of their choice (reminiscent of the SATs), walk to a scanning machine, follow the instructions for scanning the ballot, and then answer a series of questions on a computer screen to

ensure that their vote was recorded accurately. The upside is that each paper ballot will be saved in a locked box in the event of a recount; the downside is that your grandmother is no longer capable of voting. [City Finally Poised to Give Up Lever Voting Machines](#) [NYT]

JANUARY 4, 2010, 8:34 AM

Goodbye to the Lever, and Hello to the Oval

By A. G. SULZBERGER

<http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/01/04/goodbye-to-the-lever-and-hello-to-the-oval/?pagemode=print>

Say goodbye to the voting booth with its quaint little curtain. Say goodbye to pulling the lever for your candidate. And say hello to filling in SAT-style ovals on Election Day.

After years of delays and missteps, the city's Board of Elections is expected to choose [new electronic voting machines](#) on Tuesday that will be rolled out in time for the September primary. In so doing, New York City will become one of the last places in the country to get rid of its lever-operated voting machines.

The change will improve the way votes are counted, providing a paper trail backup for each vote, and make lines at the polls move faster, according to the Board of Elections. But it will also end another urban ritual, as tactile intimacy gives way to modern efficiency. [NYT]

Government & Politics

Moving swiftly to redefine a sedate office at the periphery of New York City government, the city's new public advocate, Bill de Blasio, will unveil a plan on Monday to [train aggrieved residents](#) to organize petition drives, demonstrations and civic actions against City Hall. [NYT]

On Sunday, Steve Levy, the popular Suffolk County executive who is best known outside Long Island for his opposition to illegal immigration, became the first Democrat to [announce a possible primary challenge](#) to Gov. David A. Paterson. [NYT]

Crime & Public Safety

Of the 5,593 officers hired by the New York Police Department since July 2006, when the department began tracking the nationalities of police officers, 1,042 of them were foreign-born, [coming from 88 countries](#), according to department records. [NYT]

The employee charged with stealing \$42 million from the sandhogs' union used the money to [pay for a lavish lifestyle](#) on the horse-show circuit that contrasted with those of her plain-spoken co-workers who blast through earth and darkness to build tunnels beneath the city, prosecutors say. [NYT]

Flights out of one terminal at Newark Liberty International Airport were temporarily halted Sunday night as officials [investigated a possible security breach](#). [NYT] (Also see [The Daily News](#) and [The New York Post](#).)

Housing & Economy

A new fee levied on movie and television production companies filming in some municipally owned buildings in New York City is [drawing complaints from the entertainment industry](#), which argues that the charge of \$3,200 accompanying each permit is excessive and could drive productions elsewhere. [NYT]

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey wants to [sell a partnership interest](#) in the central tower at ground zero, which is still under construction, and for the new partner to take on the difficult task of marketing the skyscraper's space and negotiating leases with corporate tenants. [NYT]

Transportation

The subway station beneath Bryant Park is the noisiest public place in the city, according to a new survey. [New York Post]

Schools

Three or four days a week, Gladys Gomez scours the Bronx with armfuls of folders filled with student photos and their meager attendance records, an army of one in the battle to keep children in school. [Daily News]

People & Neighborhoods

Many Muslim deli owners find their reluctance to sell items prohibited by the Koran, like pork and alcohol, in conflict with their pursuit of prosperity. [NYT]

The newly crowned champion couch potato, Jorge Cruz, creamed his competition by sitting for 48 hours straight at the ESPN Zone in Times Square. [Daily News]

This is the busiest time of the year for botanicas — purveyors of herbs, amulets and other items used in Afro-Caribbean religions and occult practices including Santería, voodoo and Wicca — around the city and country. [NYT]

Your vote, their choice: A cabal of hacks is picking New York's new voting machines

Monday, January 4th 2010, 4:00 AM

http://www.nydailynews.com/opinions/2010/01/04/2010-01-04_your_vote_their_choice.html

Tuesday, not the governor or the mayor or any elected anyone, but 10 political hacks on the city Board of Elections are being forced to pick a new balloting machine for New York's 4.5 million registered voters.

Goodbye immediately to the reliable old lever machines and hello to paper ballots with computerized scanners. And despite being years late, everything around this momentous decision - and the \$50 million contract for the equipment - is being rushed. What else can you expect from the last bastion of pure party patronage?

The choice is between two similar optical scan systems, in which voters mark their selections on a paper ballot that is fed into a scanner that tallies the totals. Trouble is, the hack-filled state Board of Elections didn't certify the competing machines until a few weeks ago, and did it then only because a federal judge ordered them to. The state board, in turn, ordered the local board to pick - now.

We agree with state Senate Elections Committee Chairman Joe Addabbo of Queens, who held hearings in 2009: "I was hoping to have had another year. I would like to have delayed it for another year, but the federal judge gave his order."

The trusty old iron dinosaurs work just fine, he added: "There's nothing wrong with the shower curtain-lever machines we've used for decades."

He isn't questioning the new scanning gizmos but is rightly concerned about switching the city's entire Election Day leviathan with thousands of machines and polling places to a new device overnight. Saying "it's poor timing financially" for a broke city and state, he's worried about "the education of our voters and our poll workers."

Ahh, the voters. Who cares about them? Not some federal judge or Board of Elections hacks.

1010WINS.com

Posted: Monday, 04 January 2010 7:22AM

NYC Getting Rid of Lever Voting Machines

NEW YORK (AP/ 1010 WINS) -- New York City is replacing its old-fashioned lever voting machines.

The Board of Elections is expected to choose new electronic voting machines on Tuesday.

Board officials say the new machines will improve the way votes are counted. They'll provide a paper trail backup for each vote. They even could speed up polling place lines.

The new machines could be in place by September.

Voters will fill out SAT-style ballots and then scan them. Some experts worry the new paper ballots might cause confusion. They say voters might fill in ovals for two candidates.

Touch screen prompts are designed to make sure voters' choices are final.

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뉴욕시 투표방법 바뀐다...9월부터 레버 당기는 대신 용지에 표기

[뉴욕 중앙일보]

기사일력: 01.04.10 18:00

오는 9월 예비선거부터 뉴욕시에서는 투표방법이 변경된다.

뉴욕시 선거관리위원회가 최근 승인한 신형 투표기를 도입하기 때문이다. 신형 투표기는 기존처럼 레버를 당기는 방식이 아니라 투표용지에 표시된 빈 칸을 채우는 방법으로 투표를 진행한다.

지금까지는 투표소에 들어가 레버를 당긴 다음 각 후보 이름 옆에 있는 스위치를 내리고, 다시 레버를 원래 위치로 돌려놓아야 했다.

하지만 올해 예비선거부터는 신형 투표기 도입에 따라 투표용지를 받아 원하는 후보 이름 옆에 특수 필기구로 표시를 한 다음 스캐너에 집어 넣어야 한다. 유권자들의 투표는 자동으로 집계되며 투표용지는 예비용으로 보관된다.

뉴욕뉴저지한인유권자센터는 새로 교체되는 투표기의 사용법에 대한 캠페인을 전개할 계획이다.

유권자센터에 따르면 새로운 투표기의 한국어 메뉴는 영문을 해석한 내용이 애매하거나 글자 크기가 작아 한인 투표자들에게 혼란을 줄 우려가 있다. 유권자센터는 이에 대한 개선을 선관위측에 요청했다.

최은무 기자 emchoi@koreadaily.com

Translation of Korea Daily News article for new Voting System in 2010

VOTING SYSTEM CHANGE IN NYC... REPLACING BMD FOR LEVER MACHINE FROM SEPTEMBER

[KOREA DAILY NEWS]

Inserted: 01.04.10 18:00

Voting System will be changed in New York City from Primary Election in this coming September.

Board of Elections in New York City will enforce new Voting System that was recently certified. New Voting System does not work by pulling lever as an existing lever machine, it's process is by filling out provided space in paper ballot.

You need to go to the lever machine in Poll Site to pull lever to the right, turn down the switch next to the candidates, then, pull back the lever to the left until now.

However, new Voting System this year you will be receiving a ballot to fill in next to the candidates by using special Ballot Marking Device and by inserting it into the scanner. Votes will be counted automatically and Ballots will be stored for reserve.

Korean American Voter's Council in NY & NJ is planning to campaign for **How to use New Voting System.**

According to the Voter's Council, translation of Introduction Guide for new voting system is ambiguous and Korean letters are too small to read, it will create confusion to Korean Voters. The Voter's Council requested improvement of the matters to Board of Elections in New York City.

Reporter, Wun Moo Choi emchoi@koreadaily.com