For Immediate Release
Thursday, November 3, 2005

Citizen Groups Criticize State Board of Elections Voting Machine Standards

Weak Regulations Fail to Address Voting Machine Security Issues

Today, without any prior notice to the public, the State Board of Elections approved Voting System Standards which define the rules for certification, testing, and use of New York’s new voting systems.

“The Standards approved by the State BOE do far too little to protect our vote” said Bo Lipari, Executive Director of New Yorkers for Verified Voting. “These regulations do absolutely nothing to address vital issues of voting system security, usability, and accessibility. Adoption of these vague and unspecific rules would be a disaster for New York.”

“The intent of New York’s HAVA legislation is to provide a full range of system options and to guarantee that our votes are accurately recorded and counted. The Voting System Standards approved by the Board do nothing of the sort. They are so broad as to be meaningless.” he said.

“The Board chose to proceed on these weak standards without waiting for comment or allowing debate by the HAVA Citizens Advisory Committee or the public.” said Jessica Wisneski, Clean Elections Coordinator for Citizen Action New York. “New York State citizens have repeatedly called for full public disclosure and visibility during the entire process of defining standards, machine certification and selection. By its actions the Board shows that it believes that public calls for transparency and meaningful input are irrelevant.”

“We deplore this subversion of the Citizens Advisory Committee,” said Aimee Allaud, League of Women Voters of New York State. “By their rash action in approving draft voting system standards, the State Board of Elections has disregarded the intent of the legislation signed by the Governor in July. The legislation mandated a Citizens Committee to advise the Board on which machines meet the statutory standards. The Committee is not properly constituted with required members from the disability community, has met only one time for organizational purposes and has not had any public discussion of the proposed regulations.”

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