Tips for Writing Letters

It's best to tie the subject matter to yourself in a personal way to make the letter stand out. Whether you are a computer programmer, lawyer, minister, social worker, election inspector, etc., make the introduction of the letter unique. Then from the Essential Points document on the NYVV website, pick one or two points to make. A short personal letter from one person counts as one opinion just as much as a lengthy technical letter, so it's fine for your letter to be brief.

It's always better to express yourself in your own words rather than copying directly from the sample letters. The Essential Points document is a good source of information about the Troy School Elections and the LibertyVote DRE.

For example, below are some simple points which could be expressed in your own words:

- Having read in the Albany Times Union that the Troy School District will be using Liberty electronic voting machines in its May 15 election, I write to express my dismay. The machines have not met the standards for certification in New York State and therefore must not be used.

- As upsetting and embarrassing as it must have been last year when one lever machine malfunctioned, it was an exception in decades of use all over the state. Yet the electronic voting machines used across the country just in the last 4 years have repeatedly broken down, registered too few or too many votes, and had many other serious problems. To me that is ample reason never to use electronic voting machines which are not approved by the New York State Board of Elections.

- I have read that the Nedap, Dutch parent company of Liberty sold electronic voting machines to Ireland which were later rejected. We need to know why.

- I respectfully request that you override the Troy City School District Board of Education and insist that lever machines or hand counted paper ballots be used.

There are many other points you can make when composing your letter. Remember, read NYVV’s Essential Points document, pick one or at most two points, and put it in your own words.

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Please write your letter today!