



A project of International Humanities Center

Memorandum of Support

RE: A3093B, S3216, and S2339A

The Election Transparency Coalition (www.electiontransparencycoalition.org) supports the efforts of the Legislature to rescind the requirement that local jurisdictions including villages, special districts, libraries and fire districts use electronic voting machines. We advocate instead the use of lever voting machines or paper ballots hand-counted securely in full public view on election night, along with the non-tabulating adaptive equipment necessary to increase accessibility to voting for voters with special needs.

We understand that, contrary to misinformation being circulated by another organization, these bills in no way prevent the use of the ballot marking devices that, when augmenting lever voting machines, create a voting system that is in compliance with the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA). In any case, HAVA applies only to federal elections.

The burden placed on local jurisdictions by the requirement that their votes be tabulated by computers is unreasonable and must be lifted. The Election Transparency Coalition supports the goal of these bills to allow local jurisdictions to choose an inexpensive and time-tested alternative to opaque and financially-crippling electronic vote-counting.

The Election Transparency Coalition is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, public-advocacy group advocating for transparency in New York elections.

Yours sincerely,

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