

YATES COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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Wendy S. Gibson, Democratic Commissioner

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 22, 2006

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ELECTION COMMISSIONERS ANNOUNCE NEW VOTING MACHINE DEMONSTRATION

Election Commissioners Pam Welker and Wendy Gibson have scheduled a public display of various types of new electronic voting machine systems for Monday, June 12, 2006 from Noon to 7pm. Three vendors will be exhibiting five different voting systems: including two optical scan machines and three direct record electronic machines in the main foyer of the Yates County Office Building. Representatives will be on hand from Liberty Election Systems, Sequoia Voting Systems and Avante International Technology.

The Commissioners will also be asking attendees to fill out questionnaires and give their opinions about each machine. All counties through out New York State must select their new systems by July 2006 for delivery in 2007. The AVM lever machines will still be in use for the 2006 Primary and General Elections.

For elections in 2006 only, persons with disabilities may vote privately and independently at the Yates County Board of Elections Office via handicap assessable machines that will be selected by the Commissioners and delivered in August. This stop-gap measure (also referred to as "Plan B") was necessitated when it became evident that New York would not be compliant with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) before the 2006 Primary Election. HAVA requires that all states utilize handicap accessible machines and discontinue use of the lever machines. Disabled voters may also vote by absentee ballot or with assistance at their assigned polling place.

Both Commissioners feel that the demonstration will be an excellent forum for voters to express their opinions, as input from the voters is crucial in assisting the Commissioners to select the appropriate voting system for Yates County.

Voters may call the Board of Elections with questions from 9 am to 5 pm – Monday through Friday at (315) 536-5135. Information is also available on the Board of Elections' website at www.yatescounty.org