RESOLUTION NO. 09-259 (June 09, 2009)

By Mr. Berwanger, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole:

RESOLUTION URGING THE NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY, SENATE AND GOVERNOR AND THE NEW YORK STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO ENACT LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS THAT SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZE THE CONTINUED USE OF LEVER STYLE VOTING MACHINES AS A SOLUTION TO UNWARRANTED EXPENSES TO THE CITIZENS OF WYOMING COUNTY RELATIVE TO HAVA – BOARD OF ELECTIONS

WHEREAS, For many decades Wyoming County has successfully used mechanical lever-style voting machines, with very few problems, and is desirous of continuing to do so, and

WHEREAS, New York State enacted the Election Reform and Modernization Act of 2005 (ERMA) and other laws that require all lever machines to be replaced and prohibit the use of any lever machines in any future elections in New York State, and

WHEREAS, Said New York State legislation relating to voting machines far exceeds the federal requirements of Help America Vote Act (HAVA), and

WHEREAS, While Wyoming County has been the recipient of federal funds to implement HAVA, the state's additional requirements and method of allocating funds has created undue financial hardship with mandated expenses far exceeding formula based revenues, and

WHEREAS, Said HAVA funding formula is not equitable to the smaller counties in that after purchasing the necessary voting machines and a minimal amount of training there are no funds left for the remainder of training and purchasing of the hardware and software necessary to operate the machines and the hiring of additional personnel to program machines, do the necessary quarterly testing, ballot definition, etc. as there is for the larger counties, and

WHEREAS, This inequitable formula is placing a severe burden on counties that have a smaller population and tax base with less ability to raise the funds necessary to purchase the hardware, software and additional training; and

WHEREAS, Both in terms of efficacy and cost efficiency, Wyoming County believes that the continued use of lever-style voting machines is in the best interest of the public and should be permitted to be used in future elections, and

WHEREAS, The State's statutorily required elimination of lever-style voting machines is unnecessary, inappropriate, and costly to Wyoming County taxpayers, and in these difficult economic times the cost to implement elections with these new machines will not be paid for by New York State and is an unfunded mandate, now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Wyoming County Board of Supervisors hereby urges the New York State Assembly, Senate and Governor and the New York State Board of Elections to enact laws, rules, and regulations that specifically authorize the continued use of lever-style voting machines, as a solution to the unwarranted expenses to the citizens of Wyoming County relative to HAVA and ensuring New York State continued maintenance of a transparent, secure, accurate and reliable electoral system using lever-style voting machines, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Wyoming County Board of Supervisors shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor David Paterson, New York State Comptroller's Office, Senate Majority Leader Dean O. Skelos, Senate Minority Leader Malcolm Smith, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Majority Leader Ron Canestrari, Senator Dale Volker, Assemblyman Daniel Burling, the New York Sate Association of Counties (NYSAC), and the Inter-County Association of Western New York.

Carried: XXX Ayes: 1280 Noes: Absent: 106 (Sheldon) Abstain:

210 (Warsaw) **316** Total

WYOMING COUNTY]
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS]
Warsaw, N.Y.]



THIS IS TO CERTIFY that I, the undersigned Clerk to the Board of Supervisors of the County of Wyoming, have compared the foregoing copy of resolution with the original resolution now on file in the office and which was passed by the Board of Supervisors of the said County, on the 9th day of June, 2009 a majority of all the members elected to the Board voted in favor thereof, and that the same is correct and true of such original resolution and of the whole thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the official seal of the Board of Supervisors, this the 9th day of June, 2009.

Cheryl J. Ketchum
Clerk to the Board of Supervisors