



Memorandum of Support

S.6169-A (Cleare)/A.5934-A (Cunningham)

Title: The Voting Integrity and Verification Act of New York (VIVA NY)

Purpose:

To give voters at every poll site the option to mark a paper ballot either by hand or with a ballot marking device (for any voters who prefer to have a machine mark the ballot for them) that is not also a scanner, and to guarantee that all voters can verify the selections on their ballots.

Statement of Support:

This bill will codify and reinforce our current system of hand-marked paper ballots.

Voting machine manufacturers are aggressively offering new machines with touchscreens that mark ballots, which the voter is supposed to verify before then inserting into a scanner. Use of these machines presents several problems:

- Studies show that many voters don't take the time to verify a ballot they did not mark themselves;
- Should these machines displace our current hand-marking of ballots, long lines could ensue;
- The new machines are expensive, and significantly less affordable for poorer jurisdictions.
- The overuse of these machines could lead to the effective end of hand-marked paper ballots.

Clearly preserving our current mode of voting, without complication or hassle, is the best way to encourage voter confidence in our elections.

The Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter Urges Your Support of S.6169-A/A.5934-A