

**MOTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF COUNCIL OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY**

Urging the Allegheny County Chief Executive to select new voting machines in accordance with the requirements of the Help America Vote Act, 42 U.S.C. §15301 *et. seq.*, that allow for the creation of voter verified paper records (VVPRs) for each voter, and supporting House Bill 2000 and Senate Bill 977, each of which is currently pending in the Pennsylvania General Assembly.

**WHEREAS**, the Help America Vote Act, 42 U.S.C. §15301 *et. seq.*, makes federal funding available to jurisdictions that modernize their voting systems through the purchase of new systems; and

**WHEREAS**, under the terms of the Help America Vote Act, Allegheny County must replace all lever voting systems in qualifying precincts within the County in time for the first election for federal office held after January 1, 2006 in order to qualify for this funding; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Executive and members of the Administration are currently evaluating voting machines for purchase; and

**WHEREAS**, while the Help America Vote Act does require that new voting systems purchased with the available federal funding generate a paper record that can be used to audit election results, it does not specifically require that a paper summary of individual voting decisions be made available to every voter before they confirm their selections; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission on Federal Election Reform has issued the following recommendation regarding voting machines: "Congress should pass a law requiring that all voting machines be equipped with a voter verifiable paper audit trail and, consistent with HAVA, be fully accessible to voters with disabilities. This is especially important for direct recording electronic (DRE) machines for four reasons: (a) to increase citizens' confidence that their vote will be counted accurately, (b) to allow for a recount, (c) to provide a backup in cases of loss of votes due to computer malfunction, and (d) to test - through a random selection of machines - whether the paper result is the same as the electronic result."; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission on Federal Election Reform advocates retrofitting VVPR capabilities into voting machines that do not currently produce such paper records;

**WHEREAS**, the Report of the Commission on Federal Election Reform, issued in September of 2005, notes that as of August 2005, 25 states had already mandated VVPRs for each voter before they confirm their selections, and another 14 had introduced legislation to do so; and

**WHEREAS**, Pennsylvania is currently among the states with legislation pending to mandate VVPRs, in the form of Senate Bill 997 and House Bill 2000;


**NOW THEREFORE, IT IS MOVED, AND IT IS THE SENSE OF THE COUNCIL OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY**, that this Body supports the selection of voting machines for Allegheny County that produce voter verified paper records for each voter before they confirm their voting choices. The Council of Allegheny County urges the Chief Executive to select machines that produce such VVPRs, rather than face the possibility of being required to retrofit VVPR capabilities into voting machines at a later date, should state or federal law require it.

**NOW THEREFORE IT IS FURTHER MOVED** that the Council supports the efforts of the General Assembly to require VVPRs on a statewide basis, as described in Senate Bill 977 and House Bill 2000.

***SPONSORED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROBINSON***

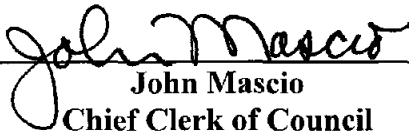
In Council December 6 2005.

Read and Approved.



Rich Fitzgerald  
President of Council

Attest:



John Mascio  
Chief Clerk of Council

**From:** Mascio, John  
**Sent:** Friday, December 09, 2005 10:50 AM  
**To:** Onorato, Daniel  
**Cc:** Flynn, James  
**Subject:** Bill No. 2246-05 - Motion of Council  
Dear Mr. Onorato,

At the Regular Meeting of Council held on December 6, 2005, Council unanimously approved the attached Motion, Bill No. 2246-05, entitled, "A Motion expressing the sense of Council of Allegheny County, urging the Allegheny County Chief Executive to select new voting machines in accordance with the requirements of the Help America Vote Act, 42 U.S.C. §15301 et. seq., that allow for the creation of voter verified paper records (VVPRs) for each voter, and supporting House Bill 2000 and Senate Bill 977, each of which is currently pending in the Pennsylvania General Assembly."

Your attention to this Motion is requested.

Thank you.

John Mascio  
Chief Clerk