

March 3, 2006

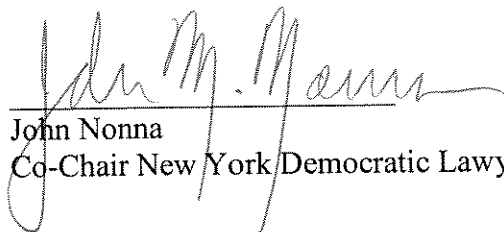
Re: Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir/Madam:

The US Justice Department's lawsuit alleging that New York has failed to comply with the Help America Vote Act comes at the wrong time. Albany is finally on the right path to adopting regulations that will provide us with reliable voting systems. Legislators on both sides of the aisle recognize that it is in our best interests to have a trustworthy voting system. The State has wisely adopted laws requiring a permanent verifiable paper record for every vote cast. The State should never surrender the protections afforded by this law.

Litigation is not the proper means to choose voting machines. Too much is at stake to allow Washington attorneys to substitute their judgment for ours. New York has been careful and responsible in making its choices, avoiding the expensive rush to judgment now plaguing other states. New York is positioned to lead the nation in secure, reliable voting systems. Now is not the time for a hasty settlement with the Department of Justice that compromises these hard won protections.

Very truly yours,



John Nonna  
Co-Chair New York Democratic Lawyers Council