

ADDITIONAL HEARING SET FOR NEW VOTING MACHINE REGULATIONS

ALBANY, NY-(12/29/05)- The New York State Board of Elections today announced the scheduling of an additional public hearing to accept comments on the recently published draft voting machine regulations which reflect changes in State Law to comply with the Help America Vote Act. The hearing will be held in Putnam County in the town of Carmel on Thursday, January 12, 2006, commencing at 10:30 AM at following location:

**The Putnam County TOPS Building,
Donald B. Smith County Government Campus,
110 Old Route 6, Carmel, New York.**

The Board has already held public hearings in Rochester, Albany and New York City during the month of December. The hearings have taken place in conjunction with a 45 day public comment period which began on December 7, 2005. Persons wishing to present testimony at the hearing should contact the State Board. Oral testimony will be limited to 10 minutes duration and 10 copies of the prepared testimony should be submitted on the day of the hearing. Those who do not have prepared testimony or who did not contact the Board prior to the hearing and wish to speak, will be allotted up to 5 minutes to do so at the end of the session.

Board will accept comments from interested parties at any time by mail or e-mail until the close of business on January 23, 2006, the end of the public hearing period. Comments may be mailed to the Board at 40 Steuben Street, Albany, New York 12207 or e-mailed to ldaghlian@elections.state.ny.us. All comments received in a timely manner will be considered prior to publication of the final regulations.

The hearing facility in Carmel meets federal and state accessibility standards for persons with disabilities, but those persons with special needs are encouraged to contact the Board at the above number prior to the hearing.