NEWS RELEASE

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For Release: **IMMEDIATELY**

New York State Board of Elections releases statement about Westchester County ballot scanning issues

ALBANY, N.Y. (11/03/2026) – The issue affecting voting machines throughout Westchester County today resulted from an update to the county's election programming that occurred after the initial preparation and testing of Election Day voting equipment. A change affecting a contest in one municipality required updated election programming, which was subsequently tested and deployed for early voting and for Election Day machines in that municipality. However, Election Day machines elsewhere in the county continued to use the original programming and therefore could not recognize and accept the ballots being used for Election Day.

The New York State Board of Elections is working closely with the Westchester County Board of Elections to deploy replacement election media using the updated programming previously tested for early voting, which encompasses all contests throughout the county. The immediate priority is to restore scanning capability to at least one voting machine at every polling location, with additional machines being brought online as the day progresses.

In the meantime, voting continues through established emergency ballot procedures. Completed ballots are securely maintained under bipartisan oversight and will be scanned and counted in accordance with established procedures. Restoring scanning capability will also allow emergency ballots cast earlier in the day to be processed as part of the established counting process. There are no identified concerns with the ballot paper or other physical characteristics that would affect its ability to be scanned.

Importantly, the affected scanners rejected ballots they could not properly recognize rather than incorrectly tabulating them.

Every valid vote will be counted, and the established canvass, recanvass, and post-election audit procedures will remain in place. Accuracy will never be sacrificed for speed.

If you have any questions regarding this press release, please contact Kathleen McGrath or Jennifer Wilson at the New York State Board of Elections at (518) 474-1953 or by email at INFO@elections.ny.gov.

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