

NEWS FROM Legislator

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Legislator D'Amaro Reminds Residents About New Voting Machines *Local Civic Association Receives Hands-On Training Session*



Suffolk Legislator Lou D'Amaro demonstrates the new optical scan voting machines. The machines will be used for the first time in a Suffolk County general election on November 2nd

(NORTH BABYLON, NY... October 22, 2010) – This Election Day, Suffolk County residents may be in for a big surprise when they vote. Legislator Lou D'Amaro (D-North Babylon) would like to remind residents that the November 2010 election will mark the end of an era when, for the first time in a general election, voters will be casting ballots utilizing electronic voting technology instead of the traditional mechanical lever machines. Although all registered voters received a brochure from the County Board of Elections (BOE) detailing the new voting procedures, Legislator D'Amaro recently offered local residents an opportunity to view the new machines and partake in a step-by-step training session about how to properly cast their votes.

(more)

New Voting Machines Demonstrated

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At the request President Vinny Sciacca, Legislator D'Amaro arranged for a bi-partisan team of BOE officials to provide a demonstration to local community members during the October 18th Sunset City Civic Association meeting. The program was scheduled as part of a series of presentations the BOE has been giving throughout Suffolk County in advance of the fall election.

The new system utilizes a paper ballot that voters fill out and process through an optical scan machine. This method provides for a paper trail, which brings Suffolk County in compliance with the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) that was approved by Congress following the controversial 2000 presidential election recount. Optical scan voting systems have been in use for 20 years and are now utilized in about 30 percent of United States election precincts.

While this is the first time the new system will be used in a general election, the machines were first seen by voters who participated in the September 2010 primaries. Legislator D'Amaro believes that it is imperative to remind as many people as possible about the change so that voting runs smoothly on Election Day.

"I thank the Board of Elections for offering these training sessions and the Sunset City Civic Association for hosting a program for Babylon residents in advance of Election Day," said Legislator D'Amaro. "I would also like to inform local residents who could not attend the presentation that they, too, can avoid confusion and anxiety on Election Day by viewing the BOE's online tutorial at www.suffolkvotes.com."

Sunset City Civic Association President Vinny Sciacca remarked, "The presentation was very informative and greatly appreciated by the community. Legislator D'Amaro has always been an invaluable source of information and support for our civic association and we thank him and the BOE officials for providing us with this opportunity to learn about the new voting procedure in advance of Election Day."

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