A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY LEGISLATORS MEYERS, BRUSO, BASKIN, MILLER-WILLIAMS, SAVAGE, HARDWICK AND LOUGHRAN

Re: Urging New York State to Fund the Purchase of Electronic Poll Books and Related Election Expenses under Election Law Reforms

WHEREAS, Erie County is responsible for managing election operations and paying for the costs of elections while operating under regulations and laws established by New York State; and

WHEREAS, in January 2019, the New York State Legislature adopted and the Governor signed into law a series of voting reforms to the New York State Election Law; and

WHEREAS, these reforms include early voting, voter registration transfers, same day voter registrations, and pre-registering 16 and 17 year olds to vote; and

WHEREAS, implementing these reforms will require counties to purchase and use electronic polling books, at some expense to the County which has not yet been quantified; and

WHEREAS, while these reforms are laudable, the uncertain nature of the cost to county governments has caused concern about the expense to counties of this State mandate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature respectfully requests that the State of New York provide state funds for the costs of acquiring electronic poll books that counties will have to purchase to effectively implement many of the state's new voting reforms; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body requests that the State fund the costs associated with the new election law reforms, including include equipment, education and training for poll workers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, the New York State Legislature, the New York State Board of Elections, the Erie County Executive, and the Erie County Commissioners of Elections.

Fiscal Impact: Positive.