

New York State Board of Elections
Summary of Revised Plan A Time Line
January 11, 2008

The revised Plan A Time Line reflects a focus on the three core milestones for putting voting systems in place: testing and certification; contracts for purchase; and delivery of the systems.

The revised Plan A time line highlights these events. The key difference with the Zalen Plan that was previously filed with the Court is a change in anticipated finally delivery of the replacement voting systems from May 2009 to the period of December 8, 2008 through May 22, 2009 in recognition of the fact that not all machines will be delivered at the same time (See Lines 66 through 69 of Revised Time Line). This Revised Time Line represents a more accurate estimation of the time of the needed for testing and delivery of the voting systems.

Since the Zalen Plan was created in October of 2007, the State Board has engaged SysTest, Inc. as its Independent Testing Authority to test the voting systems. Since the Zalen Plan was created the State has negotiated contracts for purchase of the new voting systems, including estimated delivery schedules which events are reflected in the revised Time Line.

On January 8th and 9th staff of the State Board met with representatives of SysTest, Inc. and NYSTEC, its technical consultants for the purposes of formulating a Testing Plan and determining the achievability of the milestones set forth in the Zalen Plan. The Revised Time Line is offered with the knowledge and concurrence of the both SysTest, Inc. and NYSTEC.

One issue that not specifically stated by either the Zalen Plan or the January 4th Plan is the possibility of deploying a Plan A system in 2008. Both the Zalen Plan and the January 4th Plan operate under the assumption that all voting systems will be tested starting from the beginning. However, through Systest, Inc. the State Board will endeavor to use any prior test results that were done by any Independent Testing Authority on any voting system. Based on this use of prior tests, the State Board will make an effort to make available in 2008 to any county Plan A voting systems. At this time several voting systems that have placed a bid to sell voting systems in New York have undergone some prior testing either by Systest, Inc., or another Independent Testing Authority . At this time the State Board and Systest, Inc. are gathering those prior test results and are verifying that they are applicable to the system to be sold here in New York. As is set forth at line 15 of the Revised Time Line, the testing duration set forth therein assumes that no prior test results will be considered. To the extent that there are prior test results that may be considered, it may be possible to implement lever machine replacement in time for the 2008 fall elections. The difficulty with prior testing is that the software in election systems is constantly evolving as vendors improve their product to deal with post manufacturing issues and any change in the software configuration makes prior tests meaningless.

Respectfully submitted,

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