

TASK FORCE FORMED TO IMPLEMENT HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT

ALBANY, NY - 2/07/03 - Peter Kosinski, New York State's chief election official, today announced the formation of a task force selected to participate in the formation of the state plan to implement the provisions of the recently passed Help America Vote Act of 2002. The Act, among other provisions, provides federal funds for the replacement of New York's aging mechanical voting machines. The task force includes persons chosen by Mr. Kosinski that are important and meaningful to formation of the plan as well as representatives of groups mandated by the bill.

Representative of the following groups and governmental entities will be appointed:

The Governor; the New York State Senate and Assembly; the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles; New York State's Chief Information Officer; the Secretary of State's Office and the Division of the Budget. The law mandates the inclusion of the DMV for purposes of assisting in the implementation of a voter identification system. The Chief Information Officer's expertise will help with implementation of a statewide voter registration database, also mandated by the Act. The Secretary of State's Office and the Division of the Budget will assist in local government interaction and budgetary concerns, respectively.

Also mandated by the Act to be included on the Task Force are representatives from the Boards of Elections of the two largest jurisdictions in the state. Representatives from two upstate county boards of elections and an official representing county government will also be Task Force members. Counties will be involved administering some provisions of the Act.

Provisions of the Act require that persons with disabilities must be accommodated at the polls, therefore a representative of those groups and New York State Office of Advocate for Persons with Disabilities will be appointed. A representative of each of the major state political parties and the New York State League of Women Voters will also sit on the panel.

Mr. Kosinski expects to hold the first meeting of the panel by the end of February.