RESOLUTION NO. **2009–192**

WHEREAS, in 2007, the Florida Legislature passed legislation making Florida a "paper ballot" state; and

WHEREAS, this required all counties to purchase and deploy an ADA optical scan (paper) system by 2012, of which there is currently only one state certified system which meets this requirement – the AutoMark; and

WHEREAS, the 63 counties that use touch screens to comply with HAVA, will now be required to purchase the AutoMark or other similar certified system by 2012; and

WHEREAS, the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections (FSASE) has conducted a survey of the counties required to make the voting system change revealing an estimated cost in excess of \$35 million, which does not include the existing debt that many counties have incurred as a result of voting equipment changes made during this decade; and

WHEREAS, this voting system change will cost Nassau County taxpayers nearly \$200,000 in the 2010-2011 budget; and

WHEREAS, the disability community and many professional associations have joined the FSASE in adopting the association's "Position Paper" which supports the extension of this requirement to be delayed from 2012 until 2016 due to the economic pressures on the Boards of County Commissioners around the state, the operational impact to Supervisor of Elections' budgets, and the fact that new technology has not been developed to allow persons with any disability to vote independently; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners, Nassau County, Florida does hereby adopt the FSASE "Position Paper" to delay the requirement to purchase the AutoMark voting system until 2016.

DULY ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida this 18th day of November , 2009.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA

Barry Holloway Michael H. Boyle
Its Chairman Vice Chairman

ATTEST: Attestation: Only to

Authenticity as to Charman's Signature:

John A. Crawford, Ex Officio Clerk

LBK 11/23/09

Approved as to form by the Nassau

County Attorney:

David A. Hallman

Position Paper on Why We Want the Extension to 2016

In 2007 the Florida Legislature, at the request of Governor Charlie Crist and Secretary of State Kurt Browning, voted to make Florida a "paper ballot" state. For thirteen counties in Florida, this 2007 legislation resulted in the second voting system purchase since 2001 (punch cards to touch screens and then to optical scan). Part of the legislation (F.S. 101.56075) required the conversion of the ADA voting equipment to a "paper ballot" based system by 2012. The hope was that by 2012 additional ADA voting systems would be developed and certified in the state.

The Federal 2002 Help America Vote Act (HAVA) required all counties to purchase a voting system for each voting location that would be accessible to persons with any disability. The majority of the counties purchased touch screens with audio ballots. At the time, touch screens were the only certified accessible voting system in the state. Currently, there is only one certified optical scan (paper) system that meets this requirement - the AutoMark. Today sixty-three (63) counties use touch screens and four (4) counties use the AutoMark.

The Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections has conducted a survey of the counties required to make the voting system change by 2012. The estimated cost will be nearly \$35 million dollars. This does not include existing debt that many counties have incurred from the 2001 and 2007 voting equipment changes. The Association has been working with the disability community on accessible voting equipment since the enactment of HAVA, voter education on the accessible voting systems used on Election Day, and with concerns associated with the 2012 requirement. The disability community is disappointed that development of new technology, especially to encompass all types of disabilities, has not occurred since this legislation passed and that the AutoMark is currently the only "paper based" option available to election officials. Given the choice between continuing to use the touch screens or convert statewide to the AutoMark, the preference is to stay with the current systems in the counties and focus on encouraging voting system vendors and the Department of State to focus on development of a system that would serve persons with any type of disability during the voting process, especially with absentee ballots.

The following believe that due to the economic pressures on Boards of County Commissioners around the state; the operational impact to Supervisors of Elections budgets; the fact that new technology has not developed to allow any person with any disability to vote independently; that an extension of this requirement be delayed from 2012 until 2016.

Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections Association Legislative position since 2008

Florida Association of Counties Included in the 2009 FAC Policy Statement

Family Network on Disabilities of Florida
Richard La Belle, Executive Director and member of the State HAVA Plan
Committee

disAbility Solutions for Independent Living, Inc.

Julie Shaw, Executive Director and former Executive ADA Administrator, Governor's Working Group on the ADA

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Note: Sarasota County is one of the four counties using the AutoMark.

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Updated 10/29/09