

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-6
CALLING FOR A VOTER-MARKED PAPER BALLOT BASED
VOTING SYSTEM FUNDED BY THE COMMONWEALTH

WHEREAS, the citizens of the Borough of Doylestown and the County of Bucks are guaranteed free and equal elections under Article 1, Section 5 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and,

WHEREAS, free, equal, and fair elections require a voting system that is secure, accurate, accessible, and verifiable; and,

WHEREAS, secure and accurate voting methods today require ongoing attention to cyber security threats; and,

WHEREAS, all electronic voting systems currently used in Pennsylvania were placed in service in 2006 or earlier and are considered by computer experts to be near the end of their useful service life; and,

WHEREAS, Bucks County is one of 50 Pennsylvania counties who do not have voter-marked paper ballots to preserve voter choices outside of the original software used to collect the votes, creating the risk that votes could be lost or changed in the event of malfunction, hacking, or aging equipment problems; and,

WHEREAS, national computer, cybersecurity, and election experts recommend voting systems that use voter-marked paper ballots and scanners as the strongest method of protecting votes at this time; and,

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is one of the last remaining states without voter-marked paper ballots available to perform a risk-limiting audit to ensure that the winners of elections are the choice of the voters and not hackers or mis-programmed software, and conduct recounts in close elections; and,

WHEREAS, in December 2017, the Pennsylvania Joint State Government Commission released its report on voting technology, recommending replacement of Pennsylvania's aging voting machines with new voting systems; and,

WHEREAS, many Pennsylvania counties, including Bucks, need financial help to replace aging voting equipment because no new federal or state funding assistance for new election equipment has been available since Help America Vote grants expired.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Doylestown Borough Council, in the name of free, equal, and fair elections central to our democracy holds that it should be an ongoing priority for Bucks County and Pennsylvania to purchase the equipment for a voter-marked paper ballot voting system, including accessible ballot marking machines for voters that need them and scanners to read the ballots.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Doylestown Borough Council urges the General Assembly of Pennsylvania to secure and protect our elections by providing funding and assistance to Bucks and other counties for the replacement of the present insecure and non-verifiable voting equipment with the equipment needed for a voter-marked paper ballot system, and pass legislation requiring that all voting systems in Pennsylvania are voter-marked paper ballot based, and that these ballots shall be the ballot of record in the event of any discrepancy.

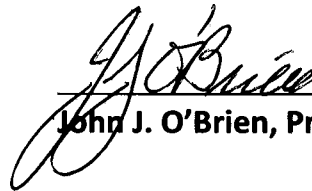
RESOLVED at the regular meeting of the Council of the Borough of Doylestown held this 19th day of March 2018.

ATTEST:



John H. Davis, Secretary

BOROUGH OF DOYLESTOWN



John J. O'Brien, President

Approved this 19th day of March 2018.



Ron Strouse, Mayor