

**MEDIA RELEASE
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Chautauqua County Election Commissioners Urge State to Move Primary Day to June.

NANUET — Election Commissioners from across New York went on record at the winter New York State Election Commissioners' conference last week urging the state to hold primaries in June instead of September to help meet federal deadlines for sending out overseas ballots.

The 2009 federal Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment, or MOVE Act, requires New York to mail overseas ballots out at least 45 days before a federal election. The current September primary date does not give state election officials enough time to comply with the federal law.

New York is under a current federal court to comply with the Move Act and is scheduled back in court for a status report on April 1, to ensure compliance.

Chautauqua County Election Commissioners Norman P. Green and Brian Abram voted with the majority in favor of the June Primary Day. "We wanted to be on record with a proposal to the state Legislature to hold the Primary Election Day in June," said the commissioners in a joint release. "While any day has its pros and cons, a June Primary Day will allow the Board of Elections to be most cost effective and should help us reduce the inevitable over time caused by the current compacted election calendar."

The conference's main purpose is to train New York's election professionals. Training topics included: legal requirements relating to testing the voting machines through the year and before each election; Federal requirements relating to tracking of voting machines and assets acquired through the federal Help America Vote Act; preparation for redistricting for the Assembly, Senate and Congressional redistricting; procedures for conducting the state mandated hand count audit of 3% of all voting machine scanners; techniques for election inspector training; procedures for the transportation, delivery and security of voting machine scanners; state requirements and procedures for the canvass and recanvass of elections; election night reporting and the logistics of election night data card transport; review of Election Law 6210 procedures which

mandate how all optical scan voting is to be conducted; and basic Election Day operations.

Green and Abram also moderated an open discussion of best practices for Board of Elections' operations. Many new innovated ideas for efficiencies and saving taxpayer monies were offered by election boards from around the state.