

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bristol, CT, Dec 9, 2005 – In a prepared statement, Mayor William T. Stortz announced the formation of a new committee to address the conversion to electronic voting. The federal government, under the Help Americans Vote Act (HAVA), has mandated the shift to electronic voting machines in time for the 2006 elections. “This will be a major change for the city and for the voters,” said Stortz.

“To help implement the required change, I have formed a committee to identify the types of machines available; review how the process might be affected, and address any potential problems in advance of implementation,” continued Stortz. “With the declining voting percentage, I am trying to do everything to make this transition as smooth as possible; especially keeping the voters informed and also assures that the process addresses any and all aspects that affect the voters and the voting process.”

The mayor went on to say, “The committee will be co-chaired by Bristol’s Registrars, Eleanor Klapatch and Robert Badal. In addition, our city clerk, Therese Pac and an experienced moderator, Andrea Kapchensky will be part of the team. Both of our current mechanics, Tom Lozier and Fred Selleberg will take part and long-time Deputy Registrar Sharon Krawiecki will also be involved. To address any financial implications, Glenn Klocko will be available and Scott Smith of our MIS department and his staff will cover the technical issues.”

“Lastly,” said Stortz, “I have asked Rita Elliot and John Pompei, two registered voters of the city of Bristol to be part of this effort. Their focus will be to identify potential problems the average voter may have with this new technology. Their input will enable us to provide as much information as possible prior to the election so the voters are well informed and comfortable in adapting to the new equipment; especially those that might be unfamiliar with some of the modern technology.”

Stortz concluded, “The new machines are supposed to make the process easier and reduce problems that have been experienced elsewhere. Bristol has a good record in having a quality voting process, but this is a federal requirement that must be implemented. We will do our very best to make it as smooth as possible. This committee is dedicated to maintaining the high level of Bristol’s voting process integrity as well as do all they can to make the transition as seamless and transparent as possible.