

RESOLUTION NO. 13

PAPER BACK-UP FOR ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS

WHEREAS, The 2000 Presidential Election revealed serious flaws in the voting systems around the nation, calling into question the legitimacy of the election results; and

WHEREAS, the 2004 Presidential elections suffered from many of the same problems apparent in 2000, especially in Ohio as detailed in the report *Preserving Democracy: What Went Wrong in Ohio* by U. S. Representative John Conyers and the House Judiciary Democratic Staff, once again calling the legitimacy of the results into question; and

WHEREAS, these problems have caused millions of Americans to have serious doubts about the nation's voting systems as indicated in several major studies and public opinion polls; and

WHEREAS, states and communities across the nation are moving towards "touch screen voting" and other electronic based voting systems that do not provide for any type of verifiable paper trail or other method for conducting recounts or other independent analyses; and

WHEREAS, the presence of these systems has further eroded public confidence in the nation's voting systems and has led to the formation of many public interest groups working for voting reform such as Black Box Voting.Org and Election Protection; and

WHEREAS, these groups, as well as many others allied with the labor movement, have been working toward the adoption of paper back-up systems for electronic voting machines; and

WHEREAS, voting is the cornerstone of the democratic process and the people must have confidence that their votes will be properly counted; and

WHEREAS, many counties in this country rely on electronic voting systems with no paper back-up even though the technology for these and other independently verifiable systems is readily available;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ITPEU-OPEIU Local 4873, AFL-CIO, will support legislative or other local initiatives that will protect the integrity of our voting system by instituting paper back-up.