

**A Resolution Concerning:  
The Standardization of the Voting Process**

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30     **WHEREAS:**     The results of the 2000 Presidential Election were impeded due to flawed  
40                     "butterfly ballots" used in Florida; and,

50     **WHEREAS:**     "Butterfly ballots" were in used in several other states and in Canada, where  
60                     voters were confused; and,

70     **WHEREAS:**     This delay caused our nation a maelstrom of uncertainty in the political  
80                     and economic realms while possibly causing distrust in our electoral  
90                     process by the American public; and,

100    **WHEREAS:**     The drawn out bickering that ensued may have resulted in a lack of confidence  
110                    in the United States and democracy by nations around the world; and,

120    **WHEREAS:**     Antiquated and flawed systems of voting still exist in counties throughout the  
130                    United States and they should be reformed to ensure that our system of voting is  
140                    both fair and accurate; and,

150    **WHEREAS:**     Certain counties such as Allegheny County, PA still use machines made in the  
160                    1960's and are going to have mistakes according to Allegheny County Elections  
170                    Board Director Mark Wolosik in the *Pittsburgh Post Gazette*; and,

180    **WHEREAS:**     Neighboring counties to Allegheny County have updated to electronic, touch-  
190                    screen machines such as the Sequoia Pacific AVC Advantage which is used in:  
200                    Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Nevada,  
210                    New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia,  
220                    Wisconsin. This machine or a similar version of it will soon be in use in:  
230                    Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland,  
240                    Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina,  
250                    Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin; and,

260    **WHEREAS:**     A system such as this protects against hackers and voter confusion by asking  
270                    the voter if they meant to vote for a certain candidate along with providing two  
280                    computer printouts, one for the voter to keep, and one for the election board to  
290                    hold to double-check computer records; and,

300    **WHEREAS:**     To initiate a standard system, Congress must amend the constitution to allow  
310                    the Federal government the ability to standardize and oversee the election  
320                    process so that it is uniform, accurate and fair, rather than leave it up to  
330                    individual counties where unwise decision and discrepancies have been made.

340    **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**     That the Maryland Student Legislature urges  
350                    Congress to take the proper measures to standardize the nations  
360                    voting machines by either encouraging the states to do so, or by amending  
370                    the Constitution so that this duty is a Federal matter; and,

380    **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**     That the Maryland Student Legislature urges  
390                    Congress to decide upon a system which will be fair, accurate and financially  
400                    plausible so that democracy can move forward without fear of tainted or  
410                    misleading results.

420    **MANDATES:**     President George W. Bush  
430                    Vice President Richard Cheney

440	Representative Dan Burton
450	Representative Roscoe Bartlett
460	Representative Robert Andrews
470	Senator Barbara Mikulski
480	Senator Robert Torricelli

**SPONSOR:**

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