

## ***Election Changes offer Better Access, Savings***

The Town of Pittsford has made several changes to our election process which will be in effect for the 2010 election season. These changes were made as a result of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) regulations enacted by the Federal government and implemented by the New York States Board of Elections.

HAVA mandated that all states and localities upgrade many aspects of their election procedures, including voting machines, registration processes and poll worker training. The new law requires that each polling location have at least one voting system accessible to individuals with disabilities. To comply with HAVA, the Board of Elections mandated that the Town of Pittsford use new, electronic voting machines which are user friendly and ensure confidentiality. The BOE also required that the Town eliminate single polling sites (sites with only one machine).

In 2009, the Town of Pittsford had 17 polling locations. Working with the Board of Elections, we have devised a plan to consolidate to 13 polling locations. The new locations are in reasonable proximity to previous voting sites and provide opportunity for future growth. Some previous locations have remained the same as we found they were able to adequately adapt to the new regulations.

Locations were chosen based on the facility's ability to house a large number of voters and their ability to meet the new accessibility standards (i.e. the path of travel, entrances, exits, voting area, and overall accessibility to those with disabilities). The new locations also address resident concerns with parking that have been expressed over the years. Please be assured that every location will now have ample parking to accommodate all voters (even during peak voting times).

In addition to being more accessible to voters, the new changes will bring other benefits to the Town of Pittsford, including a significant cost savings to residents. The new configuration will use 16 less inspectors than in 2009. This will cut down on fees associated with inspector training and salaries. Additionally, the Town will save on lease payments (some locations required a fee for use of their facility). Together, these cuts will save approximately \$7,000 per election.

Voters will be notified via mail of their new location by both the Board of Elections and the Town of Pittsford prior to the next election (when these changes will take effect). To find your new location now, you can visit the Monroe County website ([www.monroecounty.gov](http://www.monroecounty.gov)) or visit the Town of Pittsford's website at [www.townofpittsford.org](http://www.townofpittsford.org) and click on the "Voter Information" link. I am hopeful that residents will find their new location more convenient and accessible.