



**Resolution
Board of Supervisors
County of Columbia
New York**

RESOLUTION NO.: 103-2013

DATE: March 13, 2013

**BY SUPERVISOR _____
COUNTY GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN: KEVIN MCDONALD**

**OPPOSING THE EARLY VOTING SENATE AND ASSEMBLY BILLS
(S.1461 AND A.689)**

UPON, recommendation of the County Government Committee at a meeting held on the 26th day of February 2013; and of the Finance Committee at a meeting held on the 5th day of March 2013

WHEREAS, legislation has been introduced into the state Senate and Assembly (S.1461 and A. 689) and separate legislation is planned for introduction by Governor Andrew Cuomo as program legislation, to establish a system of early voting prior to primary and general elections throughout this state; and,

WHEREAS, early voting has been shown in numerous academic studies, conducted by political scientists, to not actually increase the overall level of voter turnout; and,

WHEREAS, Columbia County has historically had significantly higher voter turnout than other jurisdictions in the state and would hence not appreciably benefit from a state law mandating early Voting; and,

WHEREAS, the aforementioned legislation contains no provisions for compensating county governments for the additional costs of staffing and operating polling sites for up to fourteen days prior to general elections and up to seven days prior to primary elections; and,

WHEREAS, based upon the requirement that the County maintain, staff and operate at least five polling places for eleven hours each day, including Saturday and Sunday, it is estimated by the County Board of Elections that such requirements would cost approximately \$_____; and

WHEREAS, such additional cost would increase county real property taxes by ___% without providing any meaningful benefit to county residents, taxpayers and voters;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Supervisors strongly rejects the imposition of yet another unfunded state mandate upon our citizens and calls upon the state Legislature to reject these proposals; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, a copy of this resolution be transmitted to Governor Andrew Cuomo, Speaker Sheldon Silver, Senator Dean Skelos, Senator Jeff Klein, Senator Kathy Marchione, and Assembly Members Lopez, McLaughlin and Barrett.

Approved:

County Attorney

**Resolution
Committee**

