Automark Voter Assist Terminal

Presented by:

Lee Lundrigan

Stanislaus County Clerk/Recorder

Tuesday, April 18, 2006

Stanislaus County

Automark Voter Assist Terminal

The Clerk-Recorder's Election Division has been focused on meeting the mandated requirements associated with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA).

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One improvement to the County's ability to assist voters is the installation and operation of the Election Systems & Software (ES&S) AutoMARK Voter Assist Terminal.

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The AutoMARK Voter Assist Terminal is considered a breakthrough ballot-marking technology.

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It allows voters with disabilities and other special needs to mark a ballot privately and independently when using an optical scan paper ballot voting system.

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The technology was developed based on input from election authorities and disability organizations.

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The AutoMARK Voter Assist Terminal does not tally or store votes, it is a paper ballot marking system.

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The AutoMARK is designed to provide privacy and accessibility to voters who are vision-impaired, or have a disability or condition that would make it difficult or impossible to mark a paper ballot in the usual way.

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In addition, the technology provides language assistance to voters who are more comfortable speaking in an alternative language or have reading limitations.

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Some of the features of the system include:

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Elimination of over voting: AutoMARK software has been developed to ensue that no more than the proper number of candidates can be chosen for each race.

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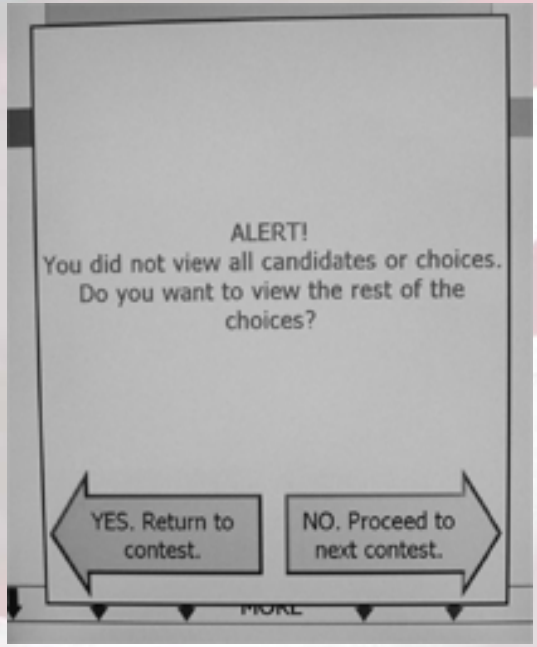
Minimizing under-voting by providing voters with a summary page of their selections. Voters will be able to notice any skipped races and are free to change their selections prior to printing.



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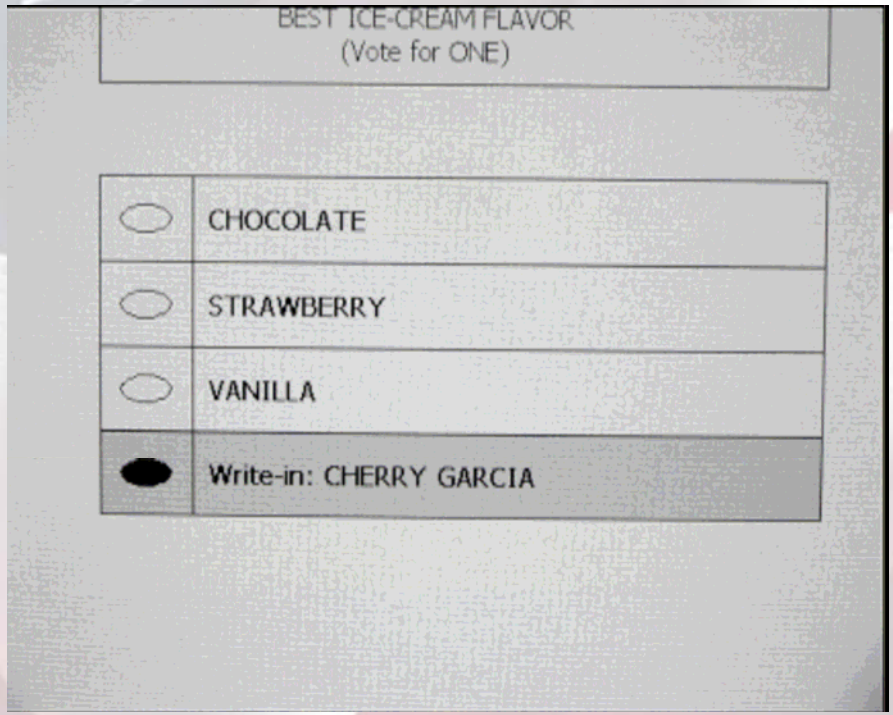
Write-in candidates can be accommodated.



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An audio function, where blind voters or those with severely impaired vision can choose to listen to the choices through headphones.

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A sip/puff tube for voters who are not able to use the touch screen or pad.

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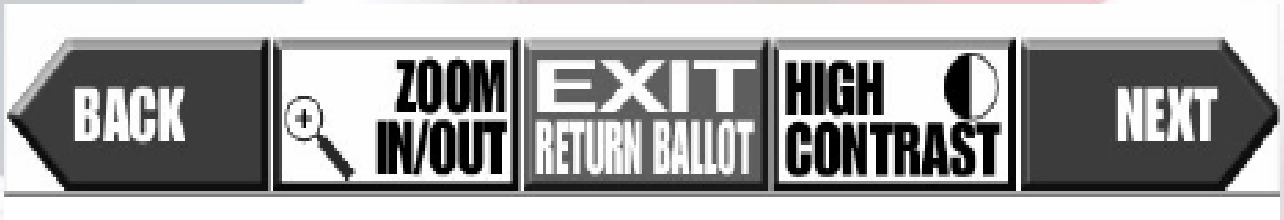
A zoom feature that enables the voter to increase the font size of each race listed on the optical scan ballot. This may be especially helpful for voter's who are sighted but have vision limitations.



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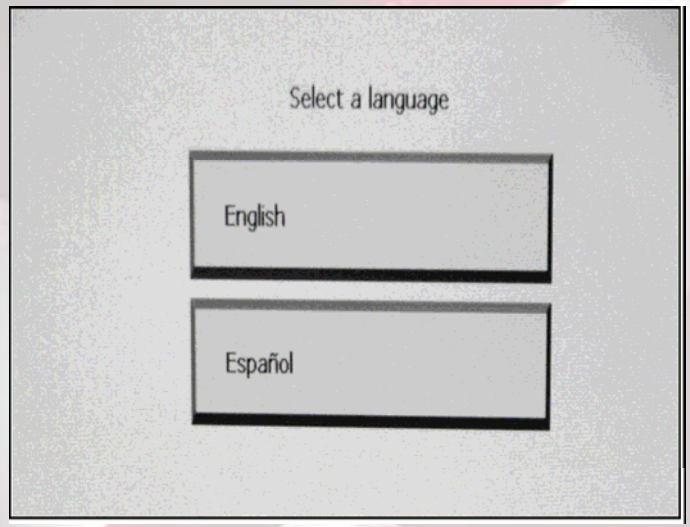
Multiple language capability. Assure all Stanislaus County voters have visual and audible ballots in the English and Spanish languages.



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Each Stanislaus County polling location will have an Automark voter assist terminal available for voters. The upcoming June election will be the first time this equipment will be utilized in a Stanislaus County election.

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Use of the AutoMARK device at a polling location ensures compliance with the Federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA). HAVA requires all polling locations to be equipped with at least one disability-accessible voting machine.

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Policy Issues:

The addition of this new technology is intended to achieve the Board's priority of efficient delivery of public services and meet new federally mandated voting requirements.

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Questions?

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