



DISABILITY RIGHTS NEW YORK

New York's Protection & Advocacy System and Client Assistance Program

HOW TO USE AN AUTOMARK BALLOT MARKING DEVICE (BMD)

The AutoMark is a ballot marking device (BMD) that helps people with disabilities vote privately and independently on a paper ballot. It has three assistive devices that can help voters with disabilities such as vision loss or limited hand dexterity cast their votes: a key pad with braille, a two-switch paddle, and a Sip-N-Puff device. Voters also can listen to the ballot being read through headphones; see the ballot enlarged on a screen; change the size of the screen text using the "Zoom" setting; and adjust the color contrast with the "Contrast" setting.

Every polling site is required to have a BMD in working order. The polling staff workers must be trained on how to use the BMD to assist any voter who has questions regarding how the BMD works. The AutoMark BMD gives step-by-step directions on how to use the assistive device of your choice when you first begin to use the device at your polling place. Each device also gives instructions on how to add a write-in vote.



DESCRIPTION: 1 AUTOMARK BALLOT MARKING DEVICE (BMD)

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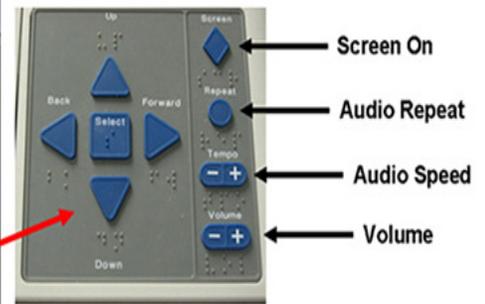
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Key Pad

- ❖ The key pad is equipped with four directional arrows with a square in the middle.
- ❖ The arrows pointing forward and back allow voters to move between screens.
- ❖ The up and down arrows allow voters to scroll through the candidate choices.

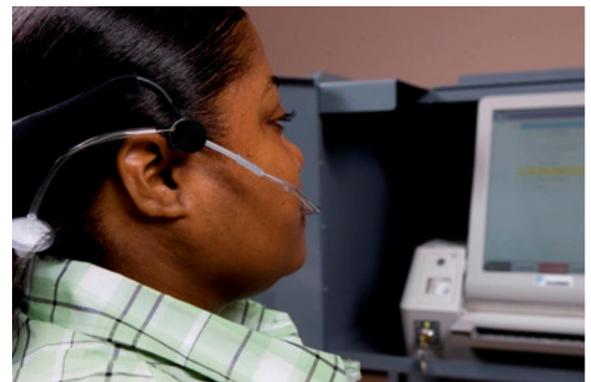


DESCRIPTION: 2 KEY PAD WITH BRAILLE

- ❖ Once a voter decides on a candidate, the center square button makes the selection.
- ❖ The diamond shaped button on the top right of the key pad allows voters to turn the screen on or off for privacy purposes
- ❖ The circular button allows voters to have the last statement, instruction, or candidate name repeated.
- ❖ The speed at which the information is read is controlled by the oval-shaped button beneath the repeat button.
- ❖ The volume is controlled by the oval-shaped button at the bottom of the keypad.

Sip-N-Puff

- ❖ The Sip-N-Puff device can be used by voters with physical impairments. Headphones allow voters to hear the information on the voting machine while using the Sip-N-Puff.
- ❖ An Inspector from the polling place uses disposable gloves while assembling the Sip-N-Puff device, which includes a headset or a gooseneck and a new disposable straw.



DESCRIPTION: 3 SIP-N-PUFF DEVICE

- ❖ The device is carefully placed in the mouth of the voter to allow the voting session to begin.
- ❖ Sipping moves to the next selectable item on the screen, puffing selects the item on the screen.

Two-Switch Paddle

- ❖ The two-switch paddle has two round buttons: the button positioned on the left reads “SCROLL, NO,” and the button positioned on the right reads “SELECT, YES.” The device can be used by voters with limited manual dexterity. If a voter cannot use his/her hands, the device also can be operated by using one’s foot.



DESCRIPTION: 4 TWO-SWITCH PADDLE

- ❖ Headphones allow voters to hear the information on the voting machine while using the two-switch paddle.
- ❖ The left button enables the voter to scroll through the candidate list on the voting machine.
- ❖ The right button allows the voter to make a ballot selection.

The AutoMark BMD is equipped with safety features to ensure your ballot is being properly marked. An alert message will appear when the ballot is blank, too many candidates have been selected, or a ballot is misread. The AutoMark will then give prompts on how to utilize the assistive device to correct the error.

Once the ballot has been completed, it will automatically print into a privacy sleeve. After the ballot is printed, the voter may reinsert it into the AutoMark BMD to verify the selections, using their assistive device to scroll through the ballot. When the voter is satisfied with the ballot, it will print again. The voter then brings the final marked ballot to a scanner to submit his/her vote.

Remember, your vote matters. Do not be afraid to ask questions during any point of the voting session.

If you experience problems related to polling site inaccessibility, voting booth inaccessibility, or any other issues related to being a voter with a disability, please contact Voting@DRNY.org or 518.432.7861.