



DISABILITY RIGHTS NEW YORK

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

HOW TO USE AN IMAGECAST BALLOT MARKING DEVICE (BMD)

The ImageCast 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: Audio Tactile Interface (ATI), 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 ImageCast 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 IMAGECAST VOTING MACHINE WITH ASSISTIVE DEVICES

725 Broadway, Suite 450
Albany, New York 12207
(518) 427-6561 (fax)

25 Chapel Street, Suite 1005
Brooklyn, New York 11201
(718) 797-1161 (fax)

44 Exchange Blvd, Suite 110
Rochester, New York 14614
(585) 348-9823 (fax)

mail@DRNY.org • www.DRNY.org

(800) 993-8982 (toll free) • (518) 432-7861 (voice) • (518) 512-3448 (TTY)

Audio Tactile Interface (ATI)

- ❖ Voters are provided with headphones and a controller. The headphones allow voters with vision impairments to listen to what is being read on the voting machine.
- ❖ The controller allows voters to adjust the volume of the headphones using the small white square buttons in the top left corner of the controller.
- ❖ The speed at which the information is read is controlled by using the small red circle buttons in the top right corner of the controller.
- ❖ The yellow triangles pointing outward allow voters to move between screens; the blue triangles pointing up and down allow voters to scroll through the candidates; and pressing the red “X” button selects the candidate.
- ❖ At any time, voters may press the long green button located at the bottom of the controller to request assistance.



DESCRIPTION: 2 AUDIO TACTILE INTERFACE

Two-Switch Paddle

- ❖ The two-switch paddle has two round buttons: a red button positioned on the left, and a blue button positioned on the right. 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.
- ❖ Headphones allow voters to hear the information on the voting machine while using the two-switch paddle.
- ❖ The right button enables voters to move to the next candidate or screen on the voting machine.
- ❖ The left button allows voters to make ballot selections.



DESCRIPTION: 3 TWO-SWITCH PADDLE

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.
- ❖ The device is carefully placed in the mouth of the voter to allow the voting session to begin.

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

When the voting is done, the ImageCast BMD prints the ballot into a privacy sleeve. Once printed, the voter has the chance to verify the ballot by placing it into a scanner. After the voter verifies the ballot, it will be submitted.

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 Voting@drny.org or 518.432.7861.