

OVERVIEW
DIV. OF
ELECTIONS,
ELECTRONIC
VOTING

There were a couple of questions that came up in the (H) STA meeting regarding electronic voting. If you will please disseminate this information to the committee, I would greatly appreciate it.

The question was raised whether a voter access card stolen from a polling place could be used to create more voter access cards which could in turn be used to vote fraudulently on touch screen voting units.

Diebold has confirmed the following information, which indicates that this scenario is highly unlikely, if not impossible. Voter access cards are programmed with specific precinct ballot information using an encoder. Each encoder is programmed by the Division of Elections Program Manager in the Division of Elections Director's Office in Juneau. The encoders are programmed using Global Elections Management Software (GEMS) with ballot information specific to each precinct. Without an encoder programmed with the ballot information for a particular precinct, it is impossible to create voter access cards for that precinct. For Election Day, each encoder will be attached to a lanyard, and election workers will be instructed to wear the encoder around their neck at all times. A voter access card's ballot information is erased by the Touch Screen Voting unit after a voter is finished voting or has canceled their ballot, leaving the card unusable for voting and devoid of any ballot information. A voter access card must be reprogrammed using an encoder with the proper precinct information in order to be used again. It is impossible to transfer ballot information from a voter access card onto an encoder. Diebold only sells voter access cards and encoders to verified government agencies under contract with Diebold. If someone were to obtain an unprogrammed encoder through other channels, it would be impossible for them to create voter access cards, even if they were in possession of such cards.

The second question raised was regarding how the Division selected the touch screen machines. The Division put out an RFP in 1998 for an election system. At that time two companies bid, Election Systems & Software and Global Election Systems. Global Election Systems was awarded the contract. Because the Division wanted to continue using the current system because of its reliability, but needed to add touch screen equipment in order to be in compliance with both State and federal law, the Division chose election equipment that would be compatible with its current system. The Division contacted a number of vendors who could supply the new technology that HAVA required. None of them had experience with the

GEMS system except Diebold. The Division also contacted other State Elections officials seeking their advice, experience and anecdotal information. The Division did not want to have to seek "patches" between the touch screen machines and GEMS. This is how and why the Diebold touch screens were chosen - the compatibility and experience with the GEMS software was key.

Those were the only two questions that I believe were left unanswered at the meeting. Please let me know if there are any other questions committee members have. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,
Whitney Brewster, Director
Division of Elections

State of Alaska, Division of Elections

Touch Screen Voting Machine Frequently Asked Questions

General Questions

Q: Why is the State implementing Touch Screen machines?

A: The Help America Vote Act of 2002 requires that in each polling place there be a voting unit accessible to visually impaired and disabled voters. State law also directs the Division of Elections to provide balloting equipment to allow voters with visual impairments and disabilities the opportunity to vote a private, independent and verifiable ballot.

Q: Will there be a Touch Screen machine in each polling place?

A: Yes, there will be one Touch Screen machine in each of the State's 439 polling places.

Q: How many Touch Screen machines were purchased?

A: 505 Touch Screen machines were purchased, one for each of the State's 439 polling places, and spares for each of the State's four Regions.

Q: What funds were used to purchase the Touch Screen machines?

A: Federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funds were used to purchase the machines.

Q: Do the machines offer languages besides English?

A: The Touch Screen machines in Kodiak precincts will offer the ballot in Tagalog.

Q: Do the Touch Screen machines have a paper trail?

A: Yes. Each touch screen machine is equipped with a printer to produce a paper ballot. The voter will have the ability to review the paper ballot print-out to determine its accuracy prior to the ballot being cast on the touch screen machine. For visually impaired voters, the paper ballot will be read to the voter via a headset to determine the accuracy of the paper ballot before the ballot is cast.

The Voter Access Card

Q: What is stored on the Voter Access Card?

A: The Voter Access Card holds ballot information that is read by the Touch Screen machine and presented to the voter.

Q: How is the Voter Access Card programmed?

A: The Voter Access Card is programmed by poll workers using an encoder that has been programmed with the ballot format by the Division of Elections.

Q: Can a Voter Access Card be used to vote twice?

A: Once a voter has finished voting, the Voter Access Card must be reprogrammed by a poll worker before being used again.

Touch Screen Voting Machine Frequently Asked Questions

Poll Worker Training

Q: Will poll workers receive special training on the Touch Screen machines?

A: Yes. The Division will be increasing its poll worker training by two-thirds to ensure that poll workers will be familiar with the machines and how to assist voters on them.

Q: Is the funding for Touch Screen training in the Division's budget?

A: Yes. The Division's budget includes funding for extra poll worker training for the Touch Screen machines.

Q: How is a voter's privacy preserved with the Touch Screen machine if there are only a few voters using the machine in a precinct?

A: Poll Workers will be encouraged to cast their votes on the Touch Screen machines so that the sequence of voters is not obvious.

Touch Screen Paper Ballots

Q: How many ballots will the spool of paper in the Touch Screen machine hold?

A: Depending on the length of the ballot, a roll of paper will hold approximately 150-180 ballots.

Q: What if the paper runs out on Election Day?

A: The Touch Screen machine gives a warning when the paper is low, and will not accept Voter Access Cards until a Poll Worker has supplied fresh paper.

Each polling place will have extra paper rolls and an extra security canister to collect ballots in each machine. Should one roll of paper become full, those ballots will be secured and a fresh roll will be installed.

Q: How will the paper ballots be transported after an election?

A: As voters cast their ballots, the paper record is collected in a security canister inside the Touch Screen machine's printer module. The security canister will be secured and treated as other paper ballots are.

Troubleshooting

Q: What if a machine breaks down on Election Day?

A: Trained troubleshooters will be on call in each of the Division's four regions to respond to mechanical and technical problems on Election Day. If the problem cannot be solved by the troubleshooter, the machine's voted ballots will be secured and the machine will be taken out of service, as would be the case with an Optical Scan machine.

Q: What if there is a power outage on Election Day?

A: The Touch Screen machines each contain an internal battery that can power the machine for approximately 2 hours with heavy voter usage, or 4 hours with light voter usage.

Audio Voting on the Touch Screen Voting Machine

1. The voter informs the poll worker that an audio ballot is needed. The poll worker provides a Voter Access Card. The card will be programmed to provide an audio ballot.
2. The poll worker will guide the visually impaired voter to the machine if needed, and provides headphones and a keypad (like a telephone keypad, with a point on the 5 key for orientation) to use for voting. The Voter Access Card is then inserted into the machine by the voter or the poll worker offering assistance.
3. The audio ballot will begin immediately. Detailed instructions tell which buttons to use to adjust the volume and speed of the audio recording, as well as how to vote or change a vote.
4. When the voter has finished voting, the ballot choices will be read back for verification. A paper ballot will print, and will be kept in the machine. After the voter has cast his or her ballot, the Voter Access Card will be ejected from the machine. The voter will then inform a poll worker that voting is completed, and the poll worker will retrieve the card if necessary.

Audio Commands – Quick Reference

Press 0 for instructions at any time

Press 3 to increase Volume

Press 1 to lower Volume

Press # to speed up

Press * to slow down

Press 6 to advance through candidates

Press 5 to vote, or to cancel vote

Press 4 to return to previous race

Instructions will be repeated if no input is made by voter

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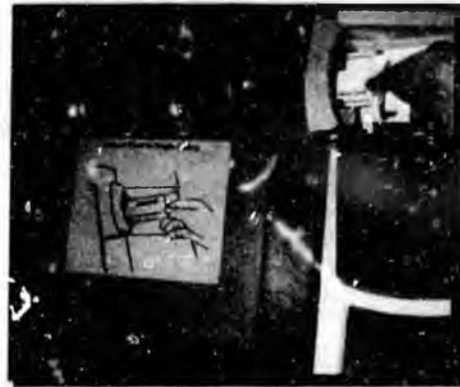
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Touch Screen Voting Instructions

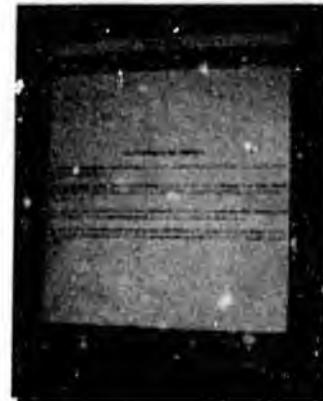
STEP 1: Obtain Voter Card From Poll Worker

Let the Poll Worker know what type of ballot you prefer – visual or audio. Insert the Voter Card into the card slot on the Touch Screen Machine.



STEP 2: Read Instructions Screen

Before you begin voting, you can magnify or change the contrast of your ballot to increase readability. To begin voting, touch the "Next" button on the lower right of the screen.



You will use the "Next" button to see each page until the end of the ballot.

Touch "Back" to review previous pages as you vote.

STEP 3: Select Candidates or Issues, or Select "Write-In" if desired.

Touch the box on the screen next to your choice. An "x" will appear designating your selection. To change or cancel your selection, touch the box again and make another selection.



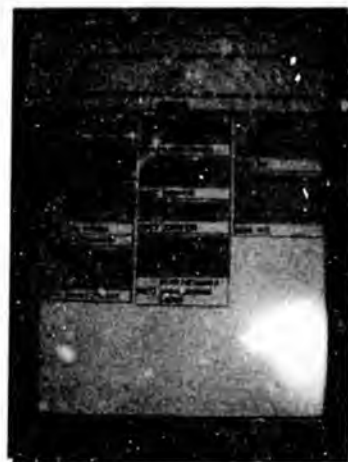
If there are write-in candidates on the ballot you would like to vote for, touch "write-in" and a keyboard will appear on the screen. Type in the first and last name of the write-in you would like, and then select "Record Write-in".



The normal voting screen will return and the name you entered will appear as your choice for that race.

STEP 4: Review Your Ballot

On the Summary Page, review your choices. Highlighted items are races that were left blank or incomplete.



If you want to return and vote in a race that was left blank or incomplete, or you wish to change your vote in any race, just touch the race you would like to change and you will be taken back to the proper page to change your vote.

STEP 5: Print Ballot for Verification

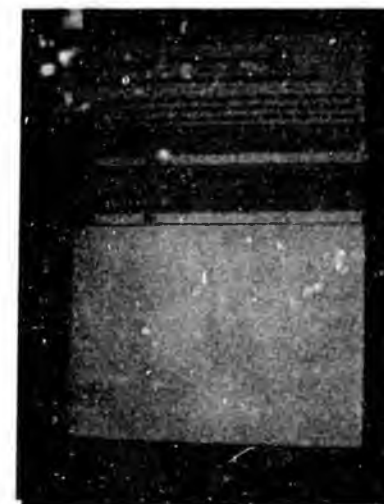
To verify your selections, touch "Print Ballot". You will see an enclosed, printed copy of your choices to the right of your machine.



After reviewing your ballot printout, you can either cast or reject your ballot and make changes. You are allowed to reject your ballot twice.

STEP 6: Cast Your Ballot

Touch "Cast Ballot" when you are ready to record your vote. Once your ballot has been cast, the printer will scroll your selections into the security canister inside the printer unit.



STEP 7: Finish: Remove Card

You have completed the electronic touch screen voting process. Remove your voter card and return it to a poll worker.

