

Using the AutoMARK Voter Assist Terminal

INTRODUCTION

“Hi there. In this video, we’re going to look at a new form of voting technology, called the AutoMARK Voter Assist Terminal. It offers all voters, including voters with disabilities, the opportunity to vote a secret ballot, in complete privacy.

Federal law requires every state to offer voters with disabilities the opportunity to vote with or without assistance, whichever they prefer. To meet this requirement Michigan has put at least one AutoMARK in each polling place. Now let’s see how you use it.

The AutoMARK sits on a table, and with this privacy hood, allows voters who use a wheelchair, or voters who want to mark a ballot sitting down, the option to vote a secret ballot without assistance. And while the AutoMARK is specifically designed for voters with disabilities, anyone can use it. All you have to do is ask.

The AutoMARK doesn’t actually count votes – it just marks your selections. In fact, the ballot you get if you use the AutoMARK is the same ballot used at a voting station.

As you’ll see in a moment, you can make your voting choices in several ways. First, you can read the instructions and choices on the screen or you can have them read to you through headphones. Then you can touch the screen with your hands, or use a Braille-coded keypad. And your personal Puff-Sip device, stylus, or footpad will all work with the AutoMARK.

Now let’s take a more detailed look at how to use the AutoMARK.

Part Two

HOW TO USE THE AUTOMARK

When you are issued your ballot, you can ask to use the AutoMARK. Remember, any voter can use the AutoMARK, not just voters with disabilities. If you request assistance in marking your ballot, two election workers with different political party affiliations will help you. If you request assistance because of blindness, disability, or an inability to read or write, federal law allows you to bring a friend or family member with you, as long as that person is not your employer, an agent of your employer, or an officer or agent of the union you belong to.

An election worker will give you a ballot inside a special secrecy sleeve. The sleeve is equipped with Velcro attachments and a Braille overlay that includes instructions. If you would like to use the headphones, just ask, and an election worker will give them to you. If later you decide not to use them, you should unplug the headphones so others cannot hear your choices.

Before you get started with the AutoMARK, feel free to adjust the viewing screen to a comfortable viewing angle.

Press the Velcro strips on the secrecy sleeve against the strips on the device and guide the ballot into the ballot feed tray. The AutoMARK then pulls the ballot from the sleeve.

After several moments the voting instructions appear on the screen. You can read through them, or you can put on the headphones and listen as a voice reads them to you. You can enlarge the text by using the 'zoom in/out' button at the bottom of the screen. The 'high contrast' button changes the screen to white letters on a black background.

Now, let's see how to navigate through your ballot. Touching the screen directly is one way. The buttons at the bottom of the screen include a 'Next' button that advances your ballot to the next screen and flashes when you're ready to move on. You may also use the 'Back' button to return to a previous contest. To make a selection, press the oval next to the candidate's name, press the candidate's name directly, or press anywhere along the line where that name is listed.

Part Three

You can also use the keypad. The 'Right' arrow key, labeled 'forward,' will take you to the next contest, while the 'Left' arrow key, labeled 'back,' returns you to the previous contest.

The keypad, labeled with Braille, includes several other helpful keys. Pressing the 'repeat' key repeats the last item you heard through your headphones. Use the 'tempo' key to speed up or slow down the reader's voice, and the 'volume' button to make the speaker's voice louder or softer.

If you want to turn off the touch screen, you can press the 'screen' button and the screen will go blank. Touch the 'screen' button again to return it to use.

The 'up' and 'down' arrow keys on the keypad allow you to scroll between voting choices, while the square 'select' key allows you to make a selection.

The AutoMARK alerts you if you try to make more selections than allowed in a race or on a ballot proposal. You can also choose not to vote on a particular race or proposal, although the AutoMARK will ask you if you intended to skip that contest.

You can also vote for a write-in candidate. To do this using the touch screen, select the 'write-in' button in any contest. Using the keyboard on the touch screen, spell the name of the candidate. You can check the screen to confirm the name was entered correctly. Then touch 'OK' to confirm the write-in. The write-in line will be highlighted in yellow, the oval will be marked, and the name of the write-in candidate will be displayed.

You can also use the keypad arrows to write-in a candidate. Select 'write-in' for any contest. Use the keypad's 'up' and 'down' arrow keys to scroll through the letters of the alphabet as they are read through the headphones. Press the 'Select' key when you hear the correct letter. When you're finished, you'll hear the name read back to you in the headphones. Then you can press the 'right arrow' key to proceed to the next contest.

Part Four

MARKING YOUR BALLOT

The AutoMARK also lets you change your mind before you tell it to mark your ballot. You can 'toggle' between choices on the screen. Or you can just touch your previous choice to 'clear' it and then make your new choice. If you've moved past the contest, press the 'back' button on the touch screen or the 'left arrow' key on the keypad until you reach the race you'd like to change, and make your new selection. You'll also have the chance to make changes just before your ballot is marked.

When you reach the end of the ballot, a summary of your choices appears on the touch screen. As mentioned, you can still go back and change any contest. Use the 'down' arrow on the keypad to highlight the race you would like to change and press the square 'select' key. Or touch the race directly on the touch screen. You'll return to that race and can make the change. The 'next' button on the touch screen or the 'right arrow' key on the keypad takes you back to the summary screen.

Let's review:

- Any voter can use the AutoMARK.
- You will be given a special secrecy sleeve.
- The touch screen is adjustable.
- You can use the touch screen or the keypad to make your choices.
- You may also write in candidates.
- You can change your choices before you print.
- The summary screen allows voters to review your choices.

Part Five

HOW THE AUTOMARK MARKS THE BALLOT

When you're ready for the AutoMARK to mark your ballot, select the 'next' button on the touch screen, and then the 'Mark Ballot' button. Or, if you're using the keypad, press the 'right arrow' key and then the 'select' key to instruct the AutoMARK to mark the ballot.

After the ballot is marked, it will eject into your secrecy sleeve. If you want to review your choices, you can either review the ballot visually if you're able to do so, or you can

reinsert the ballot into the AutoMARK. However, you will not be able to make any changes to that ballot.

At this point, you cannot make changes to the ballot. However, if you change your mind or made a mistake, you can ask for a new ballot. The first ballot will be marked as 'spoiled.'

When you're satisfied, take the ballot to the optical scan tabulator so that your votes may be counted.

- The 'Next' button, followed by the 'Mark Ballot' button, will mark the ballot.
- You can mark your ballot using the 'right arrow' and 'select' keys on the keypad.
- You can review the ballot visually or by reinserting it into the AutoMARK.
- You can ask for a new ballot and the first ballot will be marked as spoiled.

For more information on the AutoMARK Voter Assist Terminal, please contact your local clerk or visit our Web site at www.michigan.gov/sos.