

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

IN
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Accessible Voting in the Fall 2008 and 2009 Elections

During the Fall 2008 and 2009 Primary and General elections, all registered voters in the City of New York, including voters with disabilities, will have another way to cast a ballot in addition to using a lever machine or submitting an absentee ballot. Voters will be able to vote using a **B**allot **M**arking **D**evice (BMD). The Board of Elections in the City of New York (BOE) will install at least one (1) BMD in each poll site. The BMD **does not count votes**; instead, it simply marks the voter's selections on a paper ballot. The voter then deposits the completed ballot in the ballot box to be counted by hand at the close of the election.

Figure 1. ES&S AutoMARK Ballot Marking Device (BMD)



Using the Ballot Marking Device (BMD) for Accessible Voting

Implementation of the **B**allot **M**arking **D**evice (BMD) is in response to the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of October 2002. One of the requirements of HAVA is to ensure that voters with disabilities may cast a ballot privately in the same place and manner as all other voters.

The BMD selected by the Commissioners of the Board of Elections in the City of New York for use in the Fall 2008 and 2009 elections is the Election Systems & Software (ES&S) AutoMARK.

Any voter, including voters with disabilities, may use the BMD to view, and/or listen to, the ballot in any of the required languages for that poll site (English, Spanish, Chinese–Mandarin, Chinese–Cantonese, and Korean).

Voters may use the BMD to complete a paper ballot independently and privately on Election Day by using either its ATM-style touch screen, Braille-enhanced keypad, sip & puff device or its rocker paddle.

These features are shown in the photos below.

Figure 2: ES&S AutoMARK Touchscreen



Figure 3: Key Pad and Audio Controls

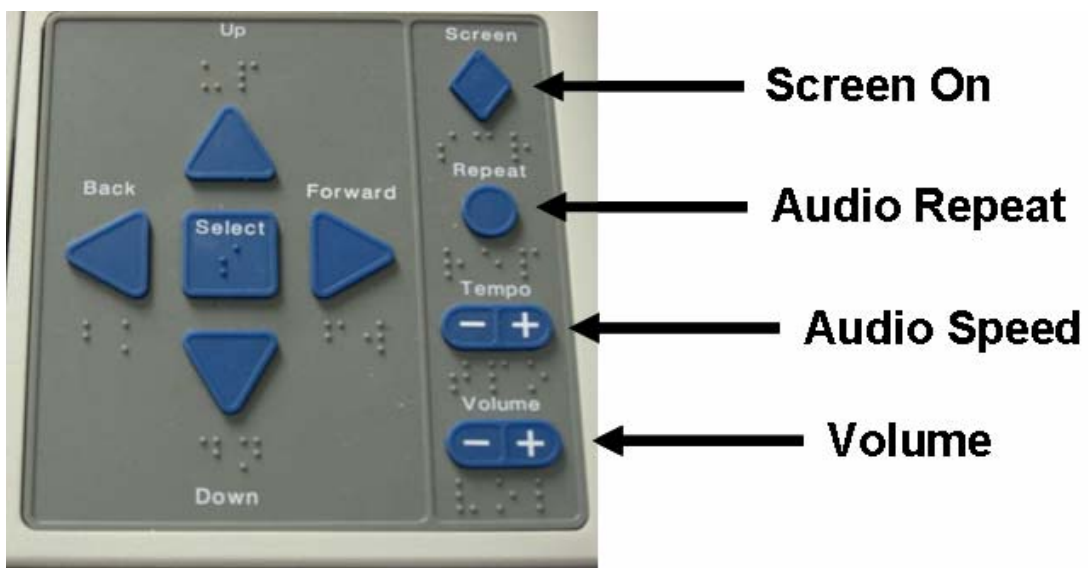


Figure 4: Sip & Puff Device



Figure 5: Two-position Rocker Paddle



Figure 6: Two-position Rocker Paddle



The BOE will replace the lever machines currently used in New York City for the 2010 elections and beyond. The voting system selected for 2010 and beyond may be different from the BMD devices being used in the Fall 2008 and 2009 elections.