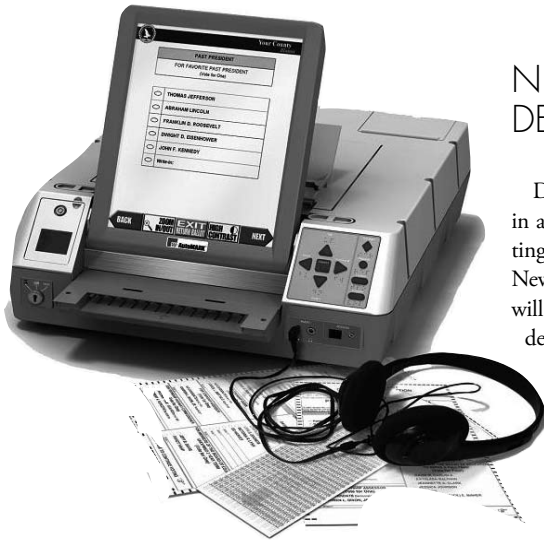




BALLOT MARKING DEVICE INFORMATION



NEW BALLOT MARKING DEVICES

During this November presidential election, in addition to using a lever machine or submitting an absentee ballot, all registered voters in New York City, including voters with disabilities, will be able to cast a ballot using a ballot marking device (BMD). There will be one BMD available at each polling site in the city.

The new BMDs are part of New York's plan to comply with the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) passed in 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 NYC Board of Elections for use in the fall 2008 election is the Election Systems & Software (ES&S) AutoMARK.

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

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 a ballot box to be counted by hand at the close of the election.

Citizens Union encourages voters to use the BMDs on November 4th and provide us with your thoughts and experiences. Please send your comments to asenteno@citizensunion.org with your name, email, and poll site information.

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HOW TO VOTE ON THE BMD

First, insert your paper ballot into the machine. When ballots have been programmed with languages other than English, you will be given a choice of language to select from. You will be provided with instruction in both audio and visual display: carefully review the instructions and select "next" to proceed to your ballot. The AutoMARK can provide you with audio instruction through the use of headphones. It also provides access through sip-n-puff devices, tactile controls and paddle devices. Let a poll worker know if you would like to use one of these options.



BALLOT MARKING DEVICE INFORMATION

The AutoMARK includes an audio control keypad that enables you to adjust volume, pause & repeat audio message, and even adjust the audio tempo.

Once your ballot is loaded, you will begin to make selections for each candidate or issue for which you intend to cast a vote. At the end of the process, the BMD will print your marked ballot and may provide audio replay for your review if the audio headphones are being used. After you mark your ballot using the BMD, you will have an opportunity to review your selections. You may choose to void the ballot and start the process over. Voters have three opportunities to mark their ballot as they wish. Poll Workers are always available to provide you with any assistance you may need. They will be stationed in various areas in your poll site.

Using the BMD can take anywhere from 3 minutes if using the display and touch screen to 45 minutes if using the audio, depending on the length of the ballot. There is no time limit for voters when using the BMD.

For more information on how to use the Braille-enhanced keypad, sip & puff device or rocker paddle please visit the NYC Board of Elections website at: <http://www.vote.nyc.ny.us/bmdenglish.html>.

You can also visit the NYS State Board of Election information site for information about the AutoMARK and other voting systems being used around the state visit: www.vote-ny.com.

OTHER INFORMATION

The last day to file in person for an absentee ballot at the BOE office is November 3, 2008.

If you have trouble voting on the BMD at your poll site, we encourage you to call the Board of Elections at 1-866-VOTE-NYC and make them aware of the problem. In addition there are a number of voter hotlines that will be operating on Election Day:

Election Protection Hotline:	1-866-OUR-VOTE
NYPIRG and Common Cause/NY:	212-822-0282
National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO):	1-866-Ve-Y-Yota

Please note that the BOE is expected to replace the lever machines currently used in New York City beginning with the fall 2009 elections and that these machines may be different from the BMDs used in this election.

This information was obtained from the New York State and New York City Boards of Elections' websites.



FURTHER INFORMATION

TO LEARN ABOUT THE POLITICAL PARTIES

Conservative	(718) 921-2158	www.cpnys.org
Democratic	(212) 725-8825	www.nydems.org
Green	(518) 463-8653	www.gpnys.org
Independence	(212) 962-1699	www.ipny.org
Liberal	(212) 213-1400	www.liberalparty.org
Libertarian	(518) 767-4688	www.ny.lp.org
Republican	(518) 462-2601	www.nygop.org
Right to Life	(518) 434-1293	www.nysrighttolifeparty.org
Working Families	(718) 222-3796	www.workingfamiliesparty.org

TO REGISTER & VOTE

NYC Board of Elections	(212) VOTE-NYC	www.vote.nyc.ny.us
NYPIRG	(212) 349-6460	www.nypirg.org
League of Women Voters of NYC	(212) 725-3541	www.lwvnyc.org

To Research Campaign Contributions

NYS Board of Elections	(800) FOR-VOTE	www.elections.state.ny.us
NYC Campaign Finance Board	(212) 306-7100	www.cfb.nyc.ny.us
FEC Federal Database	(202) 628-0617	www.fec.gov

TO RESEARCH CANDIDATES AND ISSUES

Citizens Union	(212) 227-0342	www.citizensunion.org
Gotham Gazette	(212) 227-0342	www.gothamgazette.com
Project Vote Smart	(888) VOTE-SMART	www.vote-smart.org
New York Wired		www.newyorkwired.com
NY1		www.ny1.com

TO RESEARCH INCUMBENT RECORDS

NYC Council	(212) 778-7100	www.nycouncil.info
NYS Assembly	(518) 445-4218	www.assembly.state.ny.us
NYS Senate	(518) 455-2800	www.senate.state.ny.us

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT WHO'S RUNNING

Who's Running for What is Gotham Gazette's unique and searchable database on all the candidates running for state and city office. To find out available campaign funds and research candidates' websites, or to search by office holder or candidate position, log on to www.gothamgazette.com/city/campaigns. Gotham Gazette is published by Citizens Union Foundation, the education and research affiliate of Citizens Union.



VOTER INFORMATION

The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 4. Polls will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. If you have general questions regarding eligibility, or the location of your polling place, please call 1-866-VOTE-NYC. You can also locate your polling place online at: <http://gis.nyc.gov/vote/ps/index.htm>.

Under federal law, if you are disabled and choose to vote in person rather than by absentee ballot, you are entitled to assistance. You can rely on the election employees for help. To locate the handicap entrance to your polling site, please visit: <http://gis.nyc.gov/vote/ps/index.htm>.

At the polls, if there is no entry for you on the voter registration list, it may be because your registration form was not received or was filled out incorrectly. If you believe that you are eligible to vote, you can still vote by requesting an affidavit ballot. After the election, the Board of Elections will check its records and your vote will be counted if you are indeed eligible to vote.

BECOME A POLL WORKER

The New York City Board of Elections is looking for good citizens to join its Election Day poll worker teams. Poll workers receive \$200 for a rewarding day of work, plus a \$35 bonus if you work both the primary and general election. Hours are from 5:30 AM to 9:30 PM each Election Day. All poll workers are assigned as close to their home as possible. All poll workers must attend a three-hour training session. Contingent upon working on Election Day, trainees will receive a \$25 stipend for attending the class and passing an exam. Sign up today by going online to www.citizensunionfoundation.org/pollworker or by calling the Board of Elections at 1-866-VOTE-NYC and asking for the Poll Worker Department.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS (212) 487- 5300

Bronx (718) 299-9017

Manhattan (212) 886-2100

Staten Island (718) 876-0079

Brooklyn (718) 797-8800

Queens (718) 730-6730

REGISTER TO VOTE

To be eligible to vote in municipal, federal and state elections you must be 18 years of age, a citizen of the United States and registered 25 days before the election. If you are not yet 18, but will be 18 before the election you are eligible to vote. Send your voter registration card in January of the year you turn 18 and it will be filed on your 18th birthday.

To request a voter registration form, please call 1-866-VOTE-NYC or visit www.vote.nyc.ny.us/register.html.