Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Who may use the touch screens?
A: The touch screen units are intended to be used by voters with disabilities and visual impairments; however, the units are available to any voter who wishes to vote on them.

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 to retrieve the ballot that is presented to the voter on the screen. It does not contain information about how an individual voted or any personal information about the voter.

Q: How do voters receive instructions on how to use the touch screens?
A: There is an instruction sheet available at every polling place for voters who may need assistance. In addition, election officials are trained and can provide verbal instructions. The instructions explain how to vote your selection, review your choices, print the ballot for verification and cast your ballot.

Q: What if I do not wish to use the touch screen machine?
A: Any person may choose to vote a paper ballot; the same method of voting that has been offered in previous elections will be available.
Touch Screen Accessible Features

- Height and position of the units are adjustable
- Audio ballots and audio/visual ballots with verbal prompts allow voters with visual impairments and literacy issues to vote in complete privacy
- Ballot magnification feature provides voters with a large-print, high-contrast ballot to make the ballot easy to read
- Verifiable printed ballot allows voters to confirm their ballot choices prior to casting their ballot

Purpose of the Touch Screens

Use of the touch screen units ensures that every polling place provides voters with disabilities and visual impairments the opportunity to vote a private, independent and verifiable ballot.

The touch screens are intended to be used by voters with disabilities and visual impairments; however, the units are available to any voter who wishes to vote on them.

The Accu-Vote touch screen voting units were purchased by the Division of Elections using federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funds to fulfill the federal requirement that voting systems be made accessible for individuals with disabilities.

Voting the Touch Screen

1: Insert the Voter Access Card into the touch screen.

2: Review Instructions Carefully (Written and verbal instructions are available).

3: Vote Your Ballot.

4: Review Your Ballot.

5: Print Ballot for Verification.

6: Cast Your Ballot.

7: Remove Voter Access Card.

Touch Screen Across Alaska

During every election where a federal race appears on the ballot, every polling place in Alaska has a touch screen voting unit equipped with a voter verifiable paper trail. Touch screen voting units are used in conjunction with traditional paper ballots.

More Information

More information on Alaska’s touch screen voting units can be found on the Division’s website at:

www.elections.alaska.gov