

From: Mike Gorse [REDACTED]
Date: Fri, 17 Mar 2006 18:27:41 -0500 (EST)
To: Heleni Thayre <heleni22@verizon.net>
Subject: Re: letter about the Vote-PAD

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in regard to the Voting-on-Paper Assisted Device (Vote-PAD). I am totally blind and have evaluated this system in a demonstration. I found that I was able to vote efficiently and independently using it and could cast my vote in secret. For reference, I have also tested the Automark, the Diebold Acuvote, and the Heart Intercivic and have voted on the Automark in an actual election. I value the ability to vote privately and independently and can do neither without some sort of assistive device. The Vote-PAD also has the advantage of being usable by someone who is deaf as well as blind, where machines that require one to either read a screen or listen to a voice are not. Especially where some smaller towns find electronic voting machines to be prohibitively expensive and that there are security-related and other concerns with DRE systems such as the Acuvote and Heart Intercivic, I feel that cities and towns should be free to evaluate the Vote-PAD as a way of meeting HAVA requirements and aiding people with disabilities in casting our ballots.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Gorse
Member, Massachusetts Alliance of Visually Impaired Students