

VotePad
660 Jefferson Ave.
Port Ludlow, WA 98365

Mar. 15, 2006

Satauna Howery

Albany, NY

To whom this may concern:

I am writing to tell you how much I enjoyed working with the Vote-Pad. I saw this product at an American Council of the Blind state convention in November of 2005, not long after I'd stood inside a real election booth with my husband casting my vote.

I've been blind since birth, and my experience with the Vote-Pad represents the first opportunity I have ever had to vote independently. While the election was certainly not real, the feeling of voting by myself was amazing! I was surprised at the sense of empowerment I felt, and I had such fun taking all the time I wanted to look over the ballot and make my little marks! I often vote via absentee ballot, but even that isn't completely private. Using the Vote-Pad, I was truly free to make my selections without any assistance! This point may sound trivial, but take a week and have someone read all of your mail to you. Have them fill in your ballot, help you label your groceries and read the school handouts for parents that come home with your child. You will quickly appreciate the gifts of independence and privacy.

I found the product design of the Vote-Pad straightforward. With a short introduction to its layout, I believe blind people could use it to independently and privately make their voices heard. Vote-Pad offers a terrific way to vote by absentee, too! It also carries the potential to benefit the deaf-blind, who are a smaller, often forgotten segment of our population, but whose voices matter just as much as yours and mine.

In closing, I will state again how much I enjoyed trying out the Vote-Pad. Thank you for doing the important work that you do, and good luck with your endeavors! I look forward to voting all by myself in a real election soon!!!

Sincerely,

Satauna Howery