

# Vote-PAD Test Summary

## American Council of the Blind of NY Convention

**Test #1) Name of Tester:** Lois Hines. Permission to quote and use name.

**Location of test:** American Council of the Blind of New York Inc. Convention, Albany, New York

**Date of test:** 11/19/05

**Tester's disability:** Totally blind from birth

**Vote-PAD Instructions used:** Used audio although she reads Braille well.

**Tester's past voting:** Always had mother or sister come with her. "It was very nice of them. I had no choice anyway."

**Accessible equipment tested:** None previously.

**Tester's comments** in response to demonstrator's questions:

"I really like this. For me it's easy." "It is ideal. I think it is ideal for a blind person."

"I like the way it tells you what name, what number, what dot. It's very orderly, explaining the columns, then moving on to the next thing. It's convenient and easy. I'm very impressed."

"I'm gung-ho for it."

**Tester's additional comments:**

[The instruction text could give a better overview in the beginning so you understand how everything works right away.]

The tape should say "Fill in the circle."

[Note: These modifications have been made.]

**Test #2) Name of Tester:** Michael O'Brien.

**Location of test:** American Council of the Blind of New York Inc. convention, Albany, NY

**Date of test:** 11/19/05

**Disability:** Totally blind from birth

**Previous voting experience:** Lever machines. At polls, with assistance from a friend or relative. I don't like to do it that way. I prefer privacy. But there was no alternative.

**Accessible equipment tested:**

I liked the E-Slate - simple controls not in New York though

AutoMARK is OK

Liberty is pretty good

**Tester's comments** in response to demonstrator's questions:

Q: Did you have any trouble using the Vote-PAD?

A: No.

Q: Did you like voting on the Vote-PAD?

A: I prefer an electronic system. But given the constraints you've done a good job. It's a good solution for paper. I have to commend your company.

Q: What are the Vote-PAD's best features.?

A: You spent time making it accessible. It probably would work pretty well.

A: I like the bumps a good means of verifying. Very clever.

Q: Do you have any suggestions?

A: Give the instructions over the phone ahead of time so could come in prepared. (Not vote over the phone.)

Q: Would you be happy to vote using the Vote-PAD in a real election?

A: If I didn't have another choice, yes.

**Test #3) Name of Tester:** Kathy Casey.

**Location of test:** American Council of the Blind of New York Inc. convention, Albany, NY

**Date of test:** 11/19/05

**Disability:** Legally blind, partial sight

**Vote-PAD Instructions used:** Audio.

**Previous voting:** Until recently she could vote independently, but now needs assistance.

**Accessible equipment she has tested:** AutoMARK, Liberty, Hart InterCivic E-Slate, Vote-PAD.  
She liked them all, and had no preference for any one.

**Comments:**

Q: Did you like voting on the Vote-PAD?

A: "So-so - probably because it is a new concept [for me]."

"I could do it. I had no problem."

"The instructions were clear."

Q: "Would you be happy to use it in a real election?"

A: "Yes."

Q: Did you have any trouble with it?

A: I had no trouble voting, but without the [verification] wand to try out, I can't really evaluate the Vote-PAD completely.

Some of the wording of the audio needs to be improved. [Note: The audio has been extensively reworked since then.]

**Test #4) Name of Tester:** Michael Bernard.

**Location of test:** American Council of the Blind of New York Inc. Convention, Albany, New York

**Date of test:** 11/19/05

**Tester's disability:** totally blind from birth.

**Vote-PAD Instructions used:** Audio (reads Braille also, but only tried out audio.)

**Tester's past voting:** Went to polls, doesn't like to ask family, helped by pollworker. "I would rather be private."

**Accessible equipment tested:** The Vote-PAD and the Liberty DRE.

**Tester's comments** in response to demonstrator's questions:

Q: Did you like the Vote-PAD?

A: "I liked it." "I liked the bumps. I liked the privacy shield."

Q: Any trouble with the privacy shield?

A: "No."

Q: Any trouble with any aspect of the Vote-PAD?

A: "No. It didn't take very long."

Q: Any suggestion for improving it?

A: I can't think of any.

**Tester's additional comments:**

"This works."

"The biggest issue is that I want to vote. The Vote-PAD, Liberty, they are both accessible for me. It doesn't matter which one I use. Both are fairly easy. The more important issue is that we can do it and you don't have to have people know what you voted."

"It is easy. It has all the things you need."

# Vote-PAD Test Summary

## Boston Center for Independent Living

**Test #1: 8/26/05. Male, 20 yrs old, quadriplegia, injury at lower C5 near C6**

Voted independently.

Q1: If you had a choice would you prefer to use this template or a regular ballot?

A: This template.

Q: Why:?

A: It keeps the marks inside the circle, the pages are easier to flip and he likes the privacy cover. He doesn't think he really needs it, but he likes it better.

**Test #2. 8/29/05. Male, 30's or 40's, birth defect: arthrogryposis (immovable joints)** - limited shoulder movement, can move his head and neck, some movement in the fingers of his right hand but not his left hand. His chair is side-lying: he lies on his right side and writes with his right hand, so his reach is very restricted.

He found the ballot, bulky, "too long" It was hard for him to reach the top candidate. "It would be easier without the cover." I suggested that he fold the front cover behind the ballot to make it the size of one page and then turn the ballot on its side. That was better for him, but he needed the instruction to do so.

He liked the sleeve because it helps him to stay with-in the circle.

He said we didn't really need a cover. He said he could easily slip the ballot into a cover or folder.

**Test #3. 8/29/05. Jim Tierney, Deputy Director of the Boston Center for Independent Living, male, 40s, quadriplegia: Right-C4, Left-C5, some spasticity**

Voted independently.

Q: If you had to vote on a regular ballot or this one, which would you prefer?

A: This one.

Q: Why?

A: I am concerned about my mark going outside of the lines.

Q: What about a touch screen?

A: Touch screen is OK if it is down flat.

Q: What about if it is at a vertical slant?

A: [He showed me the difficulty he would have lifting his arms up to touch it.] The Vote-PAD would be easier.

**Test #4: 9/2/05, Maria Matos. 30's. employed at Boston Center for Independent Living (Permission to quote, with name and injury.)** Female quadriplegic C4(Right)-C5(Left) injury. She is right-handed but because of the injury she uses her left hand to write. She cannot feel with her left hand. Her left hand and fingers don't move. Movement comes from the left shoulder. She has less capacity for movement and strength with her right hand and cannot independently lift her right hand but must help it with her other hand. She uses a splint to hold a normal size pen. Her splint is custom fitted. She can put it on with her mouth.

Voted independently.

**Questions:**

Q: How does the Vote-PAD compare to other voting systems for you, such as a regular paper ballot or a computer?

A: Keyboard: "The Vote-PAD is easier to use. I have to tap the keyboard with pen, which is more challenging." It is hard and takes a long time. I don't like it."

Large key cursors: "I prefer the Vote-PAD because using the curser you have to scroll through different choices. It takes longer. With the Vote-PAD you can go directly to what you want and mark it."

Touchscreen: She received training on a touch-screen in the rehab hospital. It was not a success. "I could only hit the screen with side of my hand [because she cannot use her fingers] so I got error messages all the time. The machine didn't know what I wanted to do." She cannot lift her fight hand up to touch the screen at all.

Paper ballot: "I don't think I could mark on a regular paper ballot very well."

Q: You said that for the beginning of the eight months you were in rehab you couldn't use your hands. Did you learn to use a mouth stick?

A: Yes.

Q: Could you fill out this ballot with a mouth stick?

A: Yes.

Q: Would you show me?

A: Yes.

[Note: She was able to vote independently using a mouth stick.]

**Comments on the various page-turning aids we tried:**

"I can turn the pages with one finger, but some people can only make a fist so they would need the clamp, not the book ring. Some people have just one finger they can use. It could be the first, the last, the middle. Every disability is different."

The large white clip with the grommet works better than the book ring because it stands up more. "The book ring needs to stand up more so I can get my finger into it." The other loop, attached to the page through a slit is "too floppy." Too hard to control.

**Other comments we used to refine the design:**

Sharp plastic corners can cut the skin. "Some people with mobility impairments have very sensitive skin; it bruises and gets cut easily. The corners of the pages are sharp." So is the edge of the small open loop we are testing. [We decided to round the corners of the ballot sleeve.]

"The pages are very heavy" to turn with a mouth stick." [We decided not to use laminated ballots, but only the thin plastic.]

The booklet was sliding as it did for some other test subjects. [We decided to include a non-skid mat.]