

Sat May 20, 2006 9:04pm(PDT)

Options for Voting Systems

This chart summarizes voting devices to aid the disabled in voting at the polls. These will be used in addition to paper ballots which will be optically scanned. All of the systems have the following properties:

- HAVA compliant.
- Multiple languages.
- Audio for visually impaired.
- All protect against overvotes and if configured, warn of undervotes.
- Vendors will probably promise deliver in time, but have been missing delivery dates throughout the country

	Diebold TSx DRE	Sequoia Edge DRE	ES&S Automark	EqualiVote
How is vote recorded?	On Computer Memory Card		On paper ballot	
Voter interface	touchscreen, audio	touchscreen, audio, sip and puff [1]	touchscreen, audio, sip and puff	plastic guides, tactile features, audio
Difficulty of conversion from current system	Easy, current vendor	Major effort to switch vendors		Easy, Diebold compatible
Can Voting Device Alter Vote Totals?	Yes		No	
Certified?	Certified with conditions	Certified		Needs Secretary of State approval
Chances of Being Decertified	High[3]	Medium[4]	Low	
Purchase Cost	High			Low
Vendor Maintenance and License Costs	High			Low
Drayage, Storage Costs	High			Low
Non-visual access to paper trail/ballot info?	No, violating California law & standards[2]		Yes, via audio read-back	
Sip and Puff?	No	Yes[1]	Yes	No
Can voter change vote after paper trail/ballot printed?	Yes, but visually impaired can't tell what is on paper trail.	Yes, except audio and sip & puff users can not	Yes	

[1] If use sip and puff or audio with Sequoia, the screen is blanked and the voter is not given a chance to verify the paper trail.

[2] This violates both Elections Code 19250-19251 and the California AVVPAT standard which both require a non-visual access method as part of the VVPAT.

[3] The Diebold TSx does not have an AVVPAT, violates federal voting standards (e.g. for including interpretive code), know to be hackable at several levels, and their is a lawsuit to decertify it.

[4] The Sequoia Edge does not have an AVVPAT, has many problems, and Voter Action, which filed suit against Alameda County for using Diebold, has announced the next step is to file suit against the Sequoia Edge DRE in California.

Other: In state testing, Sequoia's zero tape/totals printer did not work. The state requires that the zero tape and totals be printed and signed on the VVPAT, conflicting with the Sequoia's recommendation to never open the VVPAT printer at the polls, to preserve the secrecy of the vote.