

Logic and Accuracy Testing

The Department of Elections is required by law to conduct Logic and Accuracy (L&A) testing of all vote-tabulating equipment prior to each election. L&A testing is used to check that the voting equipment and tabulating system to be used for the election are working properly and to verify that the specific ballot information for each precinct is correctly coded. L&A testing ensures that all votes are properly and accurately recorded, tabulated, and reported.

L&A testing consists of running a set of marked test ballots (using applicable ballot types) through each voting machine and comparing the vote count with predetermined results to verify the accuracy of the formulated software for a specific election. A separate procedure will be used to test the AutoMARK voting system.

TESTING OF VOTE TABULATORS USED IN PRECINCT POLLING PLACES

The "Eagle" and AutoMARK voting machines are stored at the Cor-O-Van warehouse located at 16th Street at the corner of Mississippi Street in San Francisco. The warehouse is a bonded, secure facility. All workers and visitors are required to wear an identification badge. During non-working hours, the warehouse is secured.

When the precinct test ballots arrive from the printer, ballot test decks are prepared and transported to Cor-O-Van to begin the Logic and Accuracy testing of San Francisco's precinct voting system. There are 561 polling places and 41 ballot types for the November 7, 2006 Consolidated General Election. 561 memory packs and PCMCIA cards (one each per Eagle) are programmed to read the ballots specific to their polling site. In addition, 561 Flash memory cards containing all the ballot types will be programmed for the AutoMARK. The Department will also have additional Eagle and AutoMARK units to serve as backups on Election Day.

EAGLE TESTING

Prior to testing, the Eagles and their attached blue ballot bins are cleaned and assembled. The memory packs, PCMCIA cards, and Eagle ID cards are sorted and distributed to each machine to be tested. Test decks are read into each Eagle. The Eagle tape and ballot image precinct report are printed for each precinct and the report is proofed for accuracy by DOE staff. After this verification, the memory pack is read into an "Uplink SPR" unit for twice-daily transmissions to DOE.

A precinct report is printed based on the transmitted results and the report is proofed for integrity and accuracy by another DOE review team. After verification of the report, the memory pack and PCMCIA card are returned to the Eagle testing personnel, zeroed out and placed in the Eagle ready for Election Day.

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Once an Eagle has been successfully tested, a serialized seal is attached to the memory pack cover on the Eagle to ensure that no untimely or unauthorized removal of the pack will occur. The Eagle is then securely stored by routing number in preparation for delivery to the precincts. It is now ready for use on Election Day.

AutoMARK TESTING

AutoMARK machines are ballot marking machines that allows voters with specific needs to vote using a ballot card independently and privately. These machines are not vote tabulating machines like the Eagle, and therefore, are tested differently. Testing is carried out by feeding blank test AutoMARK ballots and marking them according to a script. After the machine has completed marking the ballots, they are visually reviewed for accuracy.

Each AutoMARK machine after successful testing will have a serialized seal placed on the Flash memory card compartment and is now ready for use on Election Day.

TESTING OF VOTE TABULATORS TO BE USED FOR ABSENTEE BALLOTS

For this election, there are 19 mail-in precincts. Ballots for these precincts, as well as all absentee ballots, will be tabulated using the IV-C ballot tabulating systems. The two IV-C machines are stationed in the computer room of the Department of Elections. At least one precinct for each ballot type and all mail-in precincts will be tested on each machine type. The testing of the IV-C machines is conducted similarly to the Eagle testing using a select number of precincts representing all the ballot types.

After the Department of Elections staff has completed testing all the Eagle, AutoMARK, and IV-C machines, the results are presented to the L&A Board. The L&A Board which is composed of registered voters, who come from different fields of work, is responsible for reviewing and approving the Test Plan, and later, for reviewing and approving the overall result of the test. The L&A Board must approve and certify the testing no later than seven (7) days before the election.

Note: The scheduled dates for the testing will be made public at least three (3) days prior to start.