



Larry's Column

I finally got to try out the AutoMARK. I put on the earphones, inserted the test ballot, and heard the synthesized voice. With dials on the front of the machine, I could adjust, not just the volume, but the speed of the voice. A twist of the dial changes the voice from painfully s-l-o-w to lightning fast.

I tried skipping sections, backing up and changing votes, doing write-ins, and so on, and the AutoMARK responded appropriately to each situation. The buttons and the touch screen worked interchangeably.

Write-ins had to be specified letter by letter, of course, but when I was done, the computer figured out how to pronounce the words. Smart machine!

The ballot markings are pretty good. Unless you look closely, they look like any other darkened ovals. Of course the write-in votes are obviously printed, but that can't be helped.

We'll soon see how well they work in a real election, but so far, the AutoMARK is cheaper, more adaptable, and smarter than we were all led to believe.

Okay, it is also much *heavier*, but nothing's perfect.

State Election News

For information on handling Federal Post Card Application forms, Declarations of Intent, appointing election inspectors, and other items relating to the upcoming election, see the State's latest [Election News, Issue #33](#).

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Dates To Remember...

July

- 10 - Last day to register to vote in the August Primary
- 12 - Washtenaw Clerk's Meeting at Salem Township Hall
- 20 - By 4PM, qualifying petitions due for Nov. 7 election
- 28 - Pre-Primary Campaign Finance Statements due

August

- 01 - Notice of August primary must have been published
- 03 - Last day to conduct public accuracy test
- 08 - Election Day

From Our Office



The August Primary Election is right around the corner! Everyone should have received their ballots and precinct kits. The County Clerk's Office has ordered all other supplies provided by the State. These include: seals (plastic, paper, wire, padlock, etc.), horse-shoe clips, Managing Your Precinct on Election Day manuals, voting instruction posters, Braille voting instructions, AutoMARK operation videos and AutoMARK seals. We will email everyone shortly to arrange extra supply orders.

Candidate and proposal information, polling place information and election results can all be found on our web site at election.ewashtenaw.org. We also want to introduce a [NEW section](#) on our web site that will allow Poll Workers to watch training video clips as well as view the new Election Inspector Manual. You can also find a video explaining the new AutoMARK system.

AutoMARK flash cards should be labeled and sent to our office by Monday, July 10. If you need the calendar of election deadlines leading up to the November election, you can find that at the [SOS web site](#). See you on election night!