



**JAN BREWER**  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
STATE OF ARIZONA

**PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

November 16, 2004

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**Arizona Voters First in the Nation to Use New Ballot Marking Technology**  
***Breakthrough Technology Enhances Optical Scan Voting System,***  
***Increases Voting Accessibility for All, Particularly Voters with Disabilities***

**PHOENIX** – Voters in six Arizona precincts became the first in the nation to use the ES&S AutoMARK - breakthrough ballot marking technology that allows voters with disabilities and other special needs to cast a ballot privately and independently when using an optical scan voting system. Voters in selected precincts in Maricopa, Cochise, and Graham counties were able to use the ES&S AutoMARK for the first time in an election on Nov. 2, 2004.

In May Secretary of State Jan Brewer announced this project that included an interactive demonstration of the new equipment at the Secretary of State's Office. Since then members of the disability community, minority groups and literacy groups participated and tried out the new voting technology at locations at the Capitol and in Sun City and Tempe. The project was culminated by voters using the technology in the general election.

Voters, election administrators, and poll workers, alike were very enthusiastic about the technology. Following the election, a story in the *Arizona Republic* described an emotional moment when one Phoenix resident, a 39-year-old disabled man, was able to cast his ballot independently. This particular voter called it a proud first for both himself and the state and said through a letter board and head wand that it was an experience he would tell his grandchildren about many years from now.

Reflecting on the experience, Secretary of State Jan Brewer said, "That is an awesome testimonial to the empowerment we can provide through new voting solutions, like the ES&S AutoMARK. I am very proud of the fact that Arizona is leading the nation in making the election process easier and more accessible for all of our voters."

"As the state's chief elections officer, I am pleased with the progress we have made in enhancing our voting systems and integrating the latest in voting solutions. And, as we move forward, we will continue to coordinate with local officials on innovation and technology so that voters in every corner of the state enjoy a positive voting experience," Brewer continued.

The ES&S AutoMARK voter assist terminal does not tally or store votes; rather, it is a ballot marking system designed to provide privacy and accessibility to voters who are blind, vision-impaired, or have a disability or condition that would make it difficult or impossible to mark a ballot in the usual way. In addition, the technology provides language assistance to voters who are more comfortable speaking an alternative language or who have reading difficulties.

The ES&S AutoMARK also helps jurisdictions with optical scan voting systems nationwide comply with the requirements of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002, which requires all polling locations to be equipped with at least one disability-accessible voting machine.

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