

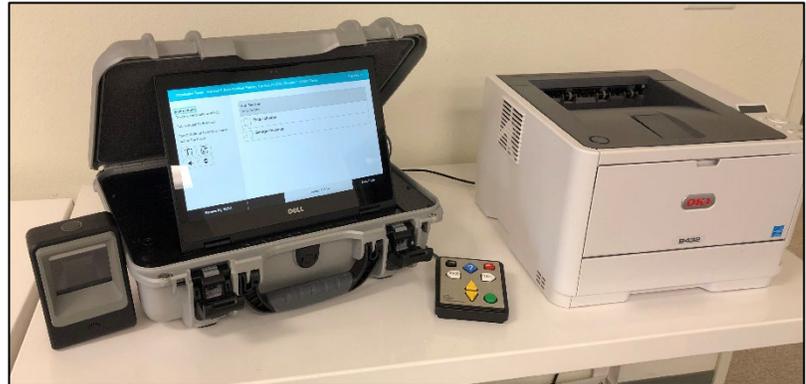
June 28, 2022
For immediate release

Nicollet County's new assistive voting devices ready for August 9th Primary Election

New Minnesota-made assistive marking devices will be in place for all precincts* by the time Nicollet County residents go to vote at the August 9, 2022 Primary Election.

The federal government requires devices that meet Americans with Disabilities Act requirements – including the OmniBallot tablets purchased by Nicollet County – to be located in polling places with more than 500 registered voters during township elections, and all polling places during state and federal elections.

While ADA accessible, the devices are available to any voter making a request. Voters simply place their paper ballot into the attached printer and make their selection(s) on the tablet. Once the voter reviews their ballot and selects “Accept” on the device’s screen, the printer marks the ballot, which is then ready to go into the ballot counter.



The technology meets ADA requirements, but can be used by any voter who chooses. (Photo courtesy of SeaChange Print Innovations.)

The devices will be set up to ensure privacy when voting and placed on tables that allow wheelchairs to slide underneath them. They are hardened tablets that do not access the internet and do not calculate vote totals.

The tablets allow voters to:

- Zoom in or out, making text larger or smaller
- Use headphones to listen to voting instructions and lists of candidates for each office on the ballot
- Adjust the speed at which the speaker is talking
- Select a white screen with black lettering or a black screen with white lettering
- Use Braille to aid them in making their selections

The system ensures that the voter doesn’t choose more candidates per race than permitted, that the ballot is legible, and in primary races, that they vote only within their selected party. Voters can use the keypad or touch screen to add write-in candidates.

The 19 purchased machines, will replace devices purchased in 2006 that are years beyond their lifespan, are about a third the weight of their predecessors, making them much easier to transport. To help defray costs, the county has applied for grant money.

The machine will be available for public display during normal working hours from Monday, June 27 to Monday, August 8 at the Nicollet County Government Center, 501 S Minnesota Ave, St Peter MN 56082.

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