

## **VOTE Using Maryland's Accessible Ballot-Marking Machine -and- Tell DRM About Your Experience!**

**Maryland's new voting system requires voters to cast their vote using a pre-printed paper ballot.**

- Paper ballots that must be hand marked are not accessible to some people with vision and manual dexterity disabilities.

**To ensure that every voter has the right to vote privately and independently, every polling place is required to have an accessible ballot-marking machine.**

- The ballot-marking machine has accessible features, including an audio ballot and enlarged font.
- Due to DRM's advocacy, election judges received instructions to advise voters at check-in that there is an accessible way to read or mark their ballot.
- **Any** voter may ask to use the accessible ballot-marking machine.
- Election judges must provide voters with instructions on how to use the ballot-marking machine and must not require that voters demonstrate a disability to use the machine.

**We need nondisabled voters to use the ballot-marking machines!**

- The paper ballot used with the ballot-marking machine looks different in size and shape than the pre-printed ballots that are hand marked. Therefore, we need enough voters without disabilities to also request to use the accessible ballot-marking machines to protect the privacy of the voters with disabilities.
- We seek to avoid an association between the distinctively sized and shaped ballots from the ballot-marking devices and the votes of people with disabilities. This is especially important in case of a situation where ballots must be recounted.

**How can you help?**

At check-in, ask to use the accessible ballot-marking machine. The election judge is not permitted to ask you why you want to use the machine or deny access to the machine.

**Tell DRM about your voting experience, good or bad. Were you told about the accessible ballot-marking machine upon check-in at your polling place? Were you allowed to use it? Did you have any difficulties?**

**Reach the DRM Voting Hotline:**

- Call: 443-692-2492
- Or: 800-233-7201, ext. 2492
- TTY: 410-235-5387
- Email: [Voting@MDLCLaw.org](mailto:Voting@MDLCLaw.org)

***Feel the Power of the Disability Vote!***