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To be released immediately.  
Tuesday June 28, 2005  
Contact: Election Division, Secretary of State (208) 334-2852

**Secretary of State Ysursa Announces  
Certification of Voting Systems**

**PRESS RELEASE**

Today Secretary of State Ben Ysursa announced the certification of two voting systems for use in Idaho. The systems certified were the "AutoMARK" ballot marking device manufactured by Election Systems and Software, and "AVC Edge" direct recording electronic voting machine manufactured by Sequoia Voting Systems.

The "AutoMARK" is a ballot marking device and uses a paper ballot and a touch screen to record the vote. The "AVC Edge" is a DRE, a direct electronic voting device, which uses a touch screen and memory cards to record the vote.

Both devices have been certified by the National Association of State Election Directors and have passed extensive independent testing at the federal level. The state of Idaho held certification hearings to evaluate their accuracy as well as accessibility for persons with disabilities, particularly the visually impaired voter.

The Help America Vote Act of 2002, known as "HAVA", is a federal law that requires all states to provide a voting device in every polling place that is accessible for individuals with disabilities including the blind and visually impaired, which allows them the same opportunity to vote privately and independently as other voters. The voting machines certified in Idaho meet these accessibility requirements and Idaho state law which requires a voter verifiable paper audit trail.

Counties will have the choice of selecting which device they will use in their jurisdictions. The state will pay for the accessible device with a one time grant funded by the federal government through the Help America Vote Act.

"These certifications are an important step in meeting the mandates of HAVA, while retaining Idaho's fair, efficient and transparent voting process." Ysursa stated.