

## IF VOTER NEEDS ASSISTANCE IN VOTING

### A VOTER MAY HAVE ASSISTANCE IF:

1. Voter is unable to read English
2. Voter has a physical disability which prevents the voter from operating the voting machine without assistance
3. Voter is blind or visually impaired

### WHO MAY ASSIST THE VOTER:

Two precinct election officers (always one of each party)

OR

Any person of voter's choice except:

- a voter's employer or agent of that employer
- an officer or agent of voter's union

### WHAT IS THE PROPER PROCEDURE?

1. The Voter Information Section of "Voter Assistance Form" (SBE-31), including the reason for assistance, must be completed. The voter must sign his or her name, unless approved for permanent assistance. (Will have 2 stars next to the address in the roster)
2. The person(s) who assists the voter must complete the section of the form which is an OATH that the assistor will operate the machine as directed by the voter and the form must be signed by the Precinct Clerk.

## VOTERS MAY MAKE APPLICATION FOR PERMANENT ASSISTANCE TO VOTE

There is a box on the form the voter can check to request permanent assistance from the Board of Elections. Permanent Assistance can be approved due to voter blindness or physical disability. If the Board approves the voter's request, the voter will have permanent certification relieving the **VOTER** from signing the Voter Assistance form. Even if a voter is certified for permanent assistance, the person who assists the voter and the precinct clerk must still complete and sign their portions of the Voter Assistance Form. The voter must still sign the precinct roster.

Violations of the laws regarding Voter Assistance should be reported to the county Board of Elections immediately and noted on the "**Precinct Election Sheriff's Post Election Report**" (SBE-53)

Our new voting machines make it possible for a voter with impaired vision or blindness to vote unassisted with the use of headphones. The decision to use the accessibility feature on the machine is to be left entirely up to the voter. If the voter prefers to have assistance, election officers should provide the forms and, if requested, two officers assist the voter.