



*News from*  
**State Senator Antoine Thompson**

Chair, Senate Environmental Conservation Committee

**For Immediate Release**

**August 22, 2010**

**Contact: Lisa King** | [404.587.4496](tel:404.587.4496) | [lisaking530@gmail.com](mailto:lisaking530@gmail.com)

**SENATOR ANTOINE THOMPSON EDUCATES VOTERS ON NEW OPTICAL  
SCANNER VOTING MACHINES**

New machines will change the traditional way of voting in New York

**(Buffalo, NY)** – NYS Senator Antoine M. Thompson (D-parts of Erie & Niagara counties) is informing the public about a new process that will affect upcoming elections in Western New York and throughout the state. Voters will now be using an optical scanner voting machine (AutoMARK) to cast their vote starting with the Primary Election on Tuesday, September 14.

The AutoMARK ballot marking device (BMD) will make the voting process more reliable and efficient, as well as create greater voter options for persons with disabilities.

“New York State and the Board of Elections are updating and enhancing the way residents select their choice for public servants,” said Senator Thompson. “I hope that by eliminating an antiquated system that often had severe flaws, voters will be energized to come out this year to take part in a democratic process that is the foundation of our nation.”

The BMD provides two ways for voters to access the ballot: by seeing the ballot on a display screen and by listening to the ballot through audio headphones (for those with visual disabilities). There are four ways voters can mark the ballot: by touch screen, by key pad (which is Braille-embossed), through a sip & puff device (for those with dexterity disabilities) and with a rocker paddle (foot paddle also for those with dexterity disabilities).

Voters will follow these easy steps when voting:

- Sign in and receive a ballot.
- Go to a privacy booth where they will mark their ballot.
- Take the ballot to a scanner area, select language and insert the marked ballot into the scanner to cast vote.

After voters mark their paper ballots, a privacy sleeve will be available for them to use to transport the ballot to the scanner, ensuring privacy.

A visual tutorial on the new voting process will be available at <http://www.nysenate.gov/senator/antoine-m-thompson>. For more information, contact the Office of Senator Antoine M. Thompson at 716.854.8705.

###