

# Electronic Voting Machine Information Sheet

## *AccuPoll – AVS 1000*

**Name / Model:** AVS / 1000<sup>1</sup>

**Vendor:** AccuPoll, Inc.

**Federally-Qualified Voter-Verified Paper Audit Trail Capability:** Yes.



**Brief Description:** The AccuPoll AVS 1000 is a smart-card activated multilingual touchscreen system that records votes on internal flash memory, an internal hard-drive and an administrative workstation. Voters insert a “smart-card” into the machine and then make their choices by touching an area on a computer screen, much in the same way that modern ATMs work. The votes are then recorded to internal flash memory, an internal hard drive and a laptop computer connected by cable to the AVS 1000. When polls close, the contents of the hard-drive for a particular machine are written to a writable CD-ROM that is removed and physically transported to a tabulation facility.

**Detailed Voting Process:** When the voter enters the precinct, he or she is given a “GoVote key” by a poll worker after confirming the voter is registered. The GoVote key is a “smart-card” which is the size and shape of a credit card and contains a computer chip, some memory and basic data.<sup>2</sup> The voter then takes the smart card to a voting machine and inserts it into the machine to allow voting. After using the touchscreen to vote, the vote is recorded electronically in multiple locations. Two copies of raw data<sup>3</sup> are recorded to both flash memory and a hard drive. Another copy is transmitted over serial cable and stored to a hard drive on a special laptop computer called the Voter Administrative Workstation (VAW); there is one VAW per precinct. The voter's GoVote key is reset to ensure that it can only be used to vote once. The machine then prints a piece of paper called a “proof of vote” which the voter can inspect for accuracy. If the vote is correct, the voter deposits the “proof of vote” facedown in a ballot box. The key is then returned to a poll worker. If the vote is incorrect, poll workers mark the “proof of

<sup>1</sup> See: <http://www.accupoll.com/Products/AVS1000/>

<sup>2</sup> This data includes the ballot style for the precinct and political party of the voter (for partisan primaries).  
The GoVote key can only be used in a specified precinct.

<sup>3</sup> Both ballot images and vote vectors.

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vote” as spoiled, and issue a new GoVote key to the voter.<sup>4</sup>

When the polls close, a poll worker or election official uses a differently programmed GoVote key and password generated specifically for that precinct to close each voting machine. This puts them into a post-election mode where they will no longer record votes. At this point, the poll workers write the contents of the VAW to a writeable CD-ROM, which then contains the votes for the entire precinct. The contents of the voting machines on flash memory and on their hard-drives are left to provide additional redundancy. The CD-ROMs and ballot boxes for each precinct are physically transported to a tabulation facility. A personal computer called a Central Vote Consolidator (CVC) reads the data from the CD-ROMs and provides the interface to a main tabulation server called the Central Count Server (CCS). This process copies the vote data from the disks and tabulates the results. The CD-ROMs and the paper audit trails can then become part of the official record of the vote.

## Problems Encountered:

**None known.** However, the AVS 1000 will be used for the first time in a number of counties<sup>5</sup> in the November 2004 election.

## NASED Qualification Status:<sup>6</sup>

**02/20/04:** AccuPoll DRE AVS1 & AVS2 (firmware 2.3.6)

## References:

“The AccuPoll Voting System” See: <http://www.accupoll.com/Products/VotingSystem/>

Information also provided by Geoff Mordock of AccuPoll, Inc.

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<sup>4</sup> The spoiled and cast ballots are reconciled against the electronic ballots when polls are closed.

<sup>5</sup> This information sheet will be updated when AccuPoll releases information about counties that will be using the AVS 1000 in November.

<sup>6</sup> *NASED Qualified Voting Systems (06/30/2004)*. National Association of State Election Directors. See: <http://www.nased.org/certification.htm>.

