

Remote Accessible Vote by Mail System Use Procedures for California

Alternate Format Ballot

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Executive Summary

The Five Cedars Group's Alternate Format Ballot system is an existing, proven, accessible vote-by-mail solution for providing voters with disabilities the means to vote independently and privately, using their own assistive systems.

The Alternate Format Ballot (AFB) was designed specifically to meet the needs of voters with disabilities. The AFB has truly touched people's lives in a positive way. The AFB creation process and accessibility factors were specifically designed to work within an existing vote-by-



mail system.

Fig. 1 - Senior citizen voting in her bathrobe at a rehab facility

In 2007, Five Cedars bid on and won the opportunity to build the Alternate Format Ballot product for the Oregon Secretary of State. The AFB process and ballots got their first test during the May 2008 Primary. This is a quote from a voter in that first election:

"The Alternate Format Ballot has given me the ability to do something I've never been able to do in my 18 years of being a registered voter--it has provided me the opportunity to mark my ballot privately and independently." -

- Angel C. Hale, Training Center Director, Oregon Commission for the Blind

Since then, the Alternate Format Ballot has been used by all 36 Oregon counties for all state, federal and local elections. While the early versions only worked on PC's with JAWS and ZoomText, today voters are marking their choices on their PC's, iPads, iPhones, MAC's, Chromebooks, and even on a Kindle.

We are pleased to provide information on the accessible AFB process and ballots to your county.

John Schmitt

President
Five Cedars Group, Inc.