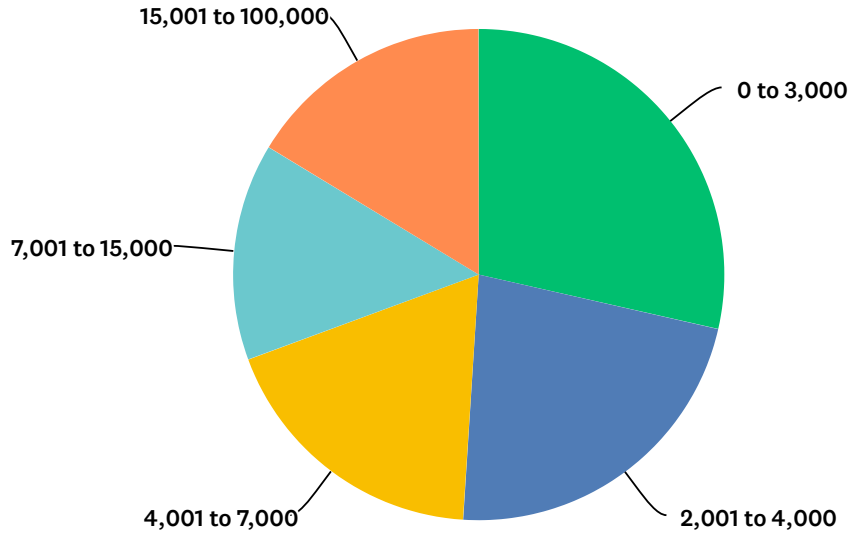


A SURVEY OF MONTANA'S COUNTY CLERK & RECORDERS/ELECTION ADMINISTRATORS: COUNTY-RUN SPECIAL DISTRICT ELECTIONS

**Results Presented to the State Administration & Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee
January 16, 2020**

Q1 How many registered electors are there in your county? (Please select the appropriate range.)

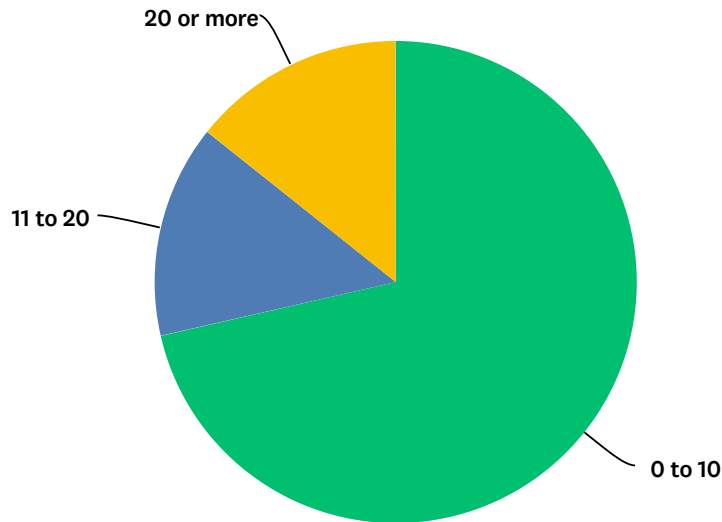
Answered: 49 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0 to 3,000	28.57%	14
2,001 to 4,000	22.45%	11
4,001 to 7,000	18.37%	9
7,001 to 15,000	14.29%	7
15,001 to 100,000	16.33%	8
TOTAL		49

Q2 How many SPECIAL DISTRICTS are (in whole or in part) within your county?

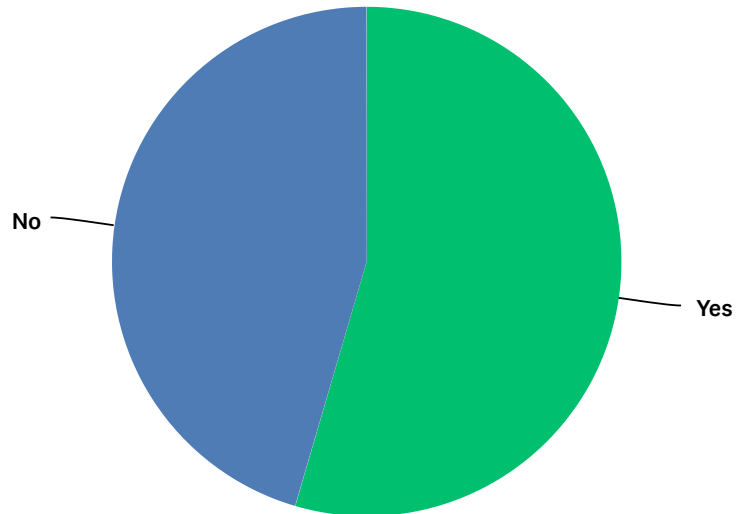
Answered: 49 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0 to 10	71.43%	35
11 to 20	14.29%	7
20 or more	14.29%	7
TOTAL		49

Q3 Does your county have SPECIAL DISTRICTS with 0 to 50 registered electors?

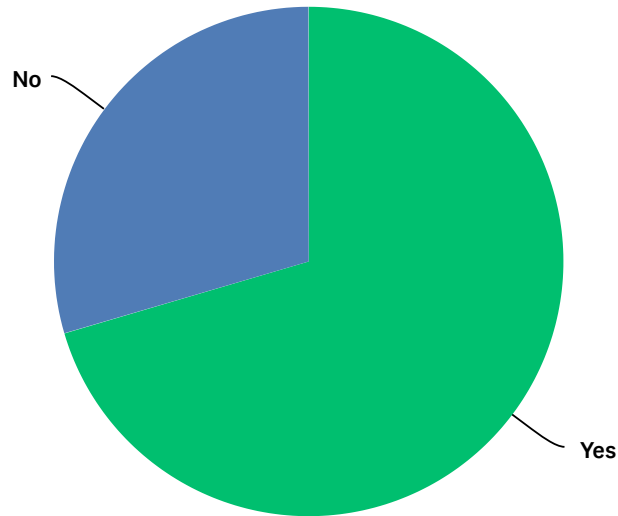
Answered: 44 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes		54.55%	24
No		45.45%	20
TOTAL			44

Q4 Does your county have SPECIAL DISTRICTS with 51 to 250 registered electors?

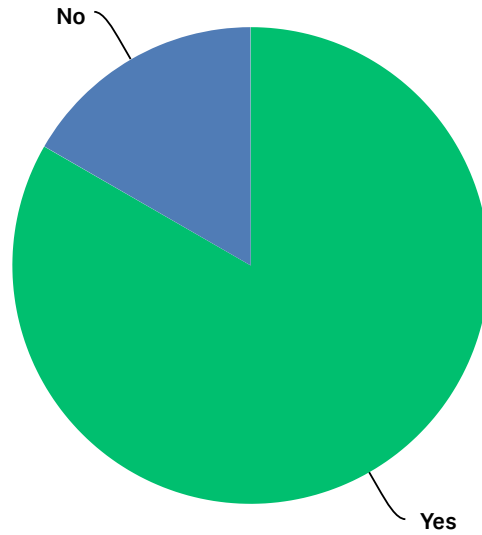
Answered: 44 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes		70.45%	31
No		29.55%	13
TOTAL			44

Q5 Does your county have SPECIAL DISTRICTS with 251 to 500 registered electors?

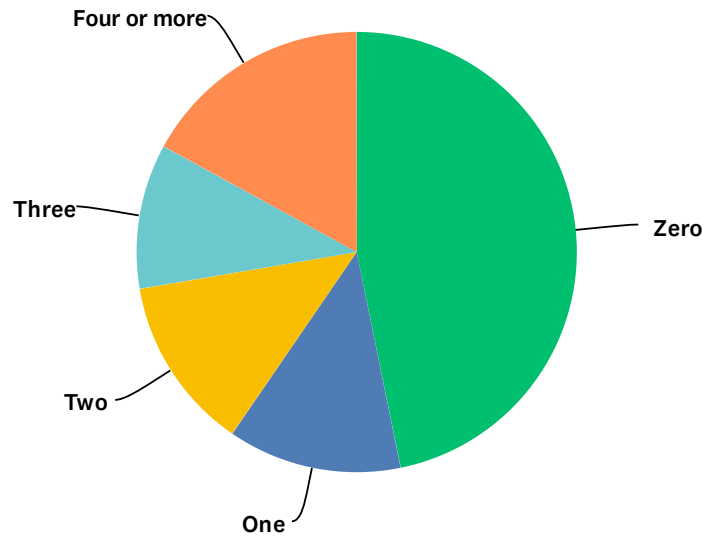
Answered: 48 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	83.33%	40
No	16.67%	8
TOTAL		48

Q6 In the past four years, how many SPECIAL DISTRICT elections has your county conducted? Do not count a cancelled election as a conducted election.

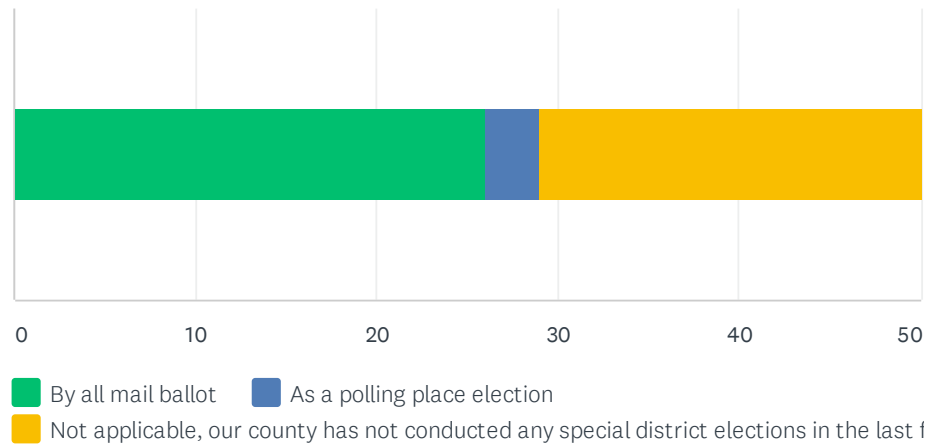
Answered: 47 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Zero	46.81%	22
One	12.77%	6
Two	12.77%	6
Three	10.64%	5
Four or more	17.02%	8
TOTAL		47

Q7 In the past four years, how were your SPECIAL DISTRICT elections conducted? (Please select all that apply.)

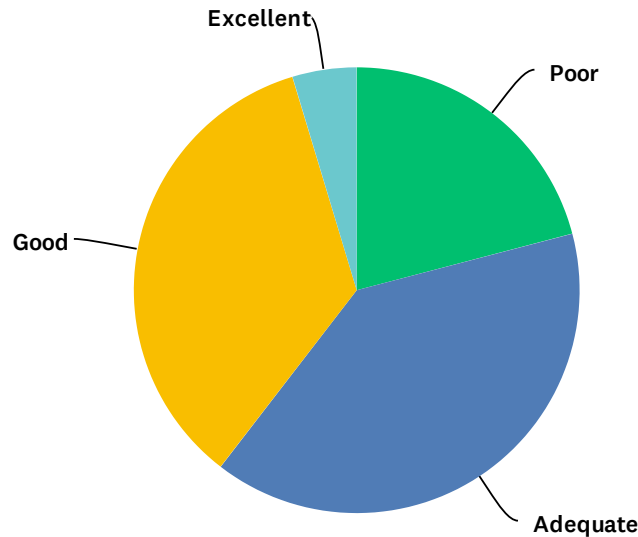
Answered: 48 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
By all mail ballot	54.17%	26
As a polling place election	6.25%	3
Not applicable, our county has not conducted any special district elections in the last four years.	43.75%	21
Total Respondents: 48		

Q8 In regard to the training provided to ELECTION ADMINISTRATORS on how to meet the needs of disabled electors in SPECIAL DISTRICT elections administered by the county, how would you rate the training provided?

Answered: 46 Skipped: 3

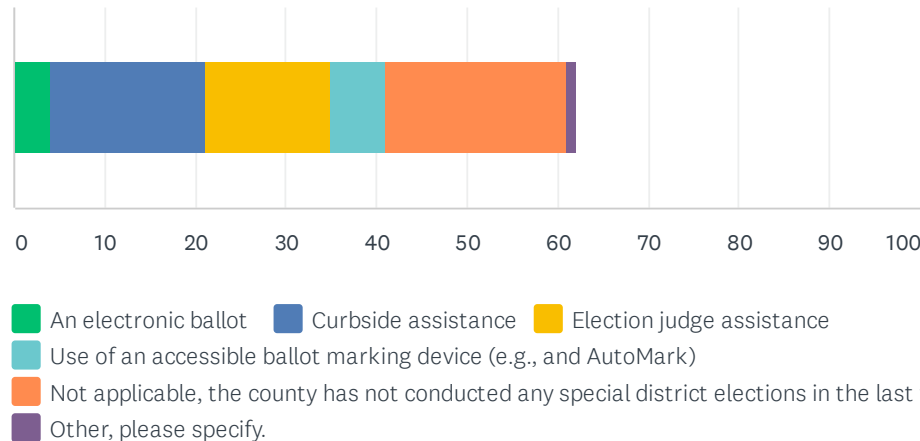


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Poor	19.57%	9
Adequate	36.96%	17
Good	32.61%	15
Excellent	4.35%	2
TOTAL		46

#	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (OPTIONAL)	DATE
1	Additional Comment: All Elections Cancelled	12/30/2019 10:06 PM
2	Additional Comment: We don't get a lot of guidance on special districts.	12/30/2019 10:05 PM
3	Additional Comment: Only 1 year as EA and have not received training except for the MACR conference in Hamilton.	12/30/2019 10:05 PM
4	Additional Comment: We have not received any specific training in regards to Special District Elections.	12/30/2019 9:45 PM

Q9 What accommodations for disabled electors did the county provide for with respect to the last SPECIAL DISTRICT election conducted by all mail ballots? (Please select all that apply.)

Answered: 46 Skipped: 3

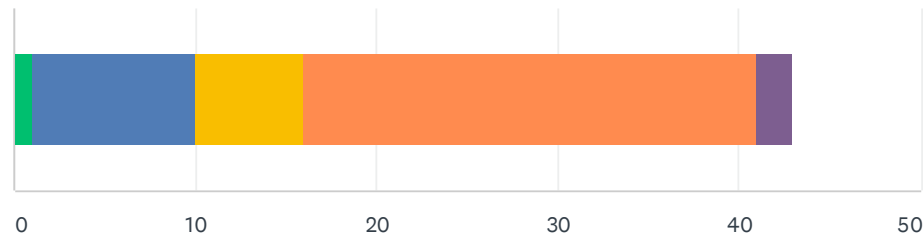


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
An electronic ballot	8.70%	4
Curbside assistance	36.96%	17
Election judge assistance	30.43%	14
Use of an accessible ballot marking device (e.g., and AutoMark)	13.04%	6
Not applicable, the county has not conducted any special district elections in the last four years.	43.48%	20
Other, please specify.	2.17%	1
Total Respondents: 46		

#	IF YOU HAVE ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND/OR CHOSE THE "OTHER" OPTION ABOVE, PLEASE USE THE TEXT BOX BELOW TO COMPLETE YOUR ANSWER.	DATE
1	Additional Comment: Had it been necessary or requested, we would have utilized curbside voting and/or election judge assistance, but neither was requested.	12/30/2019 10:07 PM
2	Additional Comment: We do not keep a record of assistance provided to disabled voters. Some forms of assistance would involve forms, but we do not keep a record of each of those iterations for each election. We have had voters in our combined school and special purpose districts use the AutoMARK provided at the county elections office, but we would not have kept a record of who used the AutoMARK and if that elector was voting in a special purpose district or school district. At the last special district election, we did not have any disabled voters signed up for electronic ballots.	12/30/2019 10:05 PM
3	Additional Comment: Automark was not used because ballots were not formatted by ES&S, they were made in-office and hand counted	12/30/2019 9:56 PM
4	Additional Comment: For mail ballot, there are no special accommodations requested.	12/30/2019 9:53 PM
5	Additional Comment: All the Special District elections have been canceled due to the number of candidates equal to or less than the open positions.	12/30/2019 9:47 PM
6	Other: Special district elections are conducted by non-machine countable ballots. However, we are more than happy to provide all other requested assistance as needed.	12/30/2019 9:44 PM

Q10 If the county has provided an accessible ballot marking device (e.g., an AutoMark) for a SPECIAL DISTRICT election conducted by all mail ballot, what accommodations were made to protect the voter's privacy while using the device? (Please select all that apply.)

Answered: 39 Skipped: 10



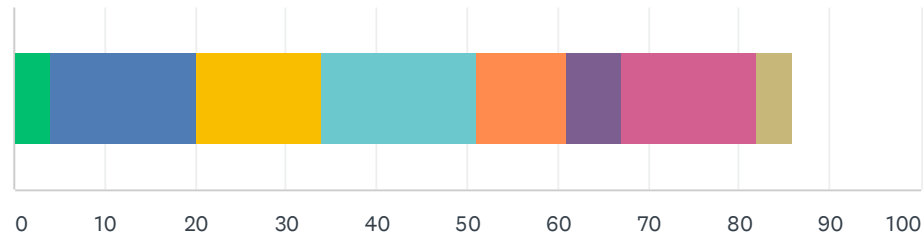
- A curtain was provided around the device.
- A table top 2-sided or 3-sided privacy screen was provided around the device.
- The device was set up in a corner or so that the elector's back was to the wall.
- No special accommodations were made for privacy.
- Not applicable, the county has not provided for an accessible ballot marking device in a special district election.
- Other (please specify in text box below)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
A curtain was provided around the device.	2.56%	1
A table top 2-sided or 3-sided privacy screen was provided around the device.	23.08%	9
The device was set up in a corner or so that the elector's back was to the wall.	15.38%	6
No special accommodations were made for privacy.	0.00%	0
Not applicable, the county has not provided for an accessible ballot marking device in a special district election.	64.10%	25
Other (please specify in text box below)	5.13%	2
Total Respondents: 39		

#	IF YOU HAVE ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND/OR SELECTED "OTHER" ABOVE, PLEASE USE THE TEXT BOX BELOW TO COMPLETE YOUR ANSWER.	DATE
1	Additional Comment: All Elections Cancelled	12/30/2019 10:06 PM
2	Additional Comment: No special district elections held	12/30/2019 10:05 PM
3	Other: Table set up away from voting area for privacy	12/30/2019 9:57 PM
4	Additional Comment: We have not conducted any elections for special districts for many years.	12/30/2019 9:46 PM
5	Other: Special district elections are conducted by non-machine countable ballots. However, we are more than happy to provide all other requested assistance as needed.	12/30/2019 9:44 PM

Q11 If the county has NOT provided an accessible ballot marking device (e.g., an AutoMark) for a SPECIAL DISTRICT election conducted by all mail ballot, why not? (Please select all that apply.)

Answered: 30 Skipped: 19



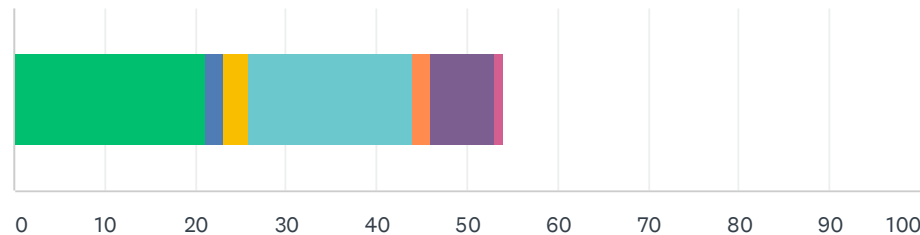
- It is not a specified requirement.
- A special district has never requested it.
- It would be a burden on resources to make a device available.
- We have never had an elector request to use a device for a mail ballot special district
- We provide the following other alternatives for disabled electors who need help marki
- 1.) Electronic ballots
- 2.) Assistance from a designated agent or election official
- 3.) Other (please specify in text box below)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
It is not a specified requirement.	13.33%	4
A special district has never requested it.	53.33%	16
It would be a burden on resources to make a device available.	46.67%	14
We have never had an elector request to use a device for a mail ballot special district election.	56.67%	17
We provide the following other alternatives for disabled electors who need help marking their ballots: (select all that apply)	33.33%	10
1.) Electronic ballots	20.00%	6
2.) Assistance from a designated agent or election official	50.00%	15
3.) Other (please specify in text box below)	13.33%	4
Total Respondents: 30		

#	IF YOU HAVE ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND/OR SELECTED "OTHER" ABOVE, PLEASE USE THE TEXT BOX BELOW TO COMPLETE YOUR ANSWER.	DATE
1	Other: Curbside voting is always available.	12/30/2019 10:07 PM
2	Other: None were held, as our county struggles to get people to file for the positions.	12/30/2019 10:06 PM
3	Additional Comment: All Elections Cancelled	12/30/2019 10:06 PM
4	Additional Comment: We have never conducted a SPECIAL DISTRICT election	12/30/2019 9:58 PM
5	Additional Comment: We would provide electronic ballots or assistance if it is requested.	12/30/2019 9:53 PM
6	Additional Comment: As with all elections, our department works hard to 'go the extra mile' for all of our voters.	12/30/2019 9:44 PM
7	Other: Not required	12/30/2019 9:26 PM
8	Other: We have not conducted any Special District Elections in the last 4 years, but if we had we would not have provided accessible ballot marking devices for the reasons checked above.	12/30/2019 9:24 PM

Q12 If under the previous question you selected "It would be a burden on resources to make a device available," what types of burdens are a factor in the county not providing a ballot marking device for disabled electors in SPECIAL DISTRICT elections? (Please select all that apply.)

Answered: 26 Skipped: 23



- Financial - programming and ballot costs are prohibitive.
- Personnel - it would be a burden to provide training on how to set up and use the device.
- Personnel - it would be a burden it terms of having personnel available to help set up and operate the device during a special district election.
- We have never had an elector request to use a device for a mail ballot special district election.
- Logistical - it is difficult to find an accessible location during a special district election where the device could be set up.
- Inefficient - it is not likely that a disabled elector would ask to use a device for a special district election.
- Other (please specify in text box below)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Financial - programming and ballot costs are prohibitive.	80.77%	21
Personnel - it would be a burden to provide training on how to set up and use the device.	7.69%	2
Personnel - it would be a burden it terms of having personnel available to help set up and operate the device during a special district election.	11.54%	3
We have never had an elector request to use a device for a mail ballot special district election.	69.23%	18
Logistical - it is difficult to find an accessible location during a special district election where the device could be set up.	7.69%	2
Inefficient - it is not likely that a disabled elector would ask to use a device for a special district election.	26.92%	7
Other (please specify in text box below)	3.85%	1
Total Respondents: 26		

#	IF YOU HAVE ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND/OR SELECTED "OTHER" ABOVE, PLEASE USE THE TEXT BOX BELOW TO COMPLETE YOUR ANSWER.	DATE
1	Additional Comment: Any special district elections we have had during the last several years have always been run with the school district elections and/or by mail.	12/30/2019 10:07 PM
2	Additional Comment: All Elections Cancelled	12/30/2019 10:06 PM
3	Additional Comment: The cost is almost double for an election when utilizing ES&S, and their coding for Automarks. That is a lot of money when there is only one item on the ballot.	12/30/2019 10:05 PM
4	Additional Comment: The cost of machine and ballot cost is a factor as to why special districts do not want the device available when the elections are all run as mail ballot elections. 9 times out of 10 the elections are cancelled anyway.	12/30/2019 10:04 PM
5	Additional Comment: Even though I have small special districts, when combined with school elections I had over 1000 voters for each election so districts could share the cost of programming an Automark.	12/30/2019 10:02 PM
6	Other: The device would be set up at the courthouse in a mail ballot election. No one would probably use it.	12/30/2019 10:00 PM

Q13 Additional comments are invited. What else would you like the committee to consider and/or be aware of with respect to whether or how a county should provide for an accessible ballot marking device (e.g., and AutoMark or Express Vote), for disabled electors during SPECIAL DISTRICT elections.

Answered: 15 Skipped: 34

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Our smaller districts would have a difficult time financially with the coding etc. necessary to use the AutoMark in the past. I am not familiar enough with the new ExpressVote and the coding and supplies that will be necessary for their use now that we have switched to that system. We have very small districts, most of which have very little money, however, we here at the election office and our clerks at the school districts do go to any legal lengths in helping our voters cast a ballot.	12/30/2019 10:07 PM
2	Our county's special districts have not had to run elections for the past 4 years.	12/30/2019 10:07 PM
3	These small districts do not have the funding for programming and ballots.	12/30/2019 10:06 PM
4	At this point we have not had a special purpose district election, due to lack of candidates.	12/30/2019 10:06 PM
5	All mail ballot elections would be conducted, and curbside/assisted voting help would be available.	12/30/2019 10:06 PM
6	Our office goes above and beyond to assist any voter that has a need or who requests assistance. We will always make sure they are to vote their ballot whether it be through the means of curb side voting/election staff assistance. Our Automarks have only been used 5-8 times over the past fifteen (15) years.	12/30/2019 10:05 PM
7	When we conduct regular special district elections by mail ballot, we are often combining the election with one or more school district elections. This constitutes a large election where tabulators are used to count the ballots and the AutoMARK is programmed and set up for the election. For smaller special district elections held at a polling place, or for special special district elections (as in elections held not on the regular election date), it if is a small number of voters, we have not programmed tabulators or the AutoMARK for the election because of the financial burden to the district.	12/30/2019 10:05 PM
8	Having to have the ballots printed to use in these elections with the ExpressVote would never work.	12/30/2019 10:05 PM
9	We run all special district elections as mail ballot elections. It is not often that we hold elections as a poll election.	12/30/2019 10:04 PM
10	Special Districts are usually small districts that do not have the funds for the machine or to pay for the cost to have ES&S program the machines.	12/30/2019 9:26 PM
11	Our County does not administer Irrigation District elections. The only Special Election held was for the State special election.	11/26/2019 3:14 PM
12	We have so few voters associated with special districts, we create our own ballots. If we had to have the programming plus ES&S created ballots it would be a huge extra cost to the voters of our county.	11/22/2019 4:48 PM
13	We assist with irrigation and fire district elections but do not administer them. They would certainly be welcome to use any of our equipment, but financially using machines for these and school elections would be a burden. For counties like ours I believe providing pdf ballots and designated agents or officials is adequate. We are not trying to be ignorant of the law or insensitive to disables voters but fiscally responsible.	11/22/2019 4:22 PM
14	I feel it could be a requirement based on the number of voters in a district. We do not go through ES&S to print ballots, coding, etc. for a district with 100 voters. We have a local printer do it and it is an all mail ballot election.	11/15/2019 6:41 PM
15	You cannot set-up an accessible ballot marking device for Irrigation District Elections.	11/14/2019 11:41 PM