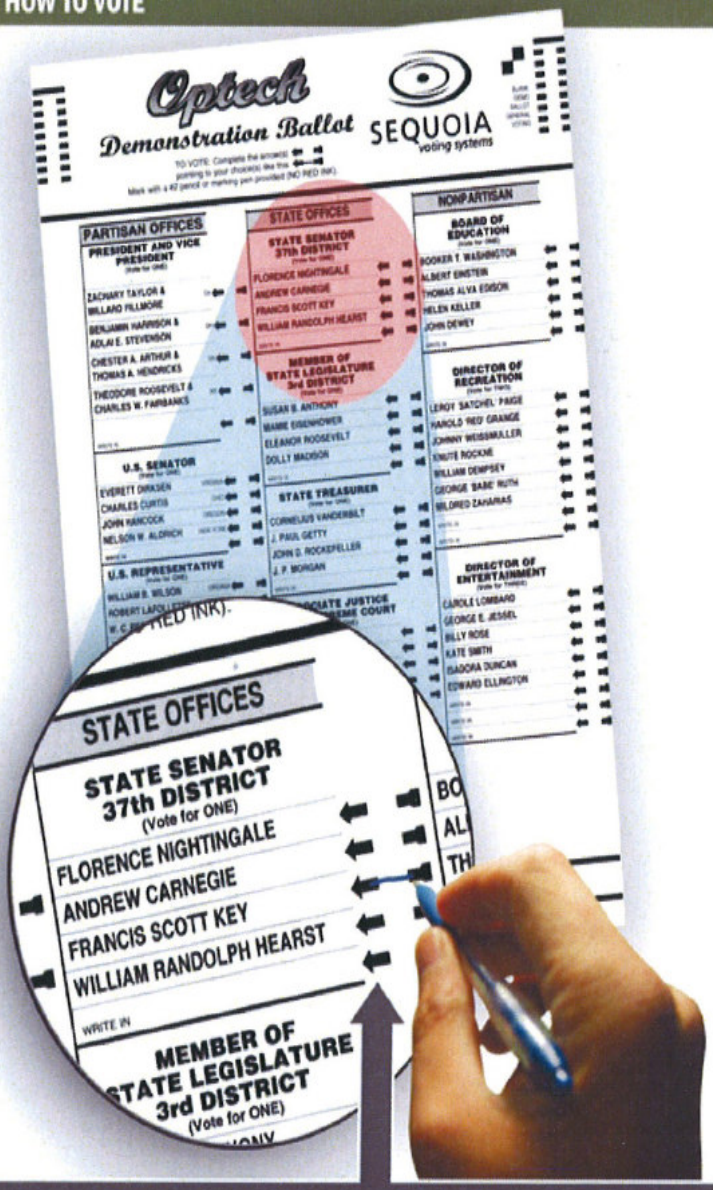
HOW TO VOTE

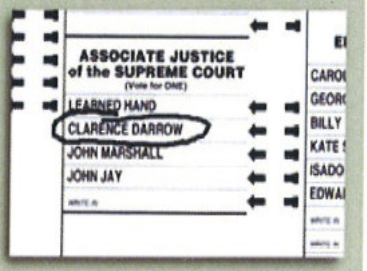


To mark the ballot, draw a line completing the arrow next to the candidate's name.

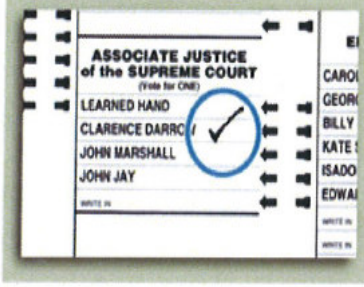
HOW NOT TO VOTE

The only marks the scanner reads are those between the ends of the arrows. It doesn't recognize marks elsewhere. And it doesn't pick up red ink.

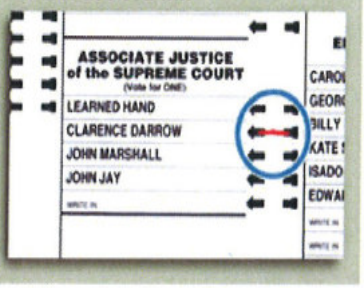
Do not circle candidate's name



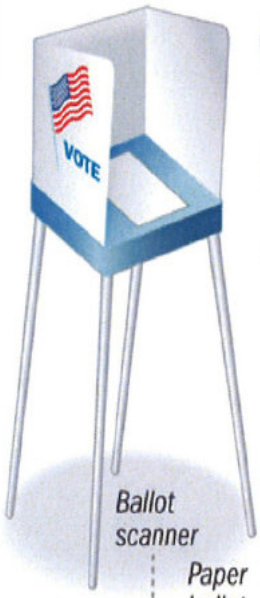
Do not draw check mark



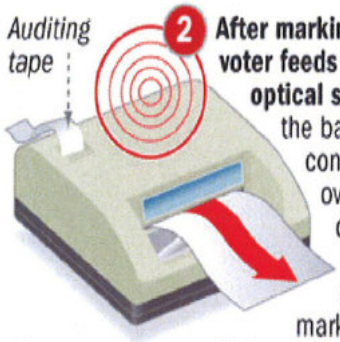
Do not use red ink



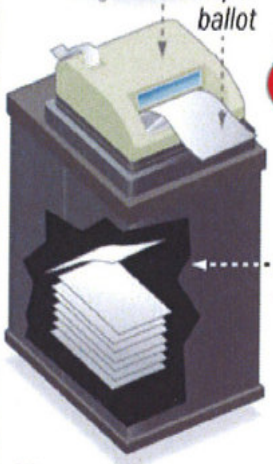
HOW THE MACHINE WORKS



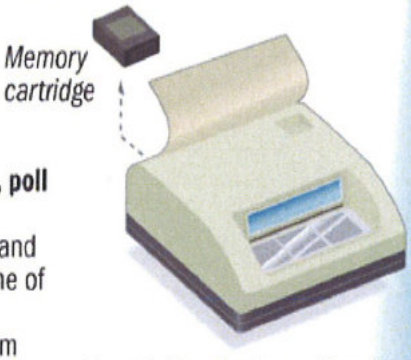
1 Voter takes ballot into the voting booth and makes selections.



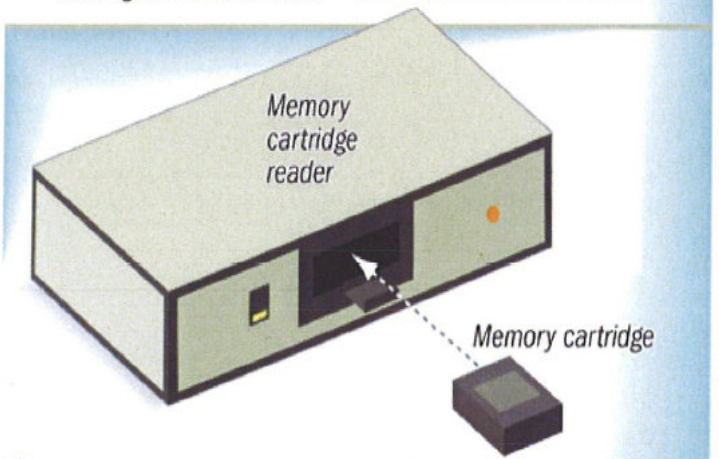
2 After marking ballot, voter feeds it into an optical scanner. If the ballot contains an overvote or doesn't include any markings that the scanner can read, the machine emits an alarm and ejects the ballot. The machine prints a description of the error so the voter can correct it.



3 If the ballot is properly marked, the machine accepts it and records the votes electronically on a memory cartridge. The machine then deposits the paper ballot in a secure bin.



4 When the polls close, poll workers remove the cartridge and drive it and the paper ballots to one of 17 collection centers around the county. From the collection centers, the cartridges and ballots are driven to the elections office in suburban West Palm Beach.



5 At the elections office, each cartridge is fed into a reader, which uploads the results to a tabulation database that accumulates the vote totals from all the cartridges. If a cartridge cannot be read, the paper ballots serve as a backup.

Source: As it appeared in the Palm Beach Post (Steve Lopez/Staff Artist)