ACCESSIBLE VOTING FOR EVERYONE

King County Elections • Outreach Team • 500 Fourth Ave Rm. 553 • Seattle, WA 98104
206-296-9699 • www.metrokc.gov/elections/access • Issue 2

United Blind of Seattle & South King Council of the Blind picnic

Seward Park • Seattle, WA • June 24, 2006

King County Elections

In cooperation with the Rainier Valley Lions Club, the United Blind of Seattle and South King Council of the Blind held their summer picnic in Seward Park this year.

The King County Elections Outreach Team provided one-on-one demonstrations of the Accessible Voting Unit (AVU), registered voters and answered any elections related questions.

Of the 60 members and their families in attendance, 35 votes were cast on the two AVU machines that were set up.

Throughout the picnic, the Outreach Team helped picnic guests practice casting audio and touch screen ballots.

All attendees embraced the machines and are looking forward to using them to cast a secure and private ballot in the upcoming fall elections.

In addition to the two new voter registrations, one individual switched her voter status from permanent absentee to poll voter, in order to vote with the AVU this fall.

Audience:

60 individuals with
visual and mental disabilities

Washington Council of the Blind
United Blind of Seattle
http://www.wcbinfo.org/

South King Council of the Blind
http://www.southkingcouncil.org/

Blind because of a genetic condition, Maida Pojtinger of Kent privately casts a touch screen ballot.

United Blind of Seattle

The United Blind of Seattle, a chapter of the Washington Council of the Blind, advocates equality, opportunities, and independence for people with visual impairments. Meeting monthly to further their mission statement, the United Blind of Seattle work together to seek equality in employment, be a part of the community, and raise awareness and knowledge about blindness.

The Washington Council of the Blind also works on passing legislation and has many services that will benefit people with sight disabilities.

Maria Fabian of Seattle practices voting an independent and secret audio ballot at the United Blind of Seattle picnic.

Anthony Hooten and Glen McCully cast a test ballot and discover how easy the AVU machine is to use. Both were equally impressed with the user friendliness of the machines.

South King Council of the Blind

Also a chapter of the Washington Council of the Blind, the South King Council of the Blind focuses on training people with disabilities to become more independent, making a difference in their communities, and empowering each individual.

The South King Council of the Blind offers a leadership training course to members that are dedicated to helping others in the blind community. The course specifically focuses on programming, fighting discrimination, support, and financial help.