

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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RFI: Promoting Access to Voting

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Promoting Access To Voting

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## General Comment

As a blind individual who is subjected to using the dominion product for voting I felt compelled to make comment as the product needs to be recalled from the voting process. As a result of this Dominion product I did not get to vote a secret ballot back in Nov. 2020. After spending 40 minutes on my ballot trying to work with a terrible speech system and the printer failing I had to vote with the assistance of another person. In America I should expect to go and vote independently like my sighted peers. Since the product was first introduced to blind voters in Michigan we have struggled with the speech system as it is like something from the 1980's as far as quality of voice. The user is unable to start the equipment independently as we once could with the auto mark system we once used. Each time I go to vote there is a technical issue with the product. Just to establish I am a user of assistive technology for 32 years and I am shocked that persons who are blind are subjected to such poor technology with the Dominion product. Our SOS tells us the blind that we need more training on the product. Do the sighted people need training on their voting equipment? This product is leading to voter suppression as the Dominion fails each time I and others try to use the system. Despite the fact that SOS of Michigan is aware of the problems along with election officials and clerks we the blind are still having to use this horrible product. Only as a result of a legal action are the blind in Michigan able to vote an absentee ballot. Even this has challenges as the blind are required to print and sign the ballot. The blind would prefer to vote by Smart Phone such as the military has available. The blind need quality access to voting technology that is modern and responsive. The federal government needs to assess how persons who are blind are being suppressed in the voting process do to poor equipment choices. The Americans with Disability Act was passed over 30 years ago and we shouldn't have to be asking for quality voting machines in 2021.