

The Hometown News – Martin County
By: Samantha Joseph, Staff writer

MARTIN COUNTY - A group of blind voters helped test the county's election equipment as part of preparations for the Aug. 5 special election to select a senator for Florida's 28th district.

For the first time, blind voters, and not county staff, participated in the exercise to test 70 pieces of equipment.

The participants are clients of 20/200 Fellowship, a nonprofit that serves the blind and others with visual impairments.

Their feedback will help employees address flaws in the system before deploying the voting machines to Martin County's 52 precincts, said Kherri Anderson, deputy of elections outreach.

Election officials couldn't say how many of the county's 102,616 registered voters have visual impairments. But the exercise was part of an effort to ensure all voters could cast a ballot.

The Supervisor of Elections Office uses ADA iVotronic voting machines, devices with touch-screen technology, headphones and audio recordings of ballot options.

"Through this first-time partnership with the 20/200 Fellowship, we are able to have 'our' voters who use the ADA iVotronic voting machine test the equipment, and ask any questions they may have prior to casting their vote on election day," said Vicki Davis, supervisor of elections.

For more information, visit www.MartinVotes.com.