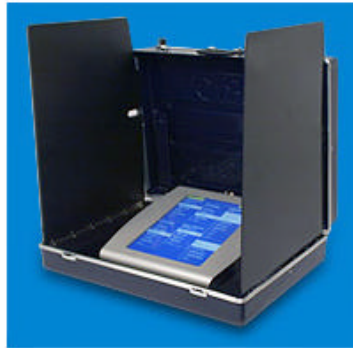


Name/Model: Unilect Patriot

Vendor: Unilect Corporation



Brief Description:

The Unilect Patriot is a multilingual electronic voting system where the voter presses on-screen to indicate his/her preference. Election officials program ballot information at a central location, load election data into an "InfoPack" which is then inserted into a Precinct Control Unit (see photo). Individual terminals are connected together into the PCU to receive ballot data.

Voters make selections by pressing the box surrounding a candidate's name, navigating through ballot pages by means of navigation buttons, review their ballots by means of a summary screen, and can go back and change selections before casting their final votes. Vote data is stored in redundant memory inside each terminal. After polls close, vote data is loaded back into the PCU and can then be transmitted via modem to a tabulation center. Alternatively, the InfoPack" (which store the vote data from all of the terminals at the polling place) can be removed from the PCU and taken to a tabulation center.

Detailed Machine and Voting Process Information:

Pre-election procedures

Ballot information is generally programmed by city or county election officials and later delivered to polling places. In order to create the ballots that will be used on the Patriot terminals, a menu-driven program is used to prompt the entry of all offices, candidates and propositions in order to "code" the election. Election officials have the option to print out the ballot on paper for proofreading purposes.

Ballot data is transferred to polling places in the form of an administrator interface loaded with precinct-specific data. By placing an "InfoPack" (a little larger than a pack of cigarettes) into the "InfoPacket" attached to the PC, the necessary ballot instructions are electronically transferred from the election supervisor PC to the InfoPack (about 5

seconds). It is then inserted into the Precinct Control Unit ("PCU" – see above photo) for the appropriate precinct. It is tested, sealed and sent to the precinct along with the prescribed number of Patriot Voting Devices.

In order to load the proper ballots into the Patriot terminals, the precinct workers place the PCU on the table and set up each booth. These are then connected from one to another by a cord similar in size to a lamp cord. The PCU is then turned on.

With the PCU in front of them, one of the precinct workers breaks the seal on the "Open Polls" latch, slides it open, and touches the red button underneath. This immediately causes the printer to print a report showing all the candidates with zero totals.

Voting on election day

The polls are now open and await the first voter. As each voter is checked in, the precinct worker determines which ballot style the voter is entitled to use (only if a split precinct, or a certain party in a primary), and assigns them to a particular open Voting Device booth. Only the offices on which the voter is entitled to vote should be displayed on the Voting Device. If a voter is judged to be a "Provisional" or "Challenged" or "Conditional" or "Affidavit" voter, a special button allows him/her to vote on the Patriot. Depending on local procedures, this ballot is not normally counted on election evening, but is added later if found to be valid.

Each voter should see the ballot electronically displayed on the screen. In localities where more than one language is required, the voter has the option of choosing which language he wishes to view. Usually the entire ballot will take more than one screen, so the voter may move forward or back by touching the appropriate box on the screen. The voter makes each candidate selection by touching anywhere in the box containing that name. As each is selected, that candidate's box becomes highly illuminated and a red "x" is placed next to the name. If a mistake is made, the selected candidate's box may be touched again (de-selecting him), and the new candidate selected. The entire ballot may be reviewed at any time to check who was previously selected.

Write-ins may be electronically entered by touching the "Write-In" box for a particular office. Upon selection of the write-in option, the screen changes to display an alphabet, and the write-in name may be spelled by touching the proper letters.

When completely finished voting, the "Review Choices" area is touched. This will automatically display on a single screen all choices made by that voter. It will also highlight those offices which were not completed by the voter. At that point, the voter may either "Make Ballot Changes" or "Record Ballot Now". At this point, the voter has completed his/her task and leaves.

Accessibility features

Unilect offers several accessibility features associated with the Patriot, although it is unclear if these features are readily available and installed on each terminal. These include the ability to disconnect and move terminals to enable "curb-side" voting, headphones and different shaped response buttons to facilitate voting by the sight-impaired, etc.

Preferential/Proportional voting

The Patriot Voting System also allows the use of "Preferential" or "Proportional" voting where permitted. This allows each voter to rank their candidates in order of desirability. Candidates are then elected by quota. (Such voting methods are used by some jurisdictions to eliminate the need for additional runoff elections.)

Post-election procedures

At the end of the election day, a seal is broken on the "Close Polls" latch, opened and an exposed red button is touched. Several copies of the final precinct report are automatically printed, showing the candidates and their vote totals. Presumably, vote data is at this stage transferred back from the terminals to the PCU. Where a standard telephone line is available, the line is inserted into the phone jack of the Precinct Control Unit. All precinct totals are then transmitted directly to the Central Office PC. It is unclear whether this process is automated or whether poll workers must take affirmative action to initiate this upload. Another seal is then broken and the InfoPack is removed in order to be taken to a tabulation center.

At the tabulation center, each InfoPack (for precinct totals not sent by telephone) is inserted into a central PC equipped with the Patriot InfoPacket for a five (5) seconds to load the totals into the PC. Throughout election evening, summary reports can be printed showing all of the up-to-the-minute totals as they are received (including all write-ins).

Equipment – at the polling place

Patriot voting devices (5 to 8 lbs.), including a standard punch card type voting booth (13 lbs.) that folds up into an attache case. The Voter Unit may contain either a 10.4" (diagonal measurement) black and white screen or a 15" color screen with 256 available colors.

One precinct control unit (PCU) per precinct (30 lbs.), has an election worker control panel covering all aspects of running the activities in the precinct, a printer which allows the printing of precinct results as soon as the polls close, a battery to assure proper operation when "wall" electricity becomes unavailable, an InfoPack which contains the brains of the ballot as well as final vote totals, and an internal modem for direct transfer of totals from a standard telephone in the precinct to the Patriot Central Station, in the election office.

Equipment – at the election office

One Patriot Central Station (per jurisdiction), includes a PC or PC network powerful enough to code all ballots in the jurisdiction, accept all totals directly from the precincts via modem, and/or accept totals directly from InfoPacks and absentee ballots, instantly adds and tallies together including in-person or early voting ballots, and disseminates that information via summary reports throughout election evening (as well as individual precinct reports, canvass, logs and other miscellaneous reports). Other equipment included are InfoPackets, a printer (to match the jurisdiction's needs), modems, and an absentee ballot reader.