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To be released immediately.
Wednesday, May 2, 2007
Contact: Election Division, Secretary of State (208) 334-2852

**Secretary of State Ysursa Announces
Certification of Voting Systems**

PRESS RELEASE

Today Secretary of State Ben Ysursa announced certification of upgrades to the Election Systems and Software optical scan voting system.

Public hearings were held in April to evaluate the optical scan tabulators, models M100 and M650, and the Unity election software. The optical scan voting system uses a paper ballot on which the voter darkens an oval to indicate their choices. The tabulator reads and records the darkened ovals on the ballot. Optical scan voting systems have been in use since 1991 in Idaho and are currently in use in 15 counties. This system is the most used across the country as the system requires a paper ballot that provides an audit trail.

Upgrades to the AutoMARK ballot marking device, which is used throughout the state to comply with the accessible voting requirements of the Help America Vote Act of 2002, were also evaluated and certified by the Secretary of State. The AutoMARK ballot marking device uses a paper optical scan ballot and no votes are stored in the machine. The device provides a touch screen, Braille keypad and audio ballot to assist voters that may have difficulty seeing or marking a ballot.

Comments from Secretary Ysursa:

“The certification of a voting system is a detailed public review of a voting system and all it’s components to assure the public that their votes will be counted accurately. Assuring public confidence in our voting system is and has always been a priority of this office. “