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**For Immediate Release**

**Survey & Ballot Systems' DirectVote® Election Service Offers  
Compliance With Section 508 Standards for Voters With Disabilities**

*Allows Associations and Other Organizations to  
Ensure Equal Access and Opportunity for Voting Participation*

MINNEAPOLIS -- (June 28, 2005) -- Survey & Ballot Systems, Inc. (SBS), a global provider of custom information gathering services, today announced that its DirectVote® Election Service now is compliant with Section 508 standards -- including compatibility with screen reader software used by persons with visual impairments and other disabilities.

Section 508 refers to a statutory section in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, strengthened by Congress in 1998. Its primary purpose is to provide access to and use of Federal executive agencies' electronic and information technology by individuals with disabilities. While the Section 508 standards apply to Federal agencies, they also are being used as guidelines for other organizations in public and private sectors for ensuring fair and equal access to information and technology.

"As electronic voting continues to gain popularity, we recognize that changing voting methods must continue to ensure fair and equal access to the election process," said Jon Westerhaus, president. "Regardless of method used, members of associations and other organizations must enjoy complete access to the processes that govern them. Executives and officers of these organizations are being called upon to demonstrate that their election systems meet standards such as Section 508. We're proud that our DirectVote service brings this capability to our association clients and others."

SBS' DirectVote service, now being used by dozens of associations worldwide, manages every step of an election or other type of member vote, from ballot design, to distribution, to tabulation and reporting of results. As recently announced, SBS also has upgraded its DirectVote service to incorporate the world-class Microsoft .NET solution for Web-based services. The .NET platform simplifies information sharing between computer systems with highest levels of security.

Along with DirectVote, SBS also offers DirectSurv® survey capabilities, DirectEval® course

evaluation services and DirectCens® census services. All SBS services are available using paper-based methods, Web-based methods or a combination of the two.

## **About Survey & Ballot Systems, Inc.**

Now in its fifteenth year, Survey & Ballot Systems, Inc., is a privately held firm specializing in providing Web and paper-based elections and surveys for a range of clients. SBS has managed the surveys and elections of tens of millions of people on behalf of non-profit associations and cooperatives, for-profit organizations and local, state and federal government operations. SBS offers a full range of custom information gathering services that can be tailored to meet client needs.

Survey & Ballot Systems is headquartered in suburban Minneapolis at 7653 Anagram Drive, Eden Prairie, Minn. 55344-7311. Visit SBS online at [www.gosbs.com](http://www.gosbs.com), or by phone at 800-974-8099.

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