Preparations for the August Partisan Primary

Agenda

Overview

- There is always an August Partisan Primary
- The partisan primary has been in place in WI since 1915.
- Votes are cast for candidates in one political party.
- There has been no straight party ticket voting since 2011, but there is a party preference option.
- The party order on the ballot is determined by which party received the most votes in the last gubernatorial election.

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Overview

What is the Party Preference?

- In the Partisan Primary, voters may vote in only ONE party's primary.
- If a voter chooses a party preference, votes cast in that party will be counted. Votes cast in any other party will not be counted.
- If a voter does not choose a party preference, and votes in more than one party, no votes will be counted (except for nonpartisan contests or referenda, if present),
- Voters must still vote for individual candidates!

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What is the Party Preference?

Party Preference Examples

What is a Crossover Vote?

▸ A ballot with a crossover vote is a ballot where the voter has not selected a party preference and has voted in more than one party, which is prohibited by state law.

▸ A ballot where the voter has not selected a party preference and has written in a ballot candidate from another party is not a crossover vote.

What is a Crossover Vote?

Is this a Crossover Vote?

Is this a Crossover Vote?

Is this a Crossover Vote?

What is an Overvote?

▸ Ballots with at least one instance in which the elector has voted for more than the maximum number of selections allowed in a contest.
▸ Election inspectors may be required to remake ballots with overvotes.
▸ A contest is not considered an overvote if the election inspectors, after reviewing the ballot for voter intent, are able to count a vote(s).

What is an Overvote?

Is this an Overvote?

Choose a Party Preference	Republican Party Primary	Constitution Party Primary
⬤ Democratic	**Congressional**	**Congressional**
◯ Republican	**Representative in Congress**	**Representative in Congress**
◯ Constitution	**District _**	**District _**
	Vote for 1	**Vote for 1**
Democratic Party Primary	◯ Mary Kay Place	◯ Write-in
Congressional	◯ Sunny Skies	**Legislative**
Representative in Congress	◯ write-in:	**State Senator**
District. _	**Legislative**	**District _**
Vote for 1	**State Senator**	**Vote for 1**
⬤ John Jones	**District _**	◯ Write-in
◯ Sandy Beach	**Vote for 1**	**Representative to the Assembly**
⬤ write-in: *Barny Fife*	◯ Steve Berry	**District _**
Legislative	◯ Kassie Kloss	**Vote for 1**
State Senator	◯ write-in:	◯ Write-in
District _	**Representative to the Assembly _**	
Vote for 1	**District _**	
◯ Norman Foreman	**Vote for 1**	Registered write-in:
⬤ Randi Rainbow	◯ Charlie McCarthy	
◯ write-in:	◯ Edgar Bergen	Barny Fife
Representative to the Assembly	◯ write-in:	
District _		
Vote for 1		
◯ Mortimer Snerd		
⬤ write-in: *Richard Wick*		

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Is this an Overvote?

Is this an Overvote?

Choose a Party Preference	Republican Party Primary	Constitution Party Primary
⬤ Democratic	**Congressional**	**Congressional**
◯ Republican	**Representative in Congress**	**Representative in Congress**
◯ Constitution	**District** _	**District** _
	Vote for 1	**Vote for 1**
Democratic Party Primary	◯ Mary Kay Place	◯ Write-in
Congressional	◯ Sunny Skies	**Legislative**
Representative in Congress	◯ write-in:	**State Senator**
District. _	**Legislative**	**District** _
Vote for 1	**State Senator**	**Vote for 1**
⬤ John Jones	**District** _	◯ Write-in
⬤ Sandy Beach	**Vote for 1**	**Representative to the Assembly**
◯ write-in:	◯ Steve Berry	**District** _
Legislative	◯ Kassie Kloss	**Vote for 1**
State Senator	◯ write-in:	◯ Write-in
District _	**Representative to the Assembly** _	
Vote for 1	**District** _	Registered write-in:
◯ Norman Foreman	**Vote for 1**	
⬤ Randi Rainbow	◯ Charlie McCarthy	Barny Fife
◯ write-in:	◯ Edgar Bergen	
Representative to the Assembly	◯ write-in:	
District _		
Vote for 1		
⬤ Mortimer Snerd		
◯ write-in:		

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Is this an Overvote?

Remaking Ballots on Election Day

‣ Who
  • Election Official

‣ Why
  • Voter made a mistake (overvoted, crossover vote)
  • Voting equipment cannot "read" the ballot
  • Voter marked the ballot incorrectly, for example, used red pen or circled a candidate
  • Voter didn't fill in circles or arrows on ballot
  • Ballot was damaged

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Remaking Ballots on Election Day

Remaking Ballots on Election Day

▸ How
- At least two election inspectors participate in the process
  - If party–affiliated inspectors present, use one of each party
- Inspectors announce that a ballot is being remade and why
- Inspectors note a reason in the endorsement section of the ballot
  - Overvoted (OV)
  - Damaged (DM)
  - Other (OT)
- Ballots labeled original ballot #(serial number) and duplicate ballot #(serial number)
- Both inspectors initial the ballots in the endorsement section

Remaking Ballots on Election Day

Remaking Ballots – Endorsement Section

Remaking Ballots on Election Day

▶ How (con't)

- Inspector transfers votes based on voter intent from the original ballot to the duplicate ballot
- Note on the Inspectors' Statement why the ballot had to be remade
- The remade ballots are inserted into the tabulator
- The original ballots are bundled together, marked and placed in the "Original Ballots Envelope."
- The "Original Ballots Envelope" is placed in the ballot container

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Remaking Ballots on Election Day

Overriding Ballots on Election Day

▸ Who
  • Election Official

▸ Why
  • Municipality allows for the use of the override function to tabulate overvoted ballots and ballots with crossover votes when voter intent cannot be determined.

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Overriding Ballots on Election Day

Overriding Ballots on Election Day

▸ How
- Absentee Ballots
  - Inspector inserts the ballot without inspection into tabulating equipment and machine displays warning message
  - Inspector selects the option to return ballot
  - Inspectors review the ballot to determine voter intent
    - If voter intent can be determined, ballot is remade
    - If voter intent cannot be determined, the ballot is not remade
  - Inspector reinserts the ballot into the tabulating equipment and casts the ballot using the override function
  - Inspector notes the override and the reason for it on the Inspectors' Statement

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Overriding Ballots on Election Day

Overriding Ballots on Election Day

▸ How
- When voter is present
  ○ The voter inserts the ballot into tabulating equipment and machine displays warning message
  ○ The inspector assigned to monitor the voting equipment should explain the warning message to the voter
    ▪ Overvoted ballot: casting a ballot with the override function will result in no votes counted for the overvoted contest(s), votes for other contests will be counted
    ▪ Crossover ballot: casting a ballot that contains a crossover vote will result in no votes counted for any partisan office, but votes for nonpartisan contests would be counted
  ○ The voter is informed that he or she can spoil the ballot and vote another ballot (up to three) or cast the ballot as is. Inspector notes the override and the reason for it on the Inspectors' Statement

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Overriding Ballots on Election Day

Counting Write-In Votes – In General

▸ Each party's primary is considered a separate election.

▸ *The Four Principles of Counting Write-in Votes* apply separately to the contests for each party.

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Counting Write-in Votes – In General

The Four Principles for Counting Write-in Votes

#1 If one or more ballot candidates of a specific party are listed under a given office—
- Only votes for registered write-in candidates are eligible for counting in that party's contest.

#2 If one or more ballot candidates of a specific party are listed under a given office, but one or more are deceased—
- All write-in votes are eligible for counting in that party's contest.

The Four Principles for Counting Write-in Votes

The Four Principles for Counting Write-in Votes

#3 If there are no ballot candidates of a specific party listed under a given office—
- All write-in votes are eligible for counting in that party's contest.

#4 If there is at least one write-in vote cast for an office in a specific party *(regardless of the eligibility of the write-in vote)*—
- No votes for ballot candidates may be considered in that party's contest.

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The Four Principles for Counting Write-in Votes

Party Preference – General Rules

▸ At a partisan primary, another facet is added to counting votes scenarios—the Party Preference.

▸ Selecting a party preference will preserve the votes cast in the preferred party even if the voter crosses over and votes in another party.

▸ Casting votes for candidates of only one party, is the same as selecting a party preference. For paper ballot municipalities, voting on only one ballot is choosing a party preference.

▸ If no party preference is selected, and the voter **marks more than one party's ballot**, no votes will count.

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Party Preference – General Rules

Party Preference – General Rules

- If no party preference is selected, and the voter **marks only one party's ballot**, but on <u>that same party ballot</u> writes in the name of a ballot candidate or registered write-in candidate of another party, all votes are counted except the write-in vote.

- **Regardless if a party preference is selected**, the name of a ballot candidate or registered write-in candidate of Party X written on a Party Y ballot will never count.

- **Within the same party**, a voter may write in the name of a ballot candidate or registered write-in candidate for an office under a different office, but it is counted only if there are no ballot candidates for the different office or if a ballot candidate has died.

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Party Preference – General Rules

Counting Write-In Votes – Scenario #1

Choose a Party Primary	Republican Party Primary	Constitution Party Primary
⬭ Democratic	**Congressional**	**Congressional**
⬛ Republican	**Representative in Congress**	**Representative in Congress**
⬭ Constitution	**Dist. _**	**Dist. _**
	Vote for 1	**Vote for 1**
Democratic Party Primary	⬛ Sandi Beach	⬛ write-in:
Congressional	⬭ Perma Waves	**Legislative**
Representative in Congress	⬛ write-in: *Luke Crabwalker*	**State Senator**
Dist. _	**Legislative**	**District _**
Vote for 1	**State Senator**	⬛ write-in:
⬭ Mole Hill	**District _**	**Representative to the Assembly _**
⬛ Windy Mountain	**Vote for 1**	**District _**
⬛ write-in: *Incline Slope*	⬛ Norman Foreman	**Vote for 1**
Legislative	⬭ Ross Boss	⬛ write-in:
State Senator	⬭ write-in: *Soupy Visor*	**County**
District _	**Representative to the Assembly _**	**County Clerk**
Vote for 1	**District _**	**Vote for 1**
⬭ Siris Cloud	**Vote for 1**	⬭ write-in
⬭ Randi Rainbow	⬛ Charlie McCarthy	**Registered Write-in Candidates**
⬛ write-in: *Lucy Inda Sky*	⬛ Edgar Bergen	Luke Crabwalker–Republican/Congress
Representative to the Assembly	⬛ write-in: *Howdy Doody*	Howdy Doody-Republican/Assembly
District _	**County**	Incline Slope-Democratic/Congress
Vote for 1	**County Clerk**	Lucy Inda Sky-Democratic/Senate
⬛ Mortimer Snerd	**Vote for 1**	
⬭ write-in:	⬭ Ona Ava Nue	
County	⬭ write-in: *Rocky Road*	
County Clerk		
Vote for 1		
⬛ Penny Lane		
⬛ write-in:		

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Counting Write-in Votes – Scenario #1

Counting Write-In Votes – Scenario #1 Answer

- **Party preference**: **Republican.** Votes in other parties are ignored.
- **Congress**: Only registered write-ins count; Luke is registered. **Count the write-in vote for Luke.** Voting equipment saw 2 filled in ovals and counted nothing. Adjust tape to add a vote for "write-in" for Congress.
- **State Senate**: Soupy is not a registered write-in so his vote is not counted. Even though the write-in is not eligible to be counted, it still cancels the vote for the ballot candidate. **No votes count.** Voting equipment saw the filled in oval. Subtract a vote from Norman Foreman on the tape.
- **Assembly**: Howdy Doody is a registered write-in. **Count the vote for Howdy.** Voting equipment saw an overvote and counted nothing. Adjust tape to add a vote for "write-in" for Assembly
- **County Clerk**: Rocky Road is not a registered write-in. **No votes are counted.** Voting equipment saw no filled in ovals and counted nothing. No tape adjustment required

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Counting Write-in Votes – Scenario #1 Answer

Counting Write-in Votes – Scenario #2

Counting Write-In Votes – Scenario #2 Answer

- No party preference selected, but voter cast votes only in the **Democratic Party.** The other parties may be ignored.
- **Congress**: Only registered write-ins count; Incline Slope is a registered Democratic write-in candidate. **Count the write-in vote for Incline.** Voting equipment saw 2 filled in ovals and counted nothing. Adjust the tape to add a write-in vote.
- **State Senate**: Penny Lane is a registered Democratic write in for Assembly, not Senate, but within the same party a vote can be counted for a different office than the one the candidate is registered for. However, Penny is not registered as a write-in candidate for Senate, so **Penny's vote does not count.** Even though the write-in vote cannot not be counted, it still cancels the vote for the ballot candidate, Siris. **No votes are counted.** Voting equipment saw two filled in ovals and recorded nothing. No tape adjustment required.
- **Assembly**: The write-in vote for Howdy Doody is not counted as he is a registered Republican write-in for Assembly. However, the presence of a write-in, counted or not, means the vote for Mortimer is not counted. Voting equipment recorded a vote for Mortimer Snerd, so the tape needs to be adjusted. **No votes are counted.**
- **County Clerk**: Ona Ava Nue is a Republican ballot candidate. **Her vote cannot be counted.** Voting equipment
- recorded a write-in vote. Adjust the tape to subtract a vote from the write-in votes for this office.
- **Note**: The voter pulled a candidate from another party into the party they voted in. Only the vote for that office does not count. This is not a crossover, because the voter only marked in one party.

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Counting Write-in Votes – Scenario #2 Answer

Counting Write-in Votes – Scenario #3

- No party preference selected.

- Voter cast votes primarily in the **Republican Party** but wrote in a name for County Clerk on the Democratic Party. **Note**: The voter physically voted on two party ballots. This makes it a crossover.

- **No votes on this ballot count.**

Counting Write-in Votes – Scenario #3 Answer

Counting Write-in Votes – Scenario #4

Counting Write-In Votes – Scenario #4 Answer

▸ Voter selected the **Democratic Party** as their preference, voted *primarily* on the Democratic ballot but filled in an oval in the Republican Party. The voting equipment is only looking at the Democratic Party. It will not even notice the oval in the Republican Party. This is not a crossover for two reasons: 1) because the voter selected a party preference and 2) because a filled in write-in oval without a name is not considered a vote.

▸ **Congress**: Only registered write-ins count; Mole Hill is not a registered write-in for this office. He is a ballot candidate for this office. The voter's intent is clearly to vote for Mole Hill. **Count one Vote for Mole Hill.** Voting equipment saw 2 filled in ovals and counted nothing. Adjust the tape to add a vote to Mole Hill's total.

▸ **State Senate**: Penny Lane is Democratic ballot candidate for County Clerk. Her name has been written in for Democratic State Senator. Within the same party a vote can be counted for a different office than the one the candidate registered for or is on the ballot for. Penny is not registered as a write-in candidate for Senator, but she does not have to be because there are no ballot candidates. **Count the vote for Penny.** The voting equipment did not see a filled in oval, so it recorded nothing. Adjust the tape to add a write-in vote for Penny for Dem. Senator.

▸ **Assembly**: The write-in oval is filled in, but no name is written, so it does not count as a vote. Mortimer's oval is not filled in, so he does not get a vote either. **No votes count.** Voting equipment saw a write-in oval and counted it. Adjust the tape to subtract a write-in vote from Democratic Assembly.

▸ **County Clerk**: The write-in oval is filled in, but no name is written, so it does not count as a vote. Penny's oval is filled in. Penny's vote counts. The voting equipment saw two filled in ovals and counted nothing. Adjust the tape to add a vote for Penny to Democratic County Clerk.

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Counting Write-in Votes – Scenario #4 Answer

Resources & Staffing

WEC

▸ Resources
  ◦ Polling place checklist and polling place signage updated and reprinted for distribution by county clerks

▸ Staffing
  ◦ "Be a Poll Worker" on MyVote website
  ◦ WEC (with the help of EOC) will reach out to volunteer organizations: Colleges, public schools, United Way, Salvation Army, State of Wisconsin
  ◦ Possible local options: press releases, message boards, newsletters, etc. (how do you reach your communities now?)
  ◦ If possible, alert WEC to critical poll worker shortages

Resources and Staffing

Reminders: Pre-Election Tasks

- Review the ballot with election workers!
- Have election workers participate in the pre-election testing of voting equipment, so they know how it works.
- Prepare a list of any registered write-in candidates for the August Primary.
- Communicate any updates to the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals decision that affects Election Day procedures.
- The absentee ballot log should be updated as necessary and sent to the polls.

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Reminders: Pre-Election Tasks

- ▸ Election workers may only share the list of registered write-in candidates if asked by a voter.
- ▸ Check the absentee ballot log for every voter. If a voter has returned an absentee ballot, they may not vote at the polls.
- ▸ The address on the photo ID does not have to be current.

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Reminders: Election Day

Questions?