

FAQs: Election Night Procedures

Q: at every election I have an absentee voter that returns a blank ballot. It is accepted, scanned and manually overridden. Correct?

A: Yes.

Q: Even if you know that Bill has passed away, you still wouldn't be able to count the actual candidate on the ballot and the two registered write ins?

A: Correct. You still count votes for candidates are the ballot even if they have passed away. Bill still gets the votes!

Q: It may be helpful to explain the difference between "counting" a write-in vote (i.e. 3 write in votes marked for a registered write-in candidate) VS. 'documenting' all of the write-in names that appear on ballots. Some election officials are not sure of the difference between recording or counting.

A: Thanks, we will bring it up shortly.

Q: I have multiple polling locations but only one municipal race in February for one aldermanic district. The other districts only have a school board primary. Do my poll workers on Election night serve as my MBOC for this election?

A: If you use a separate MBOC for an election, you use it for each election.

Q: How long can the Student ID card be expired?

A: As long as the One Wisconsin Court Institute decision stands.

Q: For the CBOC need to have one from republican and one from democratic party?

A: One of the members must be affiliated with a political party other than that of the county clerk. The county political parties may provide the county clerk with a list of individuals nominated to serve on the CBOC.

Q: Sometimes voters don't fill in the oval for write-in votes.

A: Yes, that's correct and why inspectors still need to look at the ballot to determine voter intent. The voting equipment will not register a vote, but it still counts as a vote.

Q: Can you explain how the inspectors should be adjusting the tape from a machine report when ovals for write-ins are not filled in?

A: They should mark a +1 on the tape to count the vote and add it to the total.

Q: We open our absentee ballots during the day. What do we do if someone comes in to change their ballot after we have opened the envelopes?

A: If a voter returned a ballot, they cannot vote a new ballot at the polls.

Q: Okay, so the when you were talking about someone coming in to change their ballot, this is done before Election Day?

A: A voter can spoil their absentee ballot by the appropriate deadlines with the municipal clerk and vote at the polls. They can also correct any missing information on their absentee certificate envelope (missing signature, missing witness/address) and have until 8 pm to do so at their polling place, but they can't vote a new ballot.

Q: inspectors process an absentee ballot and run through counter-and after notices that no elector signature or address. What should they do?

A: Document the situation on the Inspectors' Statement.

Q: If an election inspector notices an absentee envelope is wrong on Election Day, should the inspector contact the voter to have the envelope corrected to avoid rejection?

A: Let the clerk know and they can decide what to do. Depending on what is wrong on the certificate envelope (missing signature, missing witness signature and/or address), the voter has until 8 pm to make any corrections, so those ballots should be set aside until the polls close.

Q: If there are no late arriving or provisional ballots, what forms do the MBOC sign off on?

A: There are no late arriving absentee ballots. If there are outstanding provisional ballots and none are cured by 4 pm Friday after the election in the clerk's office, the clerk notes this on the EL-104P. The MBOC does not have to meet again.