



Wisconsin Elections Commission

Preparations for the August Partisan Primary

July 22, 2020

1

Agenda

- **Overview**
- **What is?**
 - Party Preference
 - Crossover Vote
 - Overvote
- **Remaking/Overriding Ballots**
 - Who/Why/How?
 - Endorsement section
- **Counting Write-In Votes**
 - In General
 - Partisan Primary Scenarios
- **Resources & Staffing**
- **Reminders!**

2

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.

3

3

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!

4

4

Party Preference Examples

Party Preference Section

Choose a party in which to vote

Complete the arrow next to your party choice, like this: ← Choose only ONE

Democratic	←
Republican	←
Constitution	←

Party Preference Section

Choose a party in which to vote

Fill in the oval next to your party choice, like this: ● Choose only ONE

<input type="radio"/>	Democratic
<input type="radio"/>	Republican
<input type="radio"/>	Constitution

Instructions to voters

If you make a mistake on your ballot or have a question, ask an election inspector for help.
(Absentee Voters: Contact your municipal clerk.)

To vote for a name on the ballot, make an "X" or other mark in the square next to the name. Like this:

To vote for a name that is not on the ballot, write the name on the line marked "write in."

If you vote on this party ballot, you may not vote on any other party ballot.

5

5

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.

6

6

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).

10

10

Is this an Overvote?

Choose a Party Preference	Republican Party Primary	Constitution Party Primary
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Democratic	<input type="radio"/> Republican	<input type="radio"/> Constitution
<input type="radio"/> Republican	<input type="radio"/> Constitution	
<input type="radio"/> Constitution		
Democratic Party Primary	Republican Party Primary	Constitution Party Primary
Congressional	Congressional	Congressional
Representative in Congress	Representative in Congress	Representative in Congress
District: _____	District: _____	District: _____
Vote for 1	Vote for 1	Vote for 1
<input checked="" type="radio"/> John Jones	<input type="radio"/> Mary Kay Place	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Sandy Beach	<input type="radio"/> Sunny Skies	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
<input type="radio"/> write-in: Barry Fife	<input type="radio"/> write-in	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
Legislative	Legislative	Legislative
State Senator	State Senator	State Senator
District: _____	District: _____	District: _____
Vote for 1	Vote for 1	Vote for 1
<input type="radio"/> Norman Foreman	<input type="radio"/> Steve Berry	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Randi Rainbow	<input type="radio"/> Kassie Kloss	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
<input type="radio"/> write-in: _____	<input type="radio"/> write-in	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
Representative to the Assembly	Representative to the Assembly	Representative to the Assembly
District: _____	District: _____	District: _____
Vote for 1	Vote for 1	Vote for 1
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Mortimer Snerd	<input type="radio"/> Charlie McCarthy	<input type="radio"/> Registered write-in:
<input type="radio"/> write-in: _____	<input type="radio"/> Edgar Bergen	Barry Fife
	<input type="radio"/> write-in	

11

11

Is this an Overvote?

Choose a Party Preference	Republican Party Primary	Constitution Party Primary
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Democratic	<input type="radio"/> Republican	<input type="radio"/> Constitution
<input type="radio"/> Republican	<input type="radio"/> Constitution	
<input type="radio"/> Constitution		
Democratic Party Primary	Republican Party Primary	Constitution Party Primary
Congressional	Congressional	Congressional
Representative in Congress	Representative in Congress	Representative in Congress
District: _____	District: _____	District: _____
Vote for 1	Vote for 1	Vote for 1
<input checked="" type="radio"/> John Jones	<input type="radio"/> Mary Kay Place	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Sandy Beach	<input type="radio"/> Sunny Skies	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
<input type="radio"/> write-in: _____	<input type="radio"/> write-in	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
Legislative	Legislative	Legislative
State Senator	State Senator	State Senator
District: _____	District: _____	District: _____
Vote for 1	Vote for 1	Vote for 1
<input type="radio"/> Norman Foreman	<input type="radio"/> Steve Berry	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Randi Rainbow	<input type="radio"/> Kassie Kloss	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
<input type="radio"/> write-in: _____	<input type="radio"/> write-in	<input type="radio"/> Write-in
Representative to the Assembly	Representative to the Assembly	Representative to the Assembly
District: _____	District: _____	District: _____
Vote for 1	Vote for 1	Vote for 1
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Mortimer Snerd	<input type="radio"/> Charlie McCarthy	<input type="radio"/> Registered write-in:
<input type="radio"/> write-in: _____	<input type="radio"/> Edgar Bergen	Barry Fife
	<input type="radio"/> write-in	

12

12

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

13

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

14

Remaking Ballots – Endorsement Section

Original Ballot

For Official Use Only

Inspectors: identify ballots to be remade.

Reason for remaking ballot:

Overvoted

Damaged

Other

Original Ballot No. or Duplicate Ballot No.

AC DL

Initials of inspectors who remake ballot

For Official Use Only

Inspectors: identify ballots to be remade.

Reason for remaking ballot:

Overvoted

Damaged

Other

Original Ballot No. or Duplicate Ballot No.

AC DL

Initials of inspectors who remake ballot

Remade Ballot

15

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

16

16

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.

17

17

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

18

18

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

19

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.

20

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.**

21

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.**

22

22

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.

23

23

Party Preference – General Rules

- ▶ If no party preference is selected, and the voter **marks only one party's ballot**, but on that same party ballot 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.

24

24

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.

34

34

Reminders: Election Day

- ▶ 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.

35

35



Questions?

36
