The Four Principles for Determining Eligibility of Write-in Votes

1. If the number of ballot candidates for a given office is equal to or greater than the number of seats to be filled—

   **Only votes for registered write-in candidates are eligible for counting.**
   (A ballot candidate whose name is written in under a different office than the office where the candidate’s name is printed cannot be counted in this situation.)

2. If there are fewer ballot candidates for a given office than the number of seats to be filled—

   **All write-in votes are eligible for counting.**
   (A ballot candidate whose name is written in under a different office than the office where the candidate’s name is printed is counted in this situation.)

3. If there are any ballot candidates for a given office and one or more has passed away—

   **All write-in votes are eligible for counting.**
   (A ballot candidate whose name is written in under a different office than the office where the candidate’s name is printed is counted in this situation.)

4. If there are enough write-in votes to fill the number of seats up for election (regardless of the eligibility of the write-in votes)—

   **Votes for ballot candidates may not be considered.**

Write-In Scenarios

Example 1

**Village Trustee**

Vote for not more than 2

- Mark Mywords
- Shirley Ugest
- **Rusty Pipe**

2 ballot candidates for a 2-seat office. Rusty is a registered write-in candidate.

**Question 1:** How many votes is the voter entitled to cast? (Refer to the ballot instructions.)

- **Two.** The instructions are “Vote for not more than 2.”
- The voter has cast a vote for 3 candidates, which is one too many.

**Question 2:** Are all write-in votes eligible for counting or only votes cast for registered write-in candidates? (Refer to Principle 1.)
There are 2 positions to be filled and 2 ballot candidates.
Only votes for registered write-in candidates are eligible to be counted.

**Question 3:** Is the write-in candidate registered?
- Rusty Pipe is a registered write-in candidate. **The vote for Rusty Pipe is counted.**
- The voter is entitled to one more vote.

**Question 4:** Are there enough write-in votes to fill the seats up for election? (Refer to Principle 4.)
- **No.** There are 2 positions to be filled and only one write-in vote. There are not enough write-in votes to fill the 2 positions. **Ballot candidates can be considered.**
- There are two marked ballot candidates, and the voter is entitled to only one more vote. It is impossible to determine which ballot candidate the voter intended to vote for. **Neither marked ballot candidate may be counted.**

**Final result**
- There are 3 votes marked. **The write-in vote for Rusty Pipe is the only vote counted for this office.** Record Rusty's vote on the write-in tally sheet.
- The voting equipment has recorded this office as overvoted—no votes were recorded by the voting equipment.
- Adjust the tape to reflect a write-in vote.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Village Trustee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mark Mywords</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shirley Ugest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Write-in</td>
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- The reason for the adjustment is recorded on the Inspectors' Statement (EL-104).

**Example 2**

**Village Trustee**  
Vote for not more than 2
- Mark Mywords
- Shirley Ugest
- Joe Smith

2 ballot candidates for a 2-seat office.  
Joe is not a registered write-in candidate.

**Question 1:** How many votes is the voter entitled to cast? (Refer to the ballot instructions.)
- **Two.** The instructions are “Vote for not more than 2.”
o The voter has cast a vote for 3 candidates, which is one too many.

**Question 2:** Are all write-in votes eligible for counting or only votes cast for registered write-in candidates? (Refer to Principle 1.)

o There are 2 positions to be filled and 2 ballot candidates.
o Only votes for registered write-in candidates are eligible to be counted.

**Question 3:** Is the write-in candidate registered?

o Joe Smith is not a registered write-in candidate. The vote for Joe Smith is not counted.
o The voter is entitled to two votes.

**Question 4:** Are there enough write-in votes to fill the seats up for election? (Refer to Principle 4.)

o No. There are 2 positions to be filled and only one write-in vote. There are not enough write-in votes to fill the 2 positions. Ballot candidates can be considered.
o There are two marked ballot candidates, and the voter is entitled to two votes. The votes for Mark Mywords and Shirley Ugest are counted.

**Final result**

o There are 3 votes marked. Only the votes for Mark Mywords and Shirley Ugest are counted.
o The voting equipment has recorded this office as overvoted—no votes were recorded by the voting equipment.
o Adjust the tape to reflect the two ballot candidate votes.

<table>
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o The reason for the adjustment is recorded on the Inspectors' Statement (EL-104).
Example 3

**Village Trustee**

Vote for not more than 2

- Mark Mywords
- Shirley Ugest
- **Rusty Pipe**
- Joe Smith

2 ballot candidates for a 2-seat office.
Rusty is a registered write-in candidate.
Joe is not a registered write-in candidate

**Question 1:** How many votes is the voter entitled to cast? (Refer to the ballot instructions.)

- Two. The instructions are “Vote for not more than 2.”
- The voter has cast a vote for 3 candidates, which is one too many.

**Question 2:** Are all write-in votes eligible for counting or only votes cast for registered write-in candidates? (Refer to Principle 1.)

- There are 2 positions to be filled and 2 ballot candidates.
- Only votes for registered write-in candidates are eligible to be counted.

**Question 3:** Are the write-in candidates registered?

- Rusty Pipe is a registered write-in candidate, Joe Smith is not a registered write-in candidate and cannot be counted. The vote for Rusty Pipe is counted.
- The voter is entitled to one more vote.

**Question 4:** Are there enough write-in votes to fill the seats up for election? (Refer to Principle 4.)

- Yes. There are 2 positions to be filled and two write-in votes. There are enough write-in votes to fill the 2 positions. Ballot candidates cannot be considered.
- There is a marked ballot candidate, but ballot candidates may not be considered. The marked ballot candidate may not be counted.

**Final result**

- There are 3 votes marked. The write-in vote for Rusty Pipe is the only vote counted for this office. Record Rusty’s vote on the write-in tally sheet.
- Adjust the tape to subtract Shirley Ugest’s vote. The tape does not have to be adjusted for Rusty Pipe (unfilled oval) because a write-in was recorded for Joe Smith, who was not counted.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Village Trustee</th>
<th>Mark Mywords</th>
<th>Shirley Ugest</th>
<th>Write-in</th>
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The reason for the adjustment is recorded on the Inspectors’ Statement (EL-104).

Example 4

Village Trustee
Vote for not more than 2
- Mark Mywords
- Shirley Ugest
- **Rusty Pipe**
- 

2 ballot candidates for a 2-seat office. Rusty is a registered write-in candidate.

**Question 1:** How many votes is the voter entitled to cast? (Refer to the ballot instructions.)
- Two. The instructions are “Vote for not more than 2.”
- The voter has cast a vote for 2 candidates

**Question 2:** Are all write-in votes eligible for counting or only votes cast for registered write-in candidates? (Refer to Principle 1.)
- There are 2 positions to be filled and 2 ballot candidates.
- Only votes for registered write-in candidates are eligible to be counted.

**Question 3:** Is the write-in candidate registered?
- Rusty Pipe is a registered write-in candidate. The vote for Rusty Pipe is counted.
- The voter is entitled to one more vote.

**Question 4:** Are there enough write-in votes to fill the seats up for election? (Refer to Principle 4.)
- No. There are 2 positions to be filled and only one write-in vote. There are not enough write-in votes to fill the 2 positions. Ballot candidates can be considered.
- There is one marked ballot candidate, so a vote for Shirley Ugest should be counted.

**Final result**
- There are 2 votes marked. The vote for Shirley Ugest and the write-in vote for Rusty Pipe are both counted for this office.
Example 5

**Village Trustee**
Vote for not more than 2
- Mark Mywords
- Shirley Ugest
- **Rusty Pipe**
- Joe Smith  Bob Hope

2 ballot candidates for a 2-seat office.
Rusty and Bob are registered write-in candidates
Joe Smith is not a registered write-in candidate

**Question 1:** How many votes is the voter entitled to cast? (Refer to the ballot instructions.)
- Two. The instructions are “Vote for not more than 2.”
- The voter has cast a vote for 5 candidates, which is three too many.

**Question 2:** Are all write-in votes eligible for counting or only votes cast for registered write-in candidates? (Refer to Principle 1.)
- There are 2 positions to be filled and 2 ballot candidates.
- Only votes for registered write-in candidates are eligible to be counted.

**Question 3:** Is the write-in candidate registered?
- Rusty Pipe and Bob Hope are both registered write-in candidates. Joe Smith is not a registered write-in candidate. The votes for Rusty Pipe and Bob Hope are counted; the vote for Joe Smith is not counted.

**Question 4:** Are there enough write-in votes to fill the seats up for election? (Refer to Principle 4.)
- Yes. There are 2 positions to be filled and three write-in votes. There are enough write-in votes to fill the 2 positions. Ballot candidates may not be considered.

**Final result**
- There are 5 votes marked. The write-in votes for Rusty Pipe and Bob Hope are counted for this office.
- The voting equipment has recorded this office as overvoted—no votes were recorded by the voting equipment.
- Adjust the tape to reflect two write-in votes.

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- The reason for the adjustment is recorded on the Inspectors’ Statement (EL-104).
Example 6

Village Trustee
Vote for not more than 2
- Mark Mywords
- Shirley Uggest
- **Joe Smith**
- **Mary Williams**

2 ballot candidates for a 2-seat office.
Joe and Mary are not registered write-in candidates

**Question 1:** How many votes is the voter entitled to cast? (Refer to the ballot instructions.)
- **Two.** The instructions are “Vote for not more than 2.”
- The voter has cast votes for 4 candidates, which is two too many.

**Question 2:** Are all write-in votes eligible for counting or only votes cast for registered write-in candidates? (Refer to Principle 1.)
- There are 2 positions to be filled and 2 ballot candidates.
- Only votes for registered write-in candidates are eligible to be counted.

**Question 3:** Is the write-in candidate registered?
- Joe Smith and Mary Williams are not registered write-in candidates. The votes for Joe Smith and Mary Williams are not counted.

**Question 4:** Are there enough write-in votes to fill the seats up for election? (Refer to Principle 4.)
- **Yes.** There are 2 positions to be filled and two write-in votes. There are enough write-in votes to fill the 2 positions. Ballot candidates may not be considered.

**Final result**
- There are 4 votes marked. Votes for no candidates are counted.
- The voting equipment has recorded this office as overvoted—no votes were recorded by the voting equipment.