



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
LANSING

July 27, 2006

## Procedure for Handling Optical Scan Ballots Rejected in the Polls

Election workers must be carefully instructed on the appropriate procedures for interacting with voters who have their ballot rejected by the tabulator. As a part of the instruction, it is extremely important to emphasize that the election inspectors cannot view the voter's ballot in an attempt to identify the voting error involved.

To ensure the proper handling of voters who have their ballot rejected, the following "script" is offered. The distribution of the script to all election inspectors is recommended. The election inspector responsible for monitoring the tabulator should read the script to any voter who experiences the rejection of his or her ballot due to a voting error.

**STEP I: *Election worker reads following statement to any voter who experiences the rejection of his or her ballot due to a voting error:***

***A. If voter has "overvoted" an office or has voted in more than a single party primary:*** THE TABULATOR HAS REJECTED YOUR BALLOT BECAUSE IT IS IMPROPERLY MARKED. ACCORDING TO THE TABULATOR, YOU HAVE (CAST MORE VOTES FOR AN OFFICE THAN ALLOWED) (VOTED IN MORE THAN A SINGLE PARTY PRIMARY).

IF YOU WISH TO CORRECT THE VOTING ERROR, WE WILL BE HAPPY TO SUPPLY YOU WITH A REPLACEMENT BALLOT.

IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO CORRECT THE VOTING ERROR, WE WILL BE HAPPY TO ACCEPT YOUR BALLOT AS PRESENTED. PLEASE BE AWARE, HOWEVER, THAT ANY INVALID VOTES MARKED ON YOUR BALLOT WILL NOT BE COUNTED.

***B. If voter has not cast any votes (blank ballot):*** THE TABULATOR HAS REJECTED YOUR BALLOT BECAUSE IT DOES NOT READ ANY VOTES ON THE BALLOT.

IF YOU WISH TO CAST VOTES ON THE BALLOT, YOU MAY RETURN TO THE VOTING STATION. INSTRUCTIONS ON THE VOTING PROCESS ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR REQUEST.

IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO RETURN TO THE VOTING STATION, WE WILL BE HAPPY TO ACCEPT YOUR BALLOT AS PRESENTED. PLEASE BE AWARE, HOWEVER, THAT NO VOTES WILL COUNT.

**STEP II: *If the voter wishes to have his or her ballot cast as presented, the election worker should reemphasize how the ballot will be counted and afford the voter a second opportunity to obtain a replacement ballot or return to the voting station:***

- A. *If voter has “overvoted” an office:*** IF YOUR BALLOT IS CAST AS MARKED, NO VOTES WHICH APPEAR UNDER ANY OFFICE THAT YOU HAVE “OVERVOTED” WILL COUNT. ARE YOU CERTAIN THAT YOU DO NOT WISH TO RECEIVE A REPLACEMENT BALLOT?
  
- B. *If voter has voted in more than a single party primary:*** IF YOUR BALLOT IS CAST AS MARKED, NO VOTES WHICH APPEAR IN THE PARTISAN SECTION OF YOUR BALLOT WILL COUNT. ARE YOU CERTAIN THAT YOU DO NOT WISH TO RECEIVE A REPLACEMENT BALLOT?
  
- C. *If voter has not cast any votes (blank ballot):*** IF YOUR BALLOT IS CAST AS PRESENTED, NO VOTES WILL COUNT FOR ANY CANDIDATES OR PROPOSALS. ARE YOU CERTAIN THAT YOU DO NOT WISH TO RETURN TO THE VOTING STATION?