

VII. Ballot Instructional Language

In 2012, Public Act 128 removed the voting instructions from the ballot face and required them to appear on or inserted into ballot secrecy sleeves distributed to voters. The following ballot instructional language must be used as appropriate for the type of election involved. As depicted below, in instances where the ballot does not contain a partisan section, a nonpartisan section and/or a proposal section, the instructions must be modified as appropriate.

PRIMARY

TO VOTE: Completely darken the oval opposite each choice as shown: **[insert graphic here]**.

--OR--

TO VOTE: Complete the arrow opposite each choice as shown: **[insert graphic here]**.

IMPORTANT: To mark your ballot, use only a black or blue ink pen. **DO NOT USE ANY OTHER INK COLOR!**

PARTISAN SECTION: There are two party sections on the ballot: Republican Party and Democratic Party. Select the party section of your choice. **YOU MAY VOTE IN ONE PARTY SECTION ONLY; YOU CANNOT “SPLIT YOUR TICKET.” IF YOU VOTE IN MORE THAN ONE PARTY SECTION, YOUR PARTISAN BALLOT WILL BE REJECTED.**

DO NOT vote for more candidates than indicated under each office title.

WRITE-IN CANDIDATES: To vote for a candidate whose name is not printed on the ballot, write or place the name of that candidate in the blank space provided and (completely darken the oval) or (complete the arrow). Do not cast a write-in vote for a candidate whose name is already printed on the ballot for that office.

CHECK BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT: This ballot has two sides. Be certain to check the reverse side of the ballot.

WHEN YOU HAVE COMPLETED VOTING: Place the ballot in the secrecy sleeve so that votes cannot be seen and the numbered stub is visible. Return the ballot to the election official stationed at the tabulator. (If voting by absentee ballot, follow the instructions provided by the clerk for returning the ballot.)

NOTE: If you make a mistake, return your ballot to the election official and obtain a new ballot. Do not attempt to erase or correct any marks made in error.

GENERAL ELECTION

TO VOTE: Completely darken the oval opposite each choice as shown: **[insert graphic here]**.

-- OR --

TO VOTE: Complete the arrow opposite each choice as shown: **[insert graphic here]**.

IMPORTANT: To mark your ballot, use only a black or blue ink pen. **DO NOT USE ANY OTHER INK COLOR!**

PARTISAN SECTION: To vote the partisan section of the ballot, you may cast a “straight ticket,” a “split ticket” or a “mixed ticket.”

Straight Ticket: Vote the party of your choice. Nothing further need be done in the partisan section.

Split Ticket: You may vote a straight ticket AND vote for individual candidates of your choice.

Mixed Ticket: Vote for the individual candidates of your choice in each office.

NONPARTISAN and **PROPOSAL SECTIONS** of the ballot (if any) must be voted separately.

DO NOT vote for more candidates than indicated under each office title.

WRITE-IN CANDIDATES: To vote for a candidate whose name is not printed on the ballot, write or place the name of that candidate in the blank space provided and (completely darken the oval) or (complete the arrow). **This must be done even if you cast a straight party vote.** Do not cast a write-in vote for a candidate whose name is already printed on the ballot for that office.

CHECK BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT: This ballot has two sides. Be certain to check the reverse side of the ballot.

WHEN YOU HAVE COMPLETED VOTING: Place the ballot in the secrecy sleeve so that votes cannot be seen and the numbered stub is visible. Return the ballot to the election official stationed at the tabulator. (If voting by absentee ballot, follow the instructions provided by the clerk for returning the ballot.)

NOTE: If you make a mistake, return your ballot to the election official and obtain a new ballot. Do not attempt to erase or correct any marks made in error.

NON-PARTISAN ELECTION

TO VOTE: Completely darken the oval opposite each choice as shown: [insert graphic here].

-- OR --

TO VOTE: Complete the arrow opposite each choice as shown: [insert graphic here].

IMPORTANT: To mark your ballot, use only a black or blue ink pen. **DO NOT USE ANY OTHER INK COLOR!**

DO NOT vote for more candidates than indicated under each office title.

WRITE-IN CANDIDATES: To vote for a candidate whose name is not printed on the ballot, write or place the name of that candidate in the blank space provided and (completely darken the oval) or (complete the arrow). Do not cast a write-in vote for a candidate whose name is already printed on the ballot for that office.

CHECK BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT: This ballot has two sides. Be certain to check the reverse side of the ballot.

WHEN YOU HAVE COMPLETED VOTING: Place the ballot in the secrecy sleeve so that votes cannot be seen and the numbered stub is visible. Return the ballot to the election official stationed at the tabulator. (If voting by absentee ballot, follow the instructions provided by the clerk for returning the ballot.)

NOTE: If you make a mistake, return your ballot to the election official and obtain a new ballot. Do not attempt to erase or correct any marks made in error.

SPECIAL ELECTION

TO VOTE: Completely darken the oval opposite each choice as shown: [insert graphic here].

-- OR --

TO VOTE: Complete the arrow opposite each choice as shown: [insert graphic here].

IMPORTANT: To mark your ballot, use only a black or blue ink pen. **DO NOT USE ANY OTHER INK COLOR!**

CHECK BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT: This ballot has two sides. Be certain to check the reverse side of the ballot.

WHEN YOU HAVE COMPLETED VOTING: Place the ballot in the secrecy sleeve so that votes cannot be seen and the numbered stub is visible. Return the ballot to the election official stationed at the tabulator. (If voting by absentee ballot, follow the instructions provided by the clerk for returning the ballot.)

NOTE: If you make a mistake, return your ballot to the election official and obtain a new ballot. Do not attempt to erase or correct any marks made in error.