Office of the Secretary of State

Paper Ballot Instructions to Voters

Form VI

To Obtain a Ballot:

Announce your name in a loud and distinct tone of voice to the election judges. You will be asked to sign your name on a book before receiving a ballot. Your signature is required, and you should sign your name exactly as it appears in your voter registration records. If you are a first-time voter in the county and you have not previously provided identification, you may be asked to provide identification before voting. You will be given a ballot with the number written on the right-hand corner corresponding to your number on the poll book. Enter any vacant booth and mark your ballot.

To vote Your Ballot:

Make a cross or check mark in the square at the left of the names of the persons or questions for which you wish to vote.

To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the name in the blank space under the proper office title and make a cross or check mark in the square at the left of the name. Do not write in any name that is printed on the ballot.

It is unlawful to place any mark other than in the square, or to deface or tear a ballot, and the ballot will not be counted.

You cannot occupy a booth more than five minutes if other voters are waiting and all booths are occupied.

Check your ballot to see that you have voted for all offices and questions for which you wish to vote. If you vote for more choices than allowed, your vote will not be counted on that portion of the ballot.

After marking your ballot, hand it to one of the judges, folded as you received it, with the endorsement and number in plain view, but with the names of the candidates and the marks thereon concealed. You should wait until the judge has clipped the number from each ballot and has deposited all ballots in the respective ballot boxes.

Spoiled Ballots:

A ballot wrongly marked, defaced or torn must be returned to the judges and exchanged for a replacement ballot. No ballot can be taken from the polling place. No ballot may be voted except ballots received from an election judge.

Assistance to Voters:

Any voter unable to mark his or her ballot by reason of illness, disability or lack of proficiency in reading the English language may request assistance in voting. Upon request, the voter shall be accompanied to the voting booth by a person chosen by the voter or, if no person is chosen, by two members of the election board of different political parties, who shall mark the ballot as such voter directs.

Registration:

All voters must be duly registered in order to vote.

Challenges:

Any person's right to vote may be challenged on the grounds of citizenship, age, residence or registration. At the primary election, the voter may be challenged on party affiliation. If the challenge is not removed, a voter may vote a provisional ballot. Provisional voters are given information telling them how to find out if their provisional ballots were counted and, if not, why.