

Counting Votes

For use by precinct election officials, absentee and special voters precinct board, recount boards, and contest courts

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Getting Started

This is a reference guide for use by precinct election officials, the absentee and special voters precinct board, recount board, and contest courts when counting write-in votes or counting ballots by hand.

The instructions set forth contain administrative rules from Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 26. Chapter 26 was written to ensure statewide uniformity in the event ballots or write-in votes are counted by hand. The rules in this guide must be followed because all administrative rules have the full force and effect of law.

The auditor does not have a role in counting ballots. Decisions about whether or not to count a vote are determined by the precinct election officials, the absentee and special voters precinct board, recount boards, and contest courts.

The examples used in this guide all show the voting target as an oval on the left-hand side next to each candidate's name. Use the same rules for other kinds of voting targets.

Example:  CANDIDATE'S NAME
  CANDIDATE'S NAME

[IAC 721—26.11]

Important Note:

When optical scanners are used, ballots are counted as they are inserted into the scanner. Do not reexamine ballots accepted and counted by the machine. Follow these instructions only for counting write-in votes.

Basic Rules for Hand Counting Ballots

A Voter's Choices Count

Do not reject a vote for any office or question solely because a voter failed to follow instructions for marking the ballot.

- If the choice of the voter is clear, count the vote as the voter has indicated.
- If, for any reason, it is impossible to determine the choice of the voter for any office or question, do not count the vote for that office or question.

[IAC 721—26.15]

If optical scanners were used in the election, write-in votes can only be counted if the voting target next to the write-in line is darkened.

[\$49.99, IAC 721—26.20(1)]

A voter's definite choices shall be counted during a hand recount even if the recount board determines that the voter's choices differ from the votes as counted by the tabulating device.

[IAC 721—26.104(3)]

Ballots Properly Marked Still Count

Do not refuse to count any ballot because:

- The ballots were misprinted (e.g. candidate name misspelled)
- The precinct election official's initials are missing
- The wrong ballots were delivered to the polling place

[IAC 721—26.13]

Standards for Determining a Voter's Choice During a Hand Count

Prescribed and Other Marks on the Same Ballot

If a voter used both the prescribed mark and other marks, count only the prescribed marks as votes.

Prescribed mark = the mark shown in the voting instructions as the appropriate way to mark a vote; also includes a close approximation of the mark

Example 1:

The voter used both the prescribed mark (filled in oval) and an "X" in the voting targets within the same office.

For Board of Supervisors

(Vote for no more than two.)

- CANDIDATE 1 (Party A)
- CANDIDATE 2 (Party A)
- CANDIDATE 3 (Party B)
- CANDIDATE 4 (Party B)
- _____
(Write-in vote, if any)
- _____
(Write-in vote, if any)

Count only the prescribed mark, so only the one vote for CANDIDATE 4 should be counted. It is not clear from the voter's mark whether the mark in the oval for CANDIDATE 3 is intended as a vote.

[IAC 721—26.16]

Marks Not Counted

Do not count any of the following marks on ballots as votes:

1. Hesitation mark

Hesitation mark = small mark made by resting a pen or pencil on the ballot

Example: 

2. Identifying mark

Identifying mark = includes a comment or statement that indicates the identity of the voter either individually or as a member of a group; or initials, a printed name, or signature placed on the ballot in any place other than on the lines intended for write-in votes or intended for the initials of the precinct election official who issued the ballot

Example: 

If you find identifying marks on a ballot, the whole ballot must be rejected if ballots are being counted by hand.

If the ballots are tabulated by voting equipment and an identifying mark is found when tallying write-in votes, do not count the write-in votes. Return the ballot as “Objected to” in a disputed ballot envelope and indicate on the ballot that the write-in vote was not counted.

3. Random mark

Random mark = a mark on a ballot (other than prescribed mark) that is used inconsistently, either in or near the voting target or the names of candidates

Examples: 



4. Stray mark

Stray mark = a mark on a ballot that appears to be accidental or appears to be unrelated to the act of filling in the voting target

Example: 

[IAC 721—26.14, 26.17]

Consistent Use of Other Mark

If a voter does not use the mark prescribed in the voting instructions but consistently uses some other mark, the mark shall be counted as a vote if the mark is:

- In the voting target
- Close to a candidate's name, voting target associated with a candidate's name, or "yes" or "no" choice for a ballot question

[IAC 721—26.16(2)]

The following marks count as votes:

1. The prescribed mark [IAC 721—26.18(1)]
2. A mark that is a close approximation of the prescribed mark even if it strays outside the voting target or does not completely fill the voting target [IAC 721—26.18(2)]

Example 2:

The voter consistently marked the ballot by scribbling in the voting targets. The marks do not completely blacken the voting target and one strays outside the voting target.

For Board of Supervisors

(Vote for no more than two.)

	CANDIDATE 1 (Party A)
	CANDIDATE 2 (Party A)
	CANDIDATE 3 (Party B)
	CANDIDATE 4 (Party B)
	_____
	(Write-in vote, if any)
	_____
	(Write-in vote, if any)

Count one vote for CANDIDATE 3 and one vote for CANDIDATE 4. The same principle applies for other voting marks. If the mark is a close approximation of the prescribed mark, it shall be counted as a vote if all other applicable standards are met.

3. Any mark inside the voting target counts as a vote if the mark is used for every voted office or question instead of the prescribed mark.

Some examples you may find include:

cross		diagonal line	
check mark		horizontal line	
asterisk		vertical line	
plus sign			

[IAC 721—26.18(3)]

Example 3:

The voter has consistently marked each choice by putting a check mark in the voting target.

Board of Supervisors

(Vote for no more than two.)

- CANDIDATE 1 (Party A)
- CANDIDATE 2 (Party A)
- CANDIDATE 3 (Party B)
- CANDIDATE 4 (Party B)
- _____
(Write-in vote, if any)
- Martha Stone
(Write-in vote, if any)

Count one vote for CANDIDATE 3 and one for the write-in choice Martha Stone.

4. Any mark of the type described in # 3 on the previous page counts as a vote if it is near the name of a candidate or voting target.

[IAC 721—26.18(4)]

Example 4A:

The voter has consistently marked each choice by putting a check mark in the space between the voting target and the candidate's name.

Board of Supervisors

(Vote for no more than two.)

<input type="radio"/>	CANDIDATE 1 (Party A)
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	CANDIDATE 2 (Party A)
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	CANDIDATE 3 (Party B)
<input type="radio"/>	CANDIDATE 4 (Party B)
<input type="radio"/>	_____
	(Write-in vote, if any)
<input type="radio"/>	_____
	(Write-in vote, if any)

Count one for CANDIDATE 2 and one for CANDIDATE 3.

Example 4B:

The voter has consistently marked each choice by putting a check mark behind the candidate's name.

Board of Supervisors

(Vote for no more than two.)

<input type="radio"/>	CANDIDATE 1 (Party A)	✓
<input type="radio"/>	CANDIDATE 2 (Party A)	
<input type="radio"/>	CANDIDATE 3 (Party B)	
<input type="radio"/>	CANDIDATE 4 (Party B)	✓
<input type="radio"/>	_____	
	(Write-in vote, if any)	
<input type="radio"/>	_____	
	(Write-in vote, if any)	

Count one for CANDIDATE 1 and one for CANDIDATE 4.

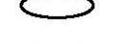
5. A circle around the voting target counts as a vote if it is used for all choices on the ballot.
[IAC 721—26.18(5)]

Example 5:

The voter has consistently marked each choice by circling the voting target.

Board of Supervisors

(Vote for no more than two.)

	CANDIDATE 1 (Party A)
	CANDIDATE 2 (Party A)
	CANDIDATE 3 (Party B)
	CANDIDATE 4 (Party B)
	_____
	(Write-in vote, if any)
	_____
	(Write-in vote, if any)

Count one vote for CANDIDATE 1 and one vote for CANDIDATE 4.

6. A circle around or a line drawn under the name of a candidate counts as a vote if this same mark is used for all choices on the ballot.
[IAC 721—26.18(6)]

Example 6:

Board of Supervisors

(Vote for no more than two.)

	<u>CANDIDATE 1 (Party A)</u>
	CANDIDATE 2 (Party A)
	CANDIDATE 3 (Party B)
	<u>CANDIDATE 4 (Party B)</u>
	_____
	(Write-in vote, if any)
	_____
	(Write-in vote, if any)

Count one vote for CANDIDATE 1 and one vote for CANDIDATE 4.

7. Name of a candidate that is not crossed out counts as a vote if the voter consistently used this method for marking all offices or questions on the ballot.

[IAC 721—26.18(7)]

Example 7:

Board of Supervisors

(Vote for no more than two.)

<input type="radio"/>	CANDIDATE 1 (Party A)
<input type="radio"/>	CANDIDATE 2 (Party A)
<input type="radio"/>	CANDIDATE 3 (Party B)
<input type="radio"/>	CANDIDATE 4 (Party B)
<input type="radio"/>	_____
	(Write-in vote, if any)
<input type="radio"/>	_____
	(Write-in vote, if any)

Count one vote for CANDIDATE 1 and one vote for CANDIDATE 4.

Counting Straight Party or Organization Votes

The optical scan machine is programmed to count straight party votes according to this rule. When counting ballots by hand, precinct election officials, recount boards, and contest courts shall also count straight party votes according to this rule.

Effect of Straight Party Vote

When a voter has marked a voting target for one political party or one NPPO, each candidate on the ballot for that party or NPPO shall receive one vote.

Overvote

If a voter has marked the voting target next to the name of more than one political party or organization, only votes cast for individual candidates shall be counted.

[IAC 721—26.19(2)]

Example 1:

The voter has marked a straight party vote for POLITICAL PARTY A and for POLITICAL ORGANIZATION D.

STRAIGHT PARTY VOTING

- POLITICAL PARTY A
- POLITICAL PARTY B
- POLITICAL ORGANIZATION C
- POLITICAL ORGANIZATION D

This example shows an overvote. Count only votes cast separately for candidates listed on the ballot.

Overriding a Straight Party Vote

If the voter has marked a straight party vote and has also marked a voting target for a candidate or write-in line for a partisan office, the straight party vote shall not apply to that office.

The vote shall be counted as the voter has marked that individual office.

[IAC 721—26.19(3)]

Example 2:

The voter has marked a straight party vote for POLITICAL PARTY A.

For County Recorder

(Vote for no more than one.)

- CANDIDATE 1 (POLITICAL PARTY A)
- CANDIDATE 2 (POLITICAL PARTY B)
- CANDIDATE 3 (POLITICAL ORGANIZATION W)
- _____
(Write-in vote, if any)

This example shows one vote for CANDIDATE 3. Do not count a vote for the candidate from POLITICAL PARTY A. The vote for CANDIDATE 3 overrides the straight party vote for that office.

Overriding a Straight Party Vote, More than One Candidate to be Elected

If the voter may vote for more than one candidate for an office, a straight party vote does not apply to that office if:

- the voter marks one or more voting targets next to the names of candidates listed under that office title
- the voter marks one or more voting targets to write-in lines.

The vote shall be counted as the voter has marked that individual office.

[IAC 721—26.19(4)]

Example 3:

The voter has marked a straight party vote for POLITICAL PARTY A. Two persons are to be elected to the county board of supervisors.

For Board of Supervisors

(Vote for no more than two.)

CANDIDATE 1 (POLITICAL PARTY A)
 CANDIDATE 2 (POLITICAL PARTY B)
 CANDIDATE 3 (POLITICAL PARTY B)

(Write-in vote, if any)

(Write-in vote, if any)

This example shows one vote for CANDIDATE 3. Do not count a vote for the candidate from POLITICAL PARTY A. The vote for CANDIDATE 3 overrides the straight party vote even though more than one is to be elected to the office.

Example 4:

The voter has marked a straight party vote for POLITICAL PARTY A. Two persons are to be elected to the county board of supervisors.

For Board of Supervisors

(Vote for no more than two.)

- CANDIDATE 1 (POLITICAL PARTY A)
- CANDIDATE 2 (POLITICAL PARTY A)
- CANDIDATE 3 (POLITICAL PARTY B)
- CANDIDATE 4 (POLITICAL PARTY B)
- _____
(Write-in vote, if any)
- _____
(Write-in vote, if any)

This example shows one vote for CANDIDATE 4. Do not count any votes for either of the two candidates from POLITICAL PARTY A. The vote for CANDIDATE 4 overrides the straight party vote.

Example 5:

The voter has marked a straight party vote for POLITICAL PARTY A. Two persons are to be elected to the county board of supervisors.

For Board of Supervisors

(Vote for no more than two.)

- CANDIDATE 1 (POLITICAL PARTY A)
- CANDIDATE 2 (POLITICAL PARTY A)
- CANDIDATE 3 (POLITICAL PARTY B)
- CANDIDATE 4 (POLITICAL PARTY B)
- _____
(Write-in vote, if any)
- _____
(Write-in vote, if any)

This example shows one vote for CANDIDATE 2. Do not count a vote for CANDIDATE 1, who is also a candidate for POLITICAL PARTY A. The separate vote for one candidate of POLITICAL PARTY A overrides the straight party vote.

Example 6:

The voter has marked a straight party vote for POLITICAL PARTY A. Two persons are to be elected to the county board of supervisors.

For Board of Supervisors

(Vote for no more than two.)

CANDIDATE 1 (POLITICAL PARTY A)

CANDIDATE 2 (POLITICAL PARTY A)

CANDIDATE 3 (POLITICAL PARTY B)

CANDIDATE 4 (POLITICAL PARTY B)



(Write-in vote, if any)



(Write-in vote, if any)

This example shows one vote for “blank.” No vote shall be counted for either of two POLITICAL PARTY A candidates: CANDIDATE 1 or CANDIDATE 2. The separate vote for a write-in choice overrides the straight party vote, even if there is no name written on the line.

Example 7:

The voter has marked a straight party vote for POLITICAL PARTY A. Two persons are to be elected to the county board of supervisors.

For Board of Supervisors

(Vote for no more than two.)

CANDIDATE 1 (POLITICAL PARTY A)

CANDIDATE 2 (POLITICAL PARTY A)

CANDIDATE 3 (POLITICAL PARTY B)

CANDIDATE 4 (POLITICAL PARTY B)



Candidate 1

(Write-in vote, if any)



Candidate 2

(Write-in vote, if any)

This example shows one vote for CANDIDATE 1 and one vote for CANDIDATE 2. Although the write-in vote duplicates the voter’s straight party vote, it is clear that the voter has chosen CANDIDATE 1 and CANDIDATE 2. Include the write-in votes for CANDIDATE 1 and CANDIDATE 2 in the tally of write-in votes.

Counting Write-In Votes

1. If ballots were counted by an optical scanner on election day, count a write-in vote only if the voting target is marked.

Example 1A:

The voter has not marked the voting target for the write-in votes. Two persons are to be elected to the county board of supervisors.

For Board of Supervisors

(Vote for no more than two.)

- CANDIDATE 1 (POLITICAL PARTY A)
- CANDIDATE 2 (POLITICAL PARTY A)
- CANDIDATE 3 (POLITICAL PARTY B)
- CANDIDATE 4 (POLITICAL PARTY B)
- Candidate 1
(Write-in vote, if any)
- Candidate 2
(Write-in vote, if any)

This example does not show a vote.

EXCEPTION: If optical scan machines were not used on election day and the ballots are hand-counted, the voter is **not** required to mark the voting target next to a write-in vote.

[§49.99, IAC 721—26.20(1)]

Example 1B:

The voter has written in two names on the write-in lines but has not marked the voting targets. Two persons are to be elected to the county board of supervisors.

For Board of Supervisors

(Vote for no more than two.)

- CANDIDATE 1 (POLITICAL PARTY A)
- CANDIDATE 2 (POLITICAL PARTY A)
- CANDIDATE 3 (POLITICAL PARTY B)
- CANDIDATE 4 (POLITICAL PARTY B)
- Candidate 9
(Write-in vote, if any)
- Candidate 8
(Write-in vote, if any)

This example shows one vote for CANDIDATE 1 and one vote for CANDIDATE 2. The write-in votes shown in this example do not count.

Example 1C: (Overvote)

The voter has marked three voting targets and has not written a name on the line. Two persons are to be elected to the county board of supervisors.

For Board of Supervisors

(Vote for no more than two.)

CANDIDATE 1 (POLITICAL PARTY A)
 CANDIDATE 2 (POLITICAL PARTY A)
 CANDIDATE 3 (POLITICAL PARTY B)
 CANDIDATE 4 (POLITICAL PARTY B)

(Write-in vote, if any)

(Write-in vote, if any)

This example shows an overvote. Do not count any votes for this office because the voter's choice can be interpreted in more than one way. The optical scan machine reads this office as an overvote. You do not need to include any more information about this office in the tally list.

2. If a voter writes the name of the same person more than once in the proper places on a ballot for an office to which more than one person is to be elected, all but one of those votes for that person for that office are void and cannot be counted.

[IAC 721—26.20(2)]

Example 2: (two write-ins for the same person)

The voter has written in the name of the same person on both write-in lines. Two persons are to be elected to the county board of supervisors.

For Board of Supervisors

(Vote for no more than two.)

CANDIDATE 1 (POLITICAL PARTY A)
 CANDIDATE 2 (POLITICAL PARTY A)
 CANDIDATE 3 (POLITICAL PARTY B)
 CANDIDATE 4 (POLITICAL PARTY B)

Candidate 7

(Write-in vote, if any)

Candidate 7

(Write-in vote, if any)

This example shows one vote for CANDIDATE 7.

3. If ballots are being counted by hand and a write-in vote duplicates an otherwise correctly cast vote for a candidate whose name appears on the ballot, the write-in vote shall be counted. The optical scan machine reads this as an overvote and does not count any votes for this office.

[IAC 721—26.20(3)]

Example 3: (write-in vote duplicates other votes)

The voter has written on the write-in lines the names of the candidates for whom the voter has also marked the voting targets next to the printed names. Two persons are to be elected to the county board of supervisors.

For Board of Supervisors

(Vote for no more than two.)

<input checked="" type="radio"/>	CANDIDATE 1 (POLITICAL PARTY A)
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	CANDIDATE 2 (POLITICAL PARTY A)
<input type="radio"/>	CANDIDATE 3 (POLITICAL PARTY B)
<input type="radio"/>	CANDIDATE 4 (POLITICAL PARTY B)
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<u> <i>Candidate 1</i></u>
	(Write-in vote, if any)
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<u> <i>Candidate 2</i></u>
	(Write-in vote, if any)

This example shows one vote for CANDIDATE 1 and one vote for CANDIDATE 2. Although the write-in votes duplicate the votes for candidates on the ballot, it is clear that the voter has chosen CANDIDATE 1 and CANDIDATE 2. Include these write-in votes in the tally list.

4. Spellings of Names

Disregard misspellings or variations in names or abbreviations. Count different spellings of a name as votes for the same person if it can be determined for whom the write-in votes were cast.

Fictitious Characters

Count write-in votes for fictitious characters (ex. Mickey Mouse) just as they are written on the ballot. Don't ignore them or group them together as "fictitious names."

[IAC 721—26.20(5)]

5. Write-in votes cast for the office of president and vice president or for the office of governor and lieutenant governor must be tabulated as a single vote for a pair of candidates.

[IAC 721—26.20(4)]

Example 5A:

The voter has written in the names of candidates for president and vice president whose names also appear on the ballot.

For President and Vice President

(Vote for no more than one team.)

- CANDIDATE 19, of State
CANDIDATE 20, of State
POLITICAL PARTY A
- CANDIDATE 21, of State
CANDIDATE 22, of State
POLITICAL PARTY B
- CANDIDATE 23, of State
CANDIDATE 24, of State
POLITICAL ORGANIZATION C
- CANDIDATE 25, of State
CANDIDATE 26, of State
POLITICAL ORGANIZATION D

- Candidate 21
(Write-in vote for President, if any)
- Candidate 22
(Write-in vote for Vice President, if any)

This example shows one vote for the POLITICAL PARTY B team of CANDIDATE 21 for president and CANDIDATE 22 for vice president. The voter has clearly chosen this team of candidates. Record this with the other write-in votes.

Example 5B: (identifying mark with write-in vote for team on the ballot)

The voter has written in the names of candidates for president and vice president whose names also appear on the ballot and has identified the political affiliation of the voter.

For President and Vice President

(Vote for no more than one team.)

- CANDIDATE 19, of State
CANDIDATE 20, of State
POLITICAL PARTY A

- CANDIDATE 21, of State
CANDIDATE 22, of State
POLITICAL PARTY B

- CANDIDATE 23, of State
CANDIDATE 24, of State
POLITICAL ORGANIZATION C

- CANDIDATE 25, of State
CANDIDATE 26, of State
POLITICAL ORGANIZATION D

Candidate 21
(Write-in vote for President, if any)

Candidate 22
(Write-in vote for Vice President, if any)

By the New Party

This is not a vote. The political identification next to the write-in lines is an identifying mark. **Do not count these write-in votes.**

Election Day

Optical Scanners Used

If the ballots are tabulated by voting equipment and an identifying mark is found when tallying write-in votes, do not count the write-in votes. Return the ballot as “Objected to” in the disputed ballot envelope and indicate on the ballot that the write-in vote was not counted.

Hand Counting

If you find identifying marks on a ballot, the whole ballot must be rejected if ballots are being counted by hand.

Recounts and Contests

If you find identifying marks on a ballot, the whole ballot must be rejected.

Example 5E: (write-in vote for president and vice president)

The voter has written in the names of the president and vice president.

For President and Vice President

(Vote for no more than one team.)

- CANDIDATE 19, of State
CANDIDATE 20, of State
POLITICAL PARTY A

- CANDIDATE 21, of State
CANDIDATE 22, of State
POLITICAL PARTY B

- CANDIDATE 23, of State
CANDIDATE 24, of State
POLITICAL ORGANIZATION C

- CANDIDATE 25, of State
CANDIDATE 26, of State
POLITICAL ORGANIZATION D

- Candidate 44
(Write-in vote for President, if any)
- Candidate 45
(Write-in vote for Vice President, if any)

This example shows one vote for the team of CANDIDATE 44 for president and for CANDIDATE 45 for vice president.

Corrections by Voters

When counting ballots by hand, count the vote for an office or question if the voter has marked the ballot in a manner that will be counted as an overvote by the optical scan machine and the voter has indicated in a clear fashion that the voter has made a mistake. **Do not count the vote if the correction includes an identifying mark.**

[IAC 721—26.21]

Example 1:

The voter has crossed out the mark for one candidate and has written in the names of two persons on the write-in lines. Two persons are to be elected to the county board of supervisors.

For Board of Supervisors
(Vote for no more than two.)

	CANDIDATE 1 (POLITICAL PARTY A)
	CANDIDATE 2 (POLITICAL PARTY A)
	CANDIDATE 3 (POLITICAL PARTY B)
	CANDIDATE 4 (POLITICAL PARTY B)
	<u>Margaret Allen</u>
	(Write-in vote, if any)
	<u>Bob Burns</u>
	(Write-in vote, if any)

Note: The word "NO" is written to the left of the crossed-out oval mark.

This example shows one vote for Margaret Allen and one vote for Bob Burns. The voter has clearly crossed out the mark for CANDIDATE 3.

Example 2:

The voter has corrected a mistake by crossing out a marked voting target and has also initialed the correction.

For Board of Supervisors
(Vote for no more than two.)

CANDIDATE 1 (POLITICAL PARTY A)
CANDIDATE 2 (POLITICAL PARTY A)
~~CANDIDATE 3 (POLITICAL PARTY B)~~
CANDIDATE 4 (POLITICAL PARTY B)

Margaret Allen

(Write-in vote, if any)

Bob Burns

(Write-in vote, if any)

This example does not show a vote. The initials next to the correction identify the vote. **Do not count any votes on this ballot.**

Election Day

Optical Scanners Used

If the ballots are tabulated by voting equipment and an identifying mark is found when tallying write-in votes, do not count the write-in votes. Return the ballot as “Objected to” in the disputed ballot envelope and indicate on the ballot that the write-in vote was not counted.

Hand Counting

If you find identifying marks on a ballot, the whole ballot must be rejected if ballots are being counted by hand.

Recounts and Contests

If you find identifying marks on a ballot, the whole ballot must be rejected.

Example 3:

The voter has attempted to erase one marked voting target and has marked another voting target. Two persons are to be elected to the county board of supervisors.

For Board of Supervisors

(Vote for no more than two.)

- CANDIDATE 1 (POLITICAL PARTY A)
- CANDIDATE 2 (POLITICAL PARTY A)
- CANDIDATE 3 (POLITICAL PARTY B)
- CANDIDATE 4 (POLITICAL PARTY B)
- _____
(Write-in vote, if any)
- _____
(Write-in vote, if any)

This example shows one vote for CANDIDATE 3. The voter has attempted to erase the mark for CANDIDATE 2.