

Frequently Asked Questions about Filling Out a Ballot

***Is it okay to fill out my ballot using pencil?**

Pen with blue or black ink is preferred. Pencil is accepted.

***I accidentally signed my spouse's ballot envelope. What do I do?**

There are two options:

1. Let your spouse then sign *your* envelope. When the two envelopes arrive at the Election Office the staff will see what happened, and will be able to look up the signatures and verify them.

2. Alternatively, cross out the wrong signature, and have the correct person sign above it.

***I sealed everything up and then realized I forgot to use the secrecy envelope. Shall I rip open the ballot envelope and insert it?**

No. The secrecy envelope is OPTIONAL. Just throw it out.

***I sealed my ballot envelope and then reopened it to change something. Now what?**

Use clear tape to reseal the ballot envelope and use a pen and *sign right on the tape* so the Election Dept. can see that it's really you who tampered with it.

***I voted for the wrong candidate/ballot measure. How do I fix it?**

Draw a straight line through the incorrect choice - from the bubble all the way across through the candidate's name. Then fill in the correct bubble.

***I spilled something on my ballot/tore my ballot. What shall I do?**

You can request a new ballot by calling the Election Office and they will mail it, or you can go there in person. BRING PHOTO ID.

***I have been displaced/my home was burned down. Can I vote?**

If you were registered to vote, you have only to change your mailing address before 8pm on election day and your ballot will be mailed if there is time, or you can go into the Election Office to pick it up. You may use a P.O. box, Post Office General Delivery, or a temporary mailing address.

***Can I write in a candidate's name?**

Yes. Be sure to fill the bubble next to the write-in name. Please write the name clearly so there is no doubt who you are naming.

***Why isn't the position of mayor on my ballot? Or city council?**

Because you live outside the city boundary. You might have the city as your post office, but it's not your voting precinct.

***My friend's ballot looks different from mine. Why?**

There are 50 different precincts for Jackson County. It depends on which precinct you live in.

***How do I know that no one is cheating on the counting of ballots?**

The ballots are strictly handled by teams of two, each from a different political party, who have to agree on the count and sign off on it together. Also, Election Observers from different parties are invited to watch the entire process.

***I moved and I never got a ballot even though my mail has all been forwarded.**

Ballots are not forwarded. You must fill out a new voter registration form and submit it to the Election Office before 8pm on Election Day, and then fill out a new ballot. If you go into the Election Office to do it, you will have your ballot placed right into your hands rather than waiting for it to be mailed. (There is a voter registration form on the back of the Voters' Pamphlet.)

***Can I pick up a new ballot for my spouse/family member/friend?**

Yes, but only if you bring a letter from them designating you as the person to pick up the ballot AND THEY MUST SIGN THE LETTER, and YOU MUST BRING PHOTO ID. If they are changing anything on their registration, they need to also provide a new signed voter registration form. (There is a voter registration form on the back of the Voters' Pamphlet.)

***I moved here from another state and didn't get registered to vote by the deadline (Oct. 18). Does that mean I can't vote?**

You can go to the Election Office and request a provisional ballot which will have the Federal Candidates on it (you can vote for President and Vice President).

***Can a homeless person vote?**

Yes, if you were registered to vote. Call the Election Office or go there in person and they will help you.