



# Secretary of State

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Presidential Primary Advisory #09  
Voter Intent | Consolidated Ballots  
April 6, 2016

A Presidential Primary **consolidated ballot** contains two separate political party ballots. Both ballots are printed on one side of a single sheet of paper.

Voter intent materials for consolidated ballots included with this Advisory do not address the voter's particular marking style. Rather, the focus is on whether the voter marked the *correct* party ballot.

## Declared Party, Opposite Party

In order for a voter's Presidential Primary ballot to be tabulated, they must stay on "their side" of the ballot. Meaning, the party declaration selected by the voter on the envelope must match the party ballot voted.

A **declared party ballot** is a properly voted ballot. Voting the **opposite party ballot**, or voting both party ballots, invalidates the voter's ballot.

**Advisory 09** materials include:

- Glossary of voter intent terms.
- Table 1, Consolidated Ballot Scenarios.
- Examples (1 – 8).
- *Voter Intent Manual*.

**See the Glossary** for these new terms:

- Declared party ballot.
- Opposite party ballot.
- Cross-party voted ballot.
- Both-party voted ballot.

## Voter Intent Principles

The following principles summarize advice from the Attorney General’s Office, [WAC 434-219-235](#), and [WAC 434-261-086](#):

- When the voter selects a party declaration, they must vote on “their side” of the ballot.
- When the voter marks the “declared” party ballot, the ballot may be tabulated.
- When the voter marks the “opposite” party ballot, the ballot must be rejected.

For illustrations, see Examples 1 – 8, and refer to the quick reference chart of Consolidated Ballot Scenarios (see Table 1).

Statewide standards published in the [Voter Intent Manual](#) also apply to properly voted ballots. For example:

- The exceptions to Rule A, “Target Area,” still apply. Voters may make obvious stray marks, hesitation marks, written notes, and corrected votes (see Rule A, pp. 2 – 22).
- Because the Presidential Primary ballot is a single-race ballot, Rule B, “One Mark on a Ballot,” applies. Voters may mark outside the **target area**, but are not required to demonstrate a pattern of similar marks (see Rule B, p. 25 and visual examples, pp. 39 – 43).
- Voters may correct a mistake. For example, a candidate who has been crossed out on the opposite party ballot, leaving a candidate marked on the declared party ballot, is a corrected vote for the candidate on the declared party ballot (see Rules C, D and E, pp. 44–55).

Write-in voting rules:

- A write-in vote on a party ballot is a vote for that political party, no exceptions—even if the candidate is a known candidate for another party.
- Refer to write-in Examples 4 – 8 (included here), as well as write-in voting rules in the *Voter Intent Manual* (see Rules H – P, pp. 62 – 81).

## Inspection

The voter’s first completed (returned, marked and signed) **political party declaration** may qualify the ballot for further processing. For voter intent examples related to how the voter marked the declaration envelope or Cure Form, see Advisory 07, [Cure Form | Incomplete Declarations](#).

Procedures for manual inspection (opening) must identify ballots that are not properly voted. If the voter votes for a candidate on his or her declared party ballot, the ballot must be tabulated.

If the voter votes for a candidate on the opposite party ballot, the ballot must not be tabulated. If the voter votes in both races, the ballot is void and must not be tabulated.

Again, for visuals related to how the voter marked the consolidated ballot, including write-in votes, see Examples 1 – 8 (included).

## Rejection

Political party ballots that are cross-party voted or both-party voted must be referred to the County Canvassing Board for rejection.

A list of data points to track and report was provided to County Auditors (March 8, 2016). The following two categories of rejected ballots are on the list:

- **Cross-party voted ballots.** The party declaration on the envelope fails to match the party voted on the ballot.
- **Both-party voted ballots.** The voter voted for candidates on *both* party ballots.

Again, these ballots must be referred for rejection and cannot be tabulated (see Table 1).

## Resources

For Advisories 1 through 9, including guides and checklists, see our [Presidential Primary Advisory Program](#).

For questions pertaining to voter intent or reporting data related to ballots, please contact the Certification and Training Program at (360) 902-4180 or email [CTsupport](mailto:CTsupport@sos.wa.gov).

## Voter Intent | Glossary

Presidential Primary Advisory 09 (WAC [434-219-235](#) and [434-261-086](#))

See Examples 1 – 8

For additional glossary terms, see the *Voter Intent Manual* (p. 86).

### **Both-party Voted Ballot**

The ballot contains votes on *both* party ballots.

### **Consolidated Ballot**

Two separate political party ballots are printed on one side of a single sheet of paper.

### **Cross-party Voted Ballot**

The party declaration on the envelope fails to match the party ballot voted.

### **Declared Party Ballot**

Contains candidates from the same party as selected by the voter on his or her declaration.

### **Opposite Party Ballot**

Contains candidates who are *not* of the same party as selected by the voter on his or her declaration.

### **Overvote**

Votes cast for more than one candidate on the *declared* party ballot. The marks are tabulated as an overvote.

### **Political Party Declaration**

Wording submitted by each major party as required by state or national party rules. Each voter wishing to participate in the Presidential Primary must mark and sign one political party declaration.

### **Target Area**

The area corresponding to a candidate or write-in line where the voter marks a vote. Tabulation systems read target areas.

### **Write-in Vote**

A valid vote written by the voter on a *declared* party ballot.

## Voter Intent | Consolidated Ballot Scenarios

Presidential Primary Advisory 09 (WAC [434-219-235](#) and [434-261-086](#))

See Examples 1 – 8

Use this reference table in combination with Examples 1 – 8 (included) and the *Voter Intent Manual*.

Table 1.

Example	Tabulate	Do Not Tabulate	Comments
1. Cross-party Voted Ballot		•	When a vote is marked for a candidate on the <i>opposite</i> party ballot, the ballot has been cross-party voted.
2. Both-party Voted Ballot		•	When votes are marked on <i>both</i> party ballots, the ballot has been both-party voted.
3. Two Candidates, Same Party	•		This is a true overvote. When the voter marks more than one candidate within the same party on the declared ballot, it's tabulated as an overvote.
4. Write-in: Already Printed on the Declared Party Ballot	•		This is not an overvote, but a valid vote for the printed candidate. This is true whether both target areas are marked, or no target areas are marked. See Rule I, <i>Voter Intent Manual</i> , and all write-in voting Rules H through P (pp. 62 – 81).
5. Write-in: Cross-party Voted Ballot		•	Even though the known candidate is printed on the voter's declared party ballot, writing the candidate's name on the <i>opposite</i> party ballot makes it a vote for the opposite party. The ballot has been cross-party voted.
6. Write-in: Cross-party Voted Ballot with Party Designation		•	In this case, a party designation is not considered a valid "written instruction." Even though the known candidate's party is written by the voter, the voter marked the <i>opposite</i> party ballot. A valid write-in vote must be written on the declared party ballot. The ballot has been cross-party voted.
7. Write-in: Opposite Party, Known Candidate	•		Even though the known candidate's name is printed on the opposite party ballot, the voter marked the <i>declared</i> party ballot. This is still a valid vote for that candidate, but must be tabulated as a write-in on the declared party ballot.
8. Write-in: Both-party Voted Ballot		•	The voter marked both party ballots. The act of writing the candidate's name on the <i>opposite</i> party ballot makes it a vote for the opposite party. Meaning, the ballot has been both-party voted.
Rule B, Voter Intent Manual	Maybe. We assume the voter intends to vote.		For marks made outside the target area, see the <i>Voter Intent Manual</i> . Rule B, One Mark on a Ballot (p. 25 and pp. 39 – 43).
Rules C, D and E, Voter Intent Manual	Maybe. We assume the voter intends to vote.		For corrected votes and written instructions from the voter, see the <i>Voter Intent Manual</i> . Rules C, D and E (pp. 44 – 55).

**Example 1. Cross-party Voted Ballot**

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**Do not tabulate.** The mark for Bernie Sanders is not a valid vote.

Why? In the following example, the voter marked a target area on the opposite party ballot. This is a cross-party voted ballot. The voter selected the “Republican” party declaration, but marked a vote on the “Democratic” party ballot.

The ballot must be referred to the Canvassing Board for rejection.

*envelope*

**2 Mark one party declaration box (required)**

**Democratic Party**  
I declare that I consider myself to be a DEMOCRAT and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2016 Presidential election.

**Republican Party**  
I declare that I am a Republican and I have not participated and will not participate in the 2016 precinct caucus or convention system of any other party.

*ballot*

<b>Democratic Party</b>	<b>Republican Party</b>
<b>If you marked Democratic Party on your return envelope, you must vote for ONE Democratic candidate below.</b>	<b>If you marked Republican Party on your return envelope, you must vote for ONE Republican candidate below.</b>
<p><input type="radio"/> Hillary Clinton</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Bernie Sanders</p> <p><input type="radio"/> _____</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Ben Carson</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Ted Cruz</p> <p><input type="radio"/> John R. Kasich</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Donald J. Trump</p> <p><input type="radio"/> _____</p>

**Example 2. Both-party Voted Ballot**

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**Do not tabulate.** These marks are not valid votes for any candidate.

Why? In the following example, the voter marked target areas on each party ballot. This is a both-party voted ballot. Votes cast for both parties are not permitted.

The ballot must be referred to the Canvassing Board for rejection.

*envelope*

<b>2</b>	<b>Mark one party declaration box (required)</b>
<b>X</b>	<b>Democratic Party</b> I declare that I consider myself to be a DEMOCRAT and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2016 Presidential election.
	<b>Republican Party</b> I declare that I am a Republican and I have not participated and will not participate in the 2016 precinct caucus or convention system of any other party.

*ballot*

Democratic Party	Republican Party
If you marked Democratic Party on your return envelope, you must vote for ONE Democratic candidate below.	If you marked Republican Party on your return envelope, you must vote for ONE Republican candidate below.
<input type="radio"/> Hillary Clinton	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Ben Carson
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Bernie Sanders	<input type="radio"/> Ted Cruz
<input type="radio"/> _____	<input type="radio"/> John R. Kasich
	<input type="radio"/> Donald J. Trump
	<input type="radio"/> _____

**Example 3. Two Candidates, Same Party**

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**Tabulate as an overvote.** These marks are not valid votes for any candidate.

Why? In the following example, the voter marked two target areas on the declared party ballot. This is a true overvote. Votes cast for more than one candidate are not permitted.

Votes cast for more than one candidate are tabulated as an overvote only when the overvote occurs on the declared party ballot.

*envelope*

**2 Mark one party declaration box (required)**

**X Democratic Party**  
I declare that I consider myself to be a DEMOCRAT and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2016 Presidential election.

**Republican Party**  
I declare that I am a Republican and I have not participated and will not participate in the 2016 precinct caucus or convention system of any other party.

*ballot*

<b>Democratic Party</b>	<b>Republican Party</b>
<b>If you marked Democratic Party on your return envelope, you must vote for ONE Democratic candidate below.</b>	<b>If you marked Republican Party on your return envelope, you must vote for ONE Republican candidate below.</b>
<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Hillary Clinton</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Bernie Sanders</p> <p><input type="radio"/> _____</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Ben Carson</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Ted Cruz</p> <p><input type="radio"/> John R. Kasich</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Donald J. Trump</p> <p><input type="radio"/> _____</p>

**Example 4.** Write-in: Already Printed on Declared Party Ballot

**Tabulate.** This mark is a valid vote to be duplicated (or resolved) for the printed candidate, Hillary Clinton.

Why? In the following example, the voter wrote the name of a candidate who is already printed on the declared party ballot. This is **not** tabulated as an overvote, nor as a write-in vote, but must be counted as a valid vote for the printed candidate. This applies if both target areas are marked or no target areas are marked.

For additional write-in voting rules applicable to **declared** party ballots, see the *Voter Intent Manual*, Rules H through P.

*envelope*

**2 Mark one party declaration box (required)**

**X Democratic Party**  
I declare that I consider myself to be a DEMOCRAT and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2016 Presidential election.

**Republican Party**  
I declare that I am a Republican and I have not participated and will not participate in the 2016 precinct caucus or convention system of any other party.

*ballot*

Democratic Party	Republican Party
If you marked Democratic Party on your return envelope, you must vote for ONE Democratic candidate below.	If you marked Republican Party on your return envelope, you must vote for ONE Republican candidate below.
<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Hillary Clinton</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Bernie Sanders</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> <u><i>Hillary Clinton</i></u></p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Ben Carson</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Ted Cruz</p> <p><input type="radio"/> John R. Kasich</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Donald J. Trump</p> <p><input type="radio"/> _____</p>

**Example 5. Write-in: Cross-party Voted Ballot**

**Do not tabulate.** The mark for Bernie Sanders is not a valid vote.

Why? In the following example, the voter has written a vote on the opposite party ballot. The voter selected the “Democratic” party declaration, but attempted to vote the “Republican” party ballot. This is a cross-party voted ballot. Even though the known candidate’s name is printed on the declared party ballot, a write-in vote on a political party ballot is a vote for that political party—no exceptions.

Whether or not the voter marks the target area, a write-in vote on an opposite party ballot is not valid. The ballot must be referred to the Canvassing Board for rejection.

*envelope*

**2 Mark one party declaration box (required)**

**X Democratic Party**  
I declare that I consider myself to be a DEMOCRAT and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2016 Presidential election.

**Republican Party**  
I declare that I am a Republican and I have not participated and will not participate in the 2016 precinct caucus or convention system of any other party.

*ballot*

<b>Democratic Party</b>	<b>Republican Party</b>
If you marked Democratic Party on your return envelope, you must vote for ONE Democratic candidate below.	If you marked Republican Party on your return envelope, you must vote for ONE Republican candidate below.
<input type="radio"/> Hillary Clinton  <input type="radio"/> Bernie Sanders  <input type="radio"/> _____	<input type="radio"/> Ben Carson  <input type="radio"/> Ted Cruz  <input type="radio"/> John R. Kasich  <input type="radio"/> Donald J. Trump  <input checked="" type="radio"/> <u><i>Bernie Sanders</i></u>

**Example 6.** Write-in: Cross-party Voted Ballot with Party Designation

**Do not tabulate.** The mark for Bernie Sanders is not a valid vote.

Why? In the following example, the voter has written a vote on the opposite party ballot. The voter selected the “Democratic” party declaration, but attempted to vote the “Republican” party ballot. This is a cross-party voted ballot.

The party designation added by the voter is not considered a valid “written instruction.” Whether or not the voter includes a party designation, a write-in vote on a political party ballot is a vote for that political party—no exceptions. The ballot must be referred to the Canvassing Board for rejection.

*envelope*

**2 Mark one party declaration box (required)**

**X Democratic Party**  
I declare that I consider myself to be a DEMOCRAT and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2016 Presidential election.

**Republican Party**  
I declare that I am a Republican and I have not participated and will not participate in the 2016 precinct caucus or convention system of any other party.

*ballot*

<b>Democratic Party</b>	<b>Republican Party</b>
If you marked Democratic Party on your return envelope, you must vote for ONE Democratic candidate below.	If you marked Republican Party on your return envelope, you must vote for ONE Republican candidate below.
<input type="radio"/> Hillary Clinton  <input type="radio"/> Bernie Sanders  <input type="radio"/> _____	<input type="radio"/> Ben Carson  <input type="radio"/> Ted Cruz  <input type="radio"/> John R. Kasich  <input type="radio"/> Donald J. Trump  <input checked="" type="radio"/> <u><i>Bernie Sanders, democrat</i></u>

**Example 7. Write-in: Opposite Party, Known Candidate**

**Tabulate, but only as a write-in vote on the declared Republican Party ballot.** This mark is a write-in vote for Hillary Clinton, Republican Party.

Why? In the following example, the voter has written the name of a known candidate on the declared party ballot. Because the voter selected the “Republican” declaration and properly voted the “Republican” party ballot, this is a write-in vote for the candidate as a “Republican.” Even though the known candidate is printed on the opposite party ballot, a write-in vote on a political party ballot is a vote for that political party—no exceptions.

This is **not** tabulated as a vote for the known candidate printed on the “Democratic” party ballot.

*envelope*

**2 Mark one party declaration box (required)**

**Democratic Party**  
I declare that I consider myself to be a DEMOCRAT and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2016 Presidential election.

**Republican Party**  
I declare that I am a Republican and I have not participated and will not participate in the 2016 precinct caucus or convention system of any other party.

*ballot*

<b>Democratic Party</b>	<b>Republican Party</b>
<b>If you marked Democratic Party on your return envelope, you must vote for ONE Democratic candidate below.</b>	<b>If you marked Republican Party on your return envelope, you must vote for ONE Republican candidate below.</b>
<p><input type="radio"/> Hillary Clinton</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Bernie Sanders</p> <p><input type="radio"/> _____</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Ben Carson</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Ted Cruz</p> <p><input type="radio"/> John R. Kasich</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Donald J. Trump</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> <u><i>Hillary Clinton</i></u></p>

**Example 8. Write-in: Both-party Voted Ballot**

**Do not tabulate.** These marks are not valid votes for Ted Cruz.

Why? In the following example, the voter marked target areas on each party ballot. The voter voted for a candidate on the declared party ballot AND wrote the same candidate's name on the opposite party ballot. This is a both-party voted ballot.

The act of writing the candidate's name on the opposite party ballot makes it a vote for the opposite party. A write-in vote on a party ballot is a vote for that political party—no exceptions. The ballot must be referred to the Canvassing Board for rejection.

*envelope*

<b>2</b>	<b>Mark one party declaration box (required)</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Democratic Party</b> I declare that I consider myself to be a DEMOCRAT and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2016 Presidential election.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Republican Party</b> I declare that I am a Republican and I have not participated and will not participate in the 2016 precinct caucus or convention system of any other party.

*ballot*

Democratic Party	Republican Party
If you marked Democratic Party on your return envelope, you must vote for ONE Democratic candidate below.	If you marked Republican Party on your return envelope, you must vote for ONE Republican candidate below.
<input type="radio"/> Hillary Clinton	<input type="radio"/> Ben Carson
<input type="radio"/> Bernie Sanders	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Ted Cruz
<input checked="" type="radio"/> <u>Ted Cruz</u>	<input type="radio"/> John R. Kasich
	<input type="radio"/> Donald J. Trump
	<input type="radio"/> _____