



Secretary of State

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Presidential Primary 2020 Advisory #07

Voter Intent | Consolidated Ballots

January 24, 2020

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.

Advisory 07 materials include:

- Glossary of voter intent terms.
- Table 1, Consolidated Ballot Scenarios.
- Examples (1 – 10).
- *Voter Intent Manual*.

See the Glossary for these terms:

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

Voter Intent Principles

The following principles summarize Presidential Primary voter intent principals from [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 – 10, 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. 3 – 17).
- 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, pp. 28-33).
- Voters may correct a mistake. For example, a candidate’s name that 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. 34—45).

Write-in voting rules:

- Political parties may submit to the Secretary of State a list of write-in candidate names to be tallied for that party’s ballot no later than 7 days before the Presidential Primary.
- A write-in vote on a party ballot is tabulated as a vote for that political party, no exceptions—even if the candidate is a known candidate for another party. However, only votes for candidate or write-in candidate names provided by the party are tallied.
- All votes for write-in candidate names provided by the party are tallied and included in the certified results.
- Refer to write-in Examples 4 – 10 (included here), as well as write-in voting rules in the Voter Intent Manual (see Rules H – P, pp. 52 – 71).

Inspection

The voter's first completed (returned, marked and signed) **political party declaration** may qualify the ballot for further processing. Because everyone will receive the same ballot style, this is true for both reissued and replacement ballots. For voter intent examples related to how the voter marked the declaration envelope or Cure Form, see Advisory 03, [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 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.

If the voter votes for a candidate only on their declared party ballot, the ballot is properly voted and must be tabulated.

For visuals related to how the voter marked the consolidated ballot, including write-in votes, see Examples 1 – 10 (included).

Rejection

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

This data is not tracked within VoteWA and will need to be recorded separately. See Advisory 04, [Completing the Presidential Primary](#) for more information.

The number of rejected ballots in the following two categories should be available in your Canvassing Board minutes:

- **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 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@sos.wa.gov.

Voter Intent | Consolidated Ballot Scenarios

Use this reference table in combination with Examples 1 – 10 (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> (pp. 54-55), and all write-in voting Rules H through P (pp. 53 – 71). |
| 5. Write-in: Not on Party Provided List | • | | This vote will be only be tabulated as a write-in on the <i>declared</i> party ballot, it will not be tallied and included in the certified results because the name does not appear on the list of write-in candidates provided by the party. |
| 6. 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. |
| 7. 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. |
| 8. 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 not a valid vote for that candidate because that candidate is not on the <i>declared</i> party write-in list. However, it must be tabulated as a write-in on the <i>declared</i> party ballot. |
| 9. 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. |
| 10. Write-in: Both-party Voted Ballot, Target Area Not Marked | | • | The voter marked both party ballots. "Yay Candidate D4!!" is considered a write-in vote on the <i>opposite</i> party ballot, regardless if the target area has been marked or not (Rule H, pp. 52-53). |
| 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 (pp. 28 – 33). |
| 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. 34 – 45). |

Voter Intent | Glossary

For additional glossary terms, see the *Voter Intent Manual* (pp. 76).

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 marked party declaration on the envelope does not match the party ballot voted.

Declared Party Ballot

Contains votes for a candidate on the ballot of the same party selected by the voter on their declaration.

Opposite Party Ballot

Contains a vote for a candidate on the ballot *not* of the same party selected by the voter on their 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 oval or rectangle corresponding to a candidate, write-in line, or choice on the ballot where the voter is instructed to mark their vote. Tabulation systems read target areas.

Write-in Vote

A valid vote written by the voter on a *declared* party ballot. Only write-in votes for candidate and write-in candidate names provided by the political party are valid write-in votes.

Example 1. Cross-party Voted Ballot

Do not tabulate. The mark for Candidate D2 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

| |
|---|
| <p>2 Mark <u>one</u> party declaration box (required)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Democratic Party I declare that my party preference is the Democratic Party and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2020 Presidential election.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Republican Party I declare that I am a Republican and I have not participated and will not participate in the 2020 precinct caucus or convention system of any other party.</p> |
|---|

ballot

| Democratic Party | Republican Party |
|---|---|
| <p>If you marked Democratic Party on your return envelope, you must vote for ONE Democratic candidate below.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Candidate D1</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Candidate D2</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Candidate D3</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Candidate D4</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Uncommitted Delegates</p> <p><input type="radio"/> _____</p> | <p>If you marked Republican Party on your return envelope, you must vote for ONE Republican candidate below.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Candidate R1</p> <p><input type="radio"/> _____</p> |

Example 2. Both-party Voted Ballot

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

| |
|---|
| <p>2 Mark <u>one</u> party declaration box (required)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Democratic Party I declare that my party preference is the Democratic Party and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2020 Presidential election.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Republican Party I declare that I am a Republican and I have not participated and will not participate in the 2020 precinct caucus or convention system of any other party.</p> |
|---|

ballot

| Democratic Party | Republican Party |
|---|--|
| <p>If you marked Democratic Party on your return envelope, you must vote for ONE Democratic candidate below.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Candidate D1</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Candidate D2</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Candidate D3</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Candidate D4</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Uncommitted Delegates</p> <p><input type="radio"/> _____</p> | <p>If you marked Republican Party on your return envelope, you must vote for ONE Republican candidate below.</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Candidate R1</p> <p><input type="radio"/> _____</p> |

Example 3. Two Candidates, Same Party

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

| |
|---|
| <p>2 Mark <u>one</u> party declaration box (required)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Democratic Party I declare that my party preference is the Democratic Party and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2020 Presidential election.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Republican Party I declare that I am a Republican and I have not participated and will not participate in the 2020 precinct caucus or convention system of any other party.</p> |
|---|

ballot

| Democratic Party | Republican Party |
|--|---|
| <p>If you marked Democratic Party on your return envelope, you must vote for ONE Democratic candidate below.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Candidate D1</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Candidate D2</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Candidate D3</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Candidate D4</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Uncommitted Delegates</p> <p><input type="radio"/> _____</p> | <p>If you marked Republican Party on your return envelope, you must vote for ONE Republican candidate below.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Candidate R1</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, Candidate D2.

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)

Democratic Party
I declare that my party preference is the Democratic Party and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2020 Presidential election.

Republican Party
I declare that I am a Republican and I have not participated and will not participate in the 2020 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"/> Candidate D1 <input checked="" type="radio"/> Candidate D2 <input type="radio"/> Candidate D3 <input type="radio"/> Candidate D4 <input type="radio"/> Uncommitted Delegates <input checked="" type="radio"/> <u>Candidate D2</u> | <input type="radio"/> Candidate R1 <input type="radio"/> _____ |

Example 5. Write-in: Not on Party Provided List

Tabulate, but only as write-in vote on the declared Republican Party ballot. A. Candidate is not on the Republican list of write-in candidates.

Why? Political parties may submit to the Secretary of State a list of write-in candidate names to be counted for that party’s ballot no later than 7 days before the Presidential Primary. In the following example, the voter has written a name that does not appear on the list of write-in candidate names provided by the party, nor is it a candidate name already printed on the ballot for that party.

Because the voter selected the “Republican” declaration and properly voted the “Republican” party ballot, this will be tabulated as a write-in vote for the “Republican” party ballot, but it will not be tallied and included in the certified results.

envelope

| |
|--|
| 2 Mark <u>one</u> party declaration box (required) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Democratic Party I declare that my party preference is the Democratic Party and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2020 Presidential election. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Republican Party I declare that I am a Republican and I have not participated and will not participate in the 2020 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"/> Candidate D1 | <input type="radio"/> Candidate R1 |
| <input type="radio"/> Candidate D2 | <input checked="" type="radio"/> <u>A. Candidate</u> |
| <input type="radio"/> Candidate D3 | |
| <input type="radio"/> Candidate D4 | |
| <input type="radio"/> Uncommitted Delegates | |
| <input type="radio"/> _____ | |

Example 6. Write-in: Cross-party Voted Ballot

Do not tabulate. The mark for Candidate D1 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 <u>one</u> party declaration box (required) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Democratic Party I declare that my party preference is the Democratic Party and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2020 Presidential election. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Republican Party I declare that I am a Republican and I have not participated and will not participate in the 2020 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"/> Candidate D1 | <input type="radio"/> Candidate R1 |
| <input type="radio"/> Candidate D2 | <input checked="" type="radio"/> <u>Candidate D1</u> |
| <input type="radio"/> Candidate D3 | |
| <input type="radio"/> Candidate D4 | |
| <input type="radio"/> Uncommitted Delegates | |
| <input type="radio"/> _____ | |

Example 7. Write-in: Cross-party Voted Ballot with Party Designation

Do not tabulate. The mark for Candidate D1 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 <u>one</u> party declaration box (required) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Democratic Party I declare that my party preference is the Democratic Party and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2020 Presidential election. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Republican Party I declare that I am a Republican and I have not participated and will not participate in the 2020 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"/> Candidate D1 | <input type="radio"/> Candidate R1 |
| <input type="radio"/> Candidate D2 | <input checked="" type="radio"/> <u>Candidate D1, democrat</u> |
| <input type="radio"/> Candidate D3 | |
| <input type="radio"/> Candidate D4 | |
| <input type="radio"/> Uncommitted Delegates | |
| <input type="radio"/> _____ | |

Example 8. 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 Candidate D4, Republican Party. Candidate D4 is not on the Republican Party list of write-in candidates.

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 <u>one</u> party declaration box (required) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Democratic Party I declare that my party preference is the Democratic Party and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2020 Presidential election. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Republican Party I declare that I am a Republican and I have not participated and will not participate in the 2020 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"/> Candidate D1 | <input type="radio"/> Candidate R1 |
| <input type="radio"/> Candidate D2 | <input checked="" type="radio"/> <u>Candidate D4</u> |
| <input type="radio"/> Candidate D3 | |
| <input type="radio"/> Candidate D4 | |
| <input type="radio"/> Uncommitted Delegates | |
| <input type="radio"/> _____ | |

Example 9. Write-in: Both-party Voted Ballot

Do not tabulate. These marks are not valid votes for Candidate R1.

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

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 2 | Mark <u>one</u> party declaration box (required) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Democratic Party I declare that my party preference is the Democratic Party and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2020 Presidential election. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Republican Party I declare that I am a Republican and I have not participated and will not participate in the 2020 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"/> Candidate D1 | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Candidate R1 |
| <input type="radio"/> Candidate D2 | <input type="radio"/> _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Candidate D3 | |
| <input type="radio"/> Candidate D4 | |
| <input type="radio"/> Uncommitted Delegates | |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> <u>Candidate R1</u> | |

Example 10. Write-in: Both-party Voted Ballot, Target Area Not Marked

Do not tabulate. These marks are not valid votes for Candidate D4.

Why? In the following example, the voter marked a vote on each party ballot. The voter voted for a candidate on the declared party ballot AND marked a write-in vote on the opposite party ballot. This is a both-party voted ballot.

“Yay Candidate D4!!” is considered a write-in vote on the Republican Party ballot whether or not the voter marks the corresponding target area (Rule H in the *Voter Intent Manual*). A write-in vote on an opposite 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 <u>one</u> party declaration box (required) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Democratic Party I declare that my party preference is the Democratic Party and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2020 Presidential election. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Republican Party I declare that I am a Republican and I have not participated and will not participate in the 2020 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"/> Candidate D1 | <input type="radio"/> Candidate R1 |
| <input type="radio"/> Candidate D2 | <input type="radio"/> <u>Yay Candidate D4!!</u> |
| <input type="radio"/> Candidate D3 | |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> Candidate D4 | |
| <input type="radio"/> Uncommitted Delegates | |
| <input type="radio"/> _____ | |