

17-YEAR-OLD VOTERS: How to Vote Using an Optical Scan Ballot

As a 17-year-old voter who will be 18 years of age on or before the November 6, 2012 general election, you may vote only on the nominations of candidates at the March 6, 2012 primary election. This is because you will be eligible to vote in November for the candidate(s) nominated in March for these offices.

While you are 17, you may NOT vote on the election of presidential delegates and alternate delegate to a political party's nominating convention, state central or county central committee persons in March. In addition, you may NOT vote on any question or issue on the March primary election ballot, such as a school tax levy, charter amendment, or local liquor option, because these races, questions and issues relate only to this primary election, and you must be at least 18 years of age to vote on them.

Please read the following instructions on how to mark your ballot:

1. Before marking your ballot, make sure that there are not any marks already on it. If there are marks on the ballot, return the ballot to the election officials for a clean ballot with no marks on it.
2. Read the directions on the unmarked ballot carefully before you vote:
 - ✓ If the ballot allows you to cast one vote for a particular office, you may fill in only one oval or box on your ballot.
 - ✓ If the ballot allows you to cast more than one vote for the same office, you may fill in the maximum amount of ovals or boxes allowed by the directions.
3. Use the marking pen provided to mark your vote on the optical scan ballot.
4. Completely fill in the oval or box to the left of the candidate's name you want to vote for.
5. To cast a vote for a person who has filed to be a write-in candidate:
 - ✓ Find the blank line provided on the ballot under the names of candidates listed for a particular office.
 - ✓ Fill in the oval or box to the left of that blank line.
 - ✓ Clearly write the name of the write-in candidate on the blank line. Only votes for a person who previously filed with the board of election to become a write-in candidate will be counted.
6. If you have questions, please feel free to ask the election officials for assistance.
7. If you make an error while marking your ballot, please take your ballot to the election officials. The election officials will void that ballot and give you a new one. You may request up to two replacement ballots.
8. Once you have completed marking your ballot and have reviewed your ballot to make sure it reflects your wishes (be sure you have not marked a question or issue that you are not permitted to vote for), place your ballot in the envelope given to you and return the envelope with your ballot in it to the election officials.
9. Once you place your ballot in the envelope given to you and return it to the election officials, you may not request another ballot.
10. Your ballot will be sent to the county board of elections with all the other ballots after the polls close. Your ballot does not identify you; your vote is secret. It is placed in the envelope so that election officials at the board of elections can make sure that no 17-year-old accidentally voted on a question or issue. All ballots from eligible 17-year-olds who have voted will be counted.
11. CONGRATULATIONS! You have taken a positive first step to being a lifelong participant in your government. THANK YOU for showing good citizenship and voting as soon as you were able.