

How will you vote? Straight-Ticket Voting, Individual Races, or a Hybrid of Both Methods?

Straight-ticket voting: Fill in one bubble for your political party of choice and every race with a candidate from that party will be selected. Make sure to vote on the four amendments as well since they are not party of the straight-ticket voting.

Individual Races: Go through every race on the ballot individually and fill in one bubble for each race. Choose either the Democrat or the Republican, or you can write in a candidate's name (make sure you also fill in the bubble next to the write-in line, if applicable). You may also skip any race you do not wish to vote on. Make sure to vote on the four amendments as well.

Hybrid of Both Methods: If you want to vote for most - but not all - of the candidates for one political party, fill in the straight-ticket voting bubble for your party of choice. Then go through the ballot to find those races where you want to vote for the other party or for a write-in candidate. Fill in one bubble as described above for the individual races. Your choice for each individual race you fill in will be counted instead of your straight-ticket voting for that race. Make sure to vote on the four amendments as well.

Various Scenarios

Scenario 1: I voted straight-ticket but then filled in a bubble for every race on the ballot. Did I overvote in any race? Answer: No, you did not overvote. The votes that were counted were the bubbles for the individual races since those supersede the straight-ticket voting.

Scenario 2: I voted straight-ticket but then voted for a candidate from the other party for Governor. Did I overvote in the governor's race? Answer: No, you did not overvote. You voted for every candidate for your straight-ticket political party of choice except for the governor. You voted for the governor for the other party because that individual race superseded the straight-ticket voting for that one race.

Scenario 3: I only voted for Governor and no other races. Did I mess up my ballot? Answer: No, you did not mess up your ballot. You did, however, undervote your ballot. This means that you skipped at least one race on your ballot, which you are allowed to do. Some people skip a race if they are not familiar with the candidates or if there is no candidate from their preferred party. You are also entitled to leave the entire ballot blank if you so choose.

Scenario 4: I voted for both the Democratic and Republican governor candidates. I voted for only one candidate for the rest of the races. Did I mess up my ballot? Answer: Yes and no. Your ballot is messed up for that one race (the governor's race), which has been overvoted. But the rest of your ballot is fine. When you put the ballot in the machine, you will see a message that you have overvoted in a race. You can choose to retrieve your ballot, obtain a new ballot, and redo it. This is not a problem and is easily done. You can also tell the machine to accept your original ballot if you do not want to redo it. This is entirely up to you.

Take home message: If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask a poll worker **BEFORE** you put your ballot in the machine. Once the ballot has been accepted into the machine, there is nothing that can be done to change it.