

Help eliminate the need for ballot duplication by reducing ballot errors.

Why this flyer was printed for you:

- *to make your vote count as **you intend**
- *to reduce ballot errors causing the tabulation scanner to misread or kick out
- *to stop needless BALLOT DUPLICATION

Receiving Your Ballot

All registered active voters receive ballots by mail about two weeks before an election. If not, no later than ten days before the voting deadline, phone the Elections Dept., 509-477-2320, **or** click on “track your ballot” at www.spokanecounty.org/elections to check if your ballot was already voted (it can happen), or was returned by mail to the Elections Dept. Forwarding mail takes time.

How Ballots Are Read

Ballots are read by tabulation scanners which can *misread* your vote: stray marks in a second oval *might be read as a vote and will not count*. The scanner **may not read a vote at all** because of other errors. Tens of 1000s of ballots require DUPLICATION by hand to allow scanners to read a ballot originally marked in some way that might cause it to be misread or unreadable.

Over 20,000 ballots were DUPLICATED in the 2010 General Election. Thousands of votes didn't count. Why? Human error!

Eliminate Ballot Errors

Use BLACK felt pen or BLACK ballpoint ink. Do not change pens. Let the ink dry before refolding to avoid stray marks/smudges.

The center of the oval must be fully filled in. **Do not** leave any size of white space inside the oval's center. A small white space inside a partially filled-in oval can be read by the machine as a “no vote.”

Draw a line through all mistakes and stray marks to clearly identify them... then mark the oval you want. This helps ensure your *voting intent* is preserved.

Most write-ins require DUPLICATION. Candidate names must be legible and accu-

rately spelled. Fictional, celebrity names, or impolite words cause needless DUPLICATION. *Once DUPLICATED, your original ballot is sealed away not to be viewed again.* DUPLICATED ballots become a “new” original ballot.

Voting signatures must match voter registration signatures. You may request to view what's on file since signatures are verified; many things cause signatures to be disqualified; 1000s of ballots *don't count* because of this problem.

Unable to sign your name? Use two witnesses; there's a place for their names attesting to your signing attempt.

Additionally, **NO:**

- *pencil, glitter ink, or gel ink
- *light colored ink or other dark-colored inks
- *stray marks, dirt, grit, grease
- *food or drink stains
- *pencil or ink erasures or white-out
- *extra wrinkles or tears in the ballot
- *sticky anything – glue, honey, or *any other residue*
- *X's or “check-marks” in ovals; **DO** fill in the ovals completely

What If I Make These Errors

Errors happen and you may request a new ballot, **OR**, mail *your ballot in anyway* realizing it will require DUPLICATION.

DUPLICATION is time consuming for election employees and costly to taxpayers. This information will help ensure the scanner reads your ballot accurately, thereby decreasing the need for HAND processing.

Never sign a ballot envelope for anyone else. It is against the law; you may incur legal prosecution. (Durable power of attorney does not allow you to sign any other person's envelope.) **Marking ballots with consistency is key for greater accuracy in tabulation.**

Thank you!

Your vote makes a difference.

This Voter Education Pamphlet was paid for by private funds and shared with you to help ensure your vote counts the way you *intend* it to.

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