
Properly Marking the Optical Scan Ballot

For Idaho

Optical Scan Counties

Arrow Ballots and Oval Ballots

The following instructions apply to both oval and arrow optical scan ballots, whichever type is used by your county

Demonstrate for all voters

Each elector should be given a demonstration on Optical Scan voting procedures

Make Sure Voters Know

A voter demonstration assures that all voters know how to mark their ballot properly

A Properly Marked Ballot

Will be read properly by the
Optical Scan Tabulators

Educate and Demonstrate

Educate all voters with a demonstration of the following key points

Fill in the Arrow or Oval Completely

Use only the marking device
provided in the voting booth

**Do not use “Xs”
or check marks**

“Xs” and check marks may
interfere with how the tabulators
read the ballot

Do not erase or cross out
Ask for a new ballot

If a voter makes a mistake, have them return the ballot and ask for a new ballot

Read and Follow Instructions on the Ballot

A voter may not vote for more than the number of candidates specified

Primary Election

The voter must restrict their voting to one party. All voters may vote the non-partisan offices

General Elections

The voter does not have to restrict their voting to one party

To vote for a candidate whose name is not printed on the Arrow ballot

Fill in the arrow next to the write-in
line and write the name on the
blank write-in line

To vote for a candidate whose name is not printed on the Oval ballot

Fill in the oval next to the write-in
line and write the name on the
blank write-in line

The Voter must

Fill in the oval or arrow and write
the name on the write-in line

Check Ballot for Stray Marks

Stray marks may interfere with
how the tabulators read the ballot

**Make sure each voter knows
how to properly mark their
ballot**

So that their choices will be
readable by the optical scan
tabulators

Quick Review

- Use supplied marking device
 - Fill in the oval or arrow completely
 - No “Xs” or Checks
 - No erasures or cross outs
 - If they make a mistake, request a new ballot
 - Read and follow instructions
 - Vote only for the number of candidates specified
 - Check ballot for stray marks
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Primary Elections

Vote only one party
and nonpartisan races

General Elections

No party restrictions

**To vote for a candidate whose
name does not appear
on the ballot**

**Fill in the oval or arrow
and write the name**

**Thank You
from Idaho Voters**

and
Secretary of State
Lawerence Denney