



**Rules of
Elected Officials
Division 30—Secretary of State
Chapter 9—Uniform Counting Standards**

Title	Page
15 CSR 30-9.010 Uniform Counting Standards—Punch Card Voting Systems	3
15 CSR 30-9.020 Uniform Counting Standards—Optical Scan Voting Systems	3
15 CSR 30-9.030 Uniform Counting Standards—Paper Ballots	5
15 CSR 30-9.040 Write-In Stickers	7



Title 15—ELECTED OFFICIALS
Division 30—Secretary of State
Chapter 9—Uniform Counting Standards

15 CSR 30-9.010 Uniform Counting Standards—Punch Card Voting Systems

PURPOSE: This rule provides for standards to be used by election authorities when counting ballots cast using punch card voting systems.

(1) The election authority shall be responsible for insuring that the standards provided for in this rule are followed when counting ballots cast using punch card voting systems.

(2) Prior to tabulating ballots, all ballot cards shall be inspected by the election authority for hanging chad and/or damaged ballots.

(3) Inspection of ballot cards shall be conducted using the following guidelines:

(A) The election authority shall appoint a bipartisan team to inspect all ballots where a question exists about the condition of a ballot or existence of hanging chad;

(B) All ballot card inspections conducted pursuant to this section shall be conducted by examining the ballot card from the back of the card;

(C) If a ballot is determined to be damaged, the bipartisan team shall spoil the original ballot and duplicate the voter's intent on the new ballot, provided that there is an undisputed method of matching the duplicate card with its original after it has been placed with the remainder of the ballot cards from that precinct; and

(D) If a chad is determined to be hanging by two (2) or less corners, it shall be removed prior to being tabulated.

(4) In jurisdictions using punch card systems, a valid vote for a write-in candidate must include the following:

(A) A distinguishing mark in the square immediately preceding the name of the candidate;

(B) The name of the candidate. If the name of the candidate, as written by the voter, is substantially as declared by the candidate it shall be counted, or in those circumstances where the names of candidates are similar, the names of candidates as shown on voter registration records shall be counted; and

(C) The name of the office for which the candidate is to be elected.

(5) Whenever a hand recount of votes is ordered of punch card ballots, the provisions

of this section shall be used to determine voter intent.

*AUTHORITY: section 115.225, RSMo 2000. * Original rule filed Aug. 8, 2001, effective March 1, 2002.*

**Original authority: 115.225, RSMo 1977, amended 1993, 1995.*

15 CSR 30-9.020 Uniform Counting Standards—Optical Scan Voting Systems

PURPOSE: This rule provides for standards to be used by election authorities when counting ballots cast using optical scan voting systems.

(1) The election authority shall be responsible for insuring that the standards provided for in this rule are followed when counting ballots cast using optical scan voting systems.

(2) Prior to tabulating ballots all machines shall be programmed to reject blank ballots where no votes are recorded, or where an overvote is registered in any race.

(A) In jurisdictions using precinct-based tabulators, the voter who cast the ballot shall review the ballot if rejected, to determine if he/she wishes to make any changes to the ballot or if he/she would like to spoil their ballot and receive another ballot.

(B) In jurisdictions using centrally-based tabulators, if a ballot is so rejected, it shall be reviewed by a bipartisan team using the following criteria:

1. If a ballot is determined to be damaged, the bipartisan team shall spoil the original ballot and duplicate the voter's intent on the new ballot, provided that there is an undisputed method of matching the duplicate card with its original after it has been placed with the remainder of the ballot cards from that precinct; and

2. The provisions of sections (3), (4), (5) and (6) of this rule.

(3) The following marks shall be considered expressions of voter intent:

(A) Any ballot which is properly marked in the target area, as specified by the ballot instructions.

For Governor (Vote for one)		
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	HARRY S. TRUMAN	PARTY
<input type="radio"/>	LAURA INGALLS WILDER	PARTY
<input type="radio"/>	MARK TWAIN	PARTY
<input type="radio"/>	GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER	PARTY
<input type="radio"/>	WRITE-IN	PARTY

This constitutes a vote for Harry S. Truman.

For Governor (Vote for one)		
HARRY S. TRUMAN	PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/>
LAURA INGALLS WILDER	PARTY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MARK TWAIN	PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/>
GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER	PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/>
WALT DISNEY	PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/>
WRITE-IN		<input type="checkbox"/>

This constitutes a vote for Laura Ingalls Wilder.

(B) Any ballot that is properly marked with any device other than the approved marking device which prevents a machine count shall be counted as a vote.

(C) The target area next to a candidate or issue preference is circled.

For Governor (Vote for one)		
<input type="radio"/>	HARRY S. TRUMAN	PARTY
<input type="radio"/>	LAURA INGALLS WILDER	PARTY
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	MARK TWAIN	PARTY
<input type="radio"/>	GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER	PARTY
<input type="radio"/>	WRITE-IN	PARTY

This constitutes a vote for Mark Twain.

For Governor (Vote for one)		
HARRY S. TRUMAN	PARTY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
LAURA INGALLS WILDER	PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/>
MARK TWAIN	PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/>
GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER	PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/>
WALT DISNEY	PARTY	<input type="checkbox"/>
WRITE-IN		<input type="checkbox"/>

This constitutes a vote for Harry S. Truman.

(D) There is a distinguishing mark in the target area next to a candidate or issue preference including but not limited to the following examples:



For Governor
(Vote for one)

HARRY S. TRUMAN PARTY

LAURA INGALLS WILDER PARTY

MARK TWAIN PARTY

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER PARTY

WRITE-IN PARTY

This constitutes a vote for Harry S. Truman.

For Governor
(Vote for one)

HARRY S. TRUMAN PARTY ←

LAURA INGALLS WILDER PARTY ←

MARK TWAIN PARTY ←

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER PARTY ←

WALT DISNEY PARTY ←

WRITE-IN ←

This constitutes a vote for Laura Ingalls Wilder.

For Governor
(Vote for one)

HARRY S. TRUMAN PARTY ←

LAURA INGALLS WILDER PARTY ←

MARK TWAIN PARTY ←

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER PARTY ←

WALT DISNEY PARTY ←

WRITE-IN ←

This constitutes an overvote.

For Governor
(Vote for one)

HARRY S. TRUMAN PARTY ← X

LAURA INGALLS WILDER PARTY ←

MARK TWAIN PARTY ←

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER PARTY ←

WALT DISNEY PARTY ←

WRITE-IN ←

This constitutes a vote for Harry S. Truman.

(F) In the event that there are distinguishing marks for two (2) or more candidates, clarified by an additional mark or marks that appear to indicate support, the ballot shall be counted as a vote for the candidate with the additional, clarifying marks.

For Governor
(Vote for one)

this one
 HARRY S. TRUMAN PARTY

LAURA INGALLS WILDER PARTY

MARK TWAIN PARTY

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER PARTY

WRITE-IN PARTY

This constitutes a vote for Harry S. Truman.

For Fire District Board
(Vote for two)

HARRY S. TRUMAN PARTY

LAURA INGALLS WILDER PARTY

MARK TWAIN PARTY

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER PARTY

WRITE-IN PARTY

This constitutes an overvote.

For Governor
(Vote for one)

HARRY S. TRUMAN PARTY

LAURA INGALLS WILDER PARTY

MARK TWAIN PARTY

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER PARTY

WRITE-IN PARTY

This constitutes a vote for Harry S. Truman.

For School Board
(Vote for three)

HARRY S. TRUMAN PARTY ←

LAURA INGALLS WILDER PARTY ←

MARK TWAIN PARTY ←

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER PARTY ←

WALT DISNEY PARTY ←

WRITE-IN ←

This constitutes an overvote.

For Governor
(Vote for one)

HARRY S. TRUMAN PARTY ←

LAURA INGALLS WILDER PARTY ←

MARK TWAIN PARTY ←

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER PARTY ←

WALT DISNEY PARTY ←

WRITE-IN ←

This constitutes a vote for Walt Disney.

For Governor
(Vote for one)

HARRY S. TRUMAN PARTY ←

LAURA INGALLS WILDER PARTY ←

MARK TWAIN PARTY ←

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER PARTY ←

WALT DISNEY PARTY ←

WRITE-IN ←

This constitutes a vote for Harry S. Truman.

(4) If a voter marks more candidates than there are positions to be elected for that office, without any additional clarifying marks, the marks do not constitute a valid vote for any candidate in that race and the ballot shall be deemed an overvote.

For Governor
(Vote for one)

HARRY S. TRUMAN PARTY

LAURA INGALLS WILDER PARTY

MARK TWAIN PARTY

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER PARTY

WRITE-IN PARTY

This constitutes an overvote.

(E) The name of a candidate or issue preference is circled.

For Governor
(Vote for one)

HARRY S. TRUMAN PARTY

LAURA INGALLS WILDER PARTY

MARK TWAIN PARTY

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER PARTY

WRITE-IN PARTY

This constitutes a vote for Laura Ingalls Wilder.

(5) In jurisdictions using optical scan systems, a valid vote for a write-in candidate must include the following:

(A) A distinguishing mark in the target area next to the name of the candidate;

(B) The name of a qualified write-in candidate. If the name of the candidate, as written by the voter, is substantially as declared by the candidate it shall be counted, or in those circumstances where the names of candidates are similar, the names of candidates as shown on voter registration records shall be counted; and

(C) The name of the office for which the candidate is to be elected.



For Governor
(Vote for one)

HARRY S. TRUMAN PARTY

LAURA INGALLS WILDER PARTY

MARK TWAIN PARTY

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER PARTY

Bobby Jones PARTY

WRITE-IN

Bobby Jones is a qualified candidate. This constitutes a vote for Bobby Jones.

in that race and makes a distinguishing mark in the target area next to the name of the write-in candidate, it shall be considered an overvote with neither candidate receiving credit for the vote.

For Governor
(Vote for one)

HARRY S. TRUMAN PARTY

LAURA INGALLS WILDER PARTY

MARK TWAIN PARTY

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER PARTY

Henry S. Truman PARTY

WRITE-IN

This constitutes an overvote.

AUTHORITY: section 115.225, RSMo Supp. 2005. Original rule filed Aug. 8, 2001, effective March 1, 2002. Emergency rescission filed Feb. 2, 2006, effective Feb. 18, 2006, expired Aug. 16, 2006. Emergency rule filed Feb. 2, 2006, effective Feb. 18, 2006, terminated April 30, 2006. Emergency rule filed April 20, 2006, effective April 30, 2006, expired Aug. 16, 2006. Rescinded and readopted: Filed Feb. 2, 2006, effective July 30, 2006.*

**Original authority: 115.225, RSMo 1977, amended 1993, 1995, 2002.*

15 CSR 30-9.030 Uniform Counting Standards—Paper Ballots

PURPOSE: This rule provides for standards to be used by election authorities when counting ballots cast using paper ballots.

For Governor
(Vote for one)

HARRY S. TRUMAN PARTY ←

LAURA INGALLS WILDER PARTY ←

MARK TWAIN PARTY ←

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER PARTY ←

WALT DISNEY PARTY ←

Bobby Jones ←

WRITE-IN

Bobby Jones is a qualified candidate. This constitutes a vote for Bobby Jones.

For Governor
(Vote for one)

HARRY S. TRUMAN PARTY ←

LAURA INGALLS WILDER PARTY ←

MARK TWAIN PARTY ←

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER PARTY ←

WALT DISNEY PARTY ←

Walt Disney ←

WRITE-IN

This constitutes an overvote.

(1) The election authority shall be responsible for insuring that the standards provided for in this rule are followed when counting ballots cast using paper ballots.

(6) If a voter designates a vote for a named candidate on the ballot and also provides for a write-in candidate in the same race it shall be treated as follows:

(A) If a voter designates a vote for a named candidate on the ballot and writes in the same candidate in the write-in area, the vote shall count for that candidate.

For Governor
(Vote for one)

HARRY S. TRUMAN PARTY

LAURA INGALLS WILDER PARTY

MARK TWAIN PARTY

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER PARTY

George W. Carver PARTY

WRITE-IN

This constitutes a vote for George Washington Carver.

(C) If a voter designates a vote for a named candidate on the ballot and writes in the name of a person who is not a qualified write-in candidate and not a named candidate on the ballot in that race, it shall be considered a vote for the named candidate.

For Governor
(Vote for one)

HARRY S. TRUMAN PARTY

LAURA INGALLS WILDER PARTY

MARK TWAIN PARTY

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER PARTY

Albert Einstein PARTY

WRITE-IN

Albert Einstein is not a qualified candidate. This constitutes a vote for Laura Ingalls Wilder.

(2) The following marks shall be considered expressions of voter intent:

(A) Any ballot which is properly marked, as specified by the ballot instructions, in the target area.

For Governor
(Vote for one)

HARRY S. TRUMAN PARTY

LAURA INGALLS WILDER PARTY

MARK TWAIN PARTY

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER PARTY

WRITE-IN PARTY

This constitutes a vote for Harry S. Truman.

For Governor
(Vote for one)

HARRY S. TRUMAN PARTY ←

LAURA INGALLS WILDER PARTY ←

MARK TWAIN PARTY ←

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER PARTY ←

WALT DISNEY PARTY ←

Laura Ingalls Wilder ←

WRITE-IN

This constitutes a vote for Laura Ingalls Wilder.

(B) The target area next to a candidate or issue preference is circled.

For Governor
(Vote for one)

HARRY S. TRUMAN PARTY

LAURA INGALLS WILDER PARTY

MARK TWAIN PARTY

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER PARTY

WRITE-IN PARTY

This constitutes a vote for Mark Twain.

(B) If a voter designates a vote for a named candidate on the ballot and writes in the name of a qualified write-in candidate or the name of a different named candidate on the ballot

(7) Whenever a hand recount of votes of optical scan ballots is ordered, the provisions of this rule shall be used to determine voter intent.

(C) There is a distinguishing mark in the target area next to a candidate or issue preference including but not limited to the following examples:



For Governor
(Vote for one)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HARRY S. TRUMAN	PARTY
<input type="checkbox"/>	LAURA INGALLS WILDER	PARTY
<input type="checkbox"/>	MARK TWAIN	PARTY
<input type="checkbox"/>	GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER	PARTY
<input type="checkbox"/>	WRITE-IN	PARTY

This constitutes a vote for Harry S. Truman.

For Governor
(Vote for one)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HARRY S. TRUMAN	PARTY
<input type="checkbox"/>	LAURA INGALLS WILDER	PARTY
<input type="checkbox"/>	MARK TWAIN	PARTY
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER	PARTY
<input type="checkbox"/>	WRITE-IN	PARTY

This constitutes an overvote.

candidate in the write-in area, the vote shall count for that candidate.

For Governor
(Vote for one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	HARRY S. TRUMAN	PARTY
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	LAURA INGALLS WILDER	PARTY
<input type="checkbox"/>	MARK TWAIN	PARTY
<input type="checkbox"/>	GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER	PARTY
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Laura Ingalls Wilder</i>	PARTY
<input type="checkbox"/>	WRITE-IN	PARTY

This constitutes a vote for Laura Ingalls Wilder.

For Governor
(Vote for one)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HARRY S. TRUMAN	PARTY
<input type="checkbox"/>	LAURA INGALLS WILDER	PARTY
<input type="checkbox"/>	MARK TWAIN	PARTY
<input type="checkbox"/>	GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER	PARTY
<input type="checkbox"/>	WRITE-IN	PARTY

This constitutes a vote for Harry S. Truman.

For School Board
(Vote for three)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HARRY S. TRUMAN	PARTY
<input type="checkbox"/>	LAURA INGALLS WILDER	PARTY
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MARK TWAIN	PARTY
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER	PARTY
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WALT DISNEY	PARTY
<input type="checkbox"/>	WRITE-IN	PARTY

This constitutes an overvote.

(B) If a voter designates a vote for a named candidate on the ballot and writes in the name of a qualified write-in candidate or the name of a different named candidate on the ballot in that race and makes a distinguishing mark in the target area next to the name of the write-in candidate, it shall be considered an overvote with neither candidate receiving credit for the vote.

(D) The name of a candidate or issue preference is circled.

For Governor
(Vote for one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	HARRY S. TRUMAN	PARTY
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	LAURA INGALLS WILDER	PARTY
<input type="checkbox"/>	MARK TWAIN	PARTY
<input type="checkbox"/>	GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER	PARTY
<input type="checkbox"/>	WRITE-IN	PARTY

This constitutes a vote for Laura Ingalls Wilder.

(4) In jurisdictions using paper ballots, a valid vote for a write-in candidate must include the following:

(A) A distinguishing mark in the target area next to the name of the candidate;

(B) The name of a qualified write-in candidate. If the name of the candidate, as written by the voter, is substantially as declared by the candidate it shall be counted, or in those circumstances where the names of candidates are similar, the names of candidates as shown on voter registration records shall be counted.

(C) The name of the office for which the candidate is to be elected.

For Governor
(Vote for one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	HARRY S. TRUMAN	PARTY
<input type="checkbox"/>	LAURA INGALLS WILDER	PARTY
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MARK TWAIN	PARTY
<input type="checkbox"/>	GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER	PARTY
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Harry S. Truman</i>	PARTY
<input type="checkbox"/>	WRITE-IN	PARTY

This constitutes an overvote.

(E) In the event that there are distinguishing marks for two (2) or more candidates, clarified by an additional mark or marks that appear to indicate support, the ballot shall be counted as a vote for the candidate with the additional, clarifying marks.

(C) If a voter designates a vote for a named candidate on the ballot and writes in the name of a person who is not a qualified write-in candidate and not a named candidate on the ballot in that race, it shall be considered a vote for the named candidate.

For Governor
(Vote for one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	HARRY S. TRUMAN	PARTY
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	LAURA INGALLS WILDER	PARTY
<input type="checkbox"/>	MARK TWAIN	PARTY
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER	PARTY
<input type="checkbox"/>	WRITE-IN	PARTY

This one ←

This constitutes a vote for Laura Ingalls Wilder.

For Governor
(Vote for one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	HARRY S. TRUMAN	PARTY
<input type="checkbox"/>	LAURA INGALLS WILDER	PARTY
<input type="checkbox"/>	MARK TWAIN	PARTY
<input type="checkbox"/>	GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER	PARTY
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Bobby Jones</i>	PARTY
<input type="checkbox"/>	WRITE-IN	PARTY

Bobby Jones is a qualified candidate. This constitutes a vote for Bobby Jones.

(3) If a voter marks more candidates than there are positions to be elected for that office, without any additional clarifying marks, the marks do not constitute a valid vote for any candidate in that race and the ballot shall be deemed an overvote.

(5) If a voter designates a vote for a named candidate on the ballot and also provides for a write-in candidate in the same race it shall be treated as follows:

(A) If a voter designates a vote for a named candidate on the ballot and writes in the same

For Governor
(Vote for one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	HARRY S. TRUMAN	PARTY
<input type="checkbox"/>	LAURA INGALLS WILDER	PARTY
<input type="checkbox"/>	MARK TWAIN	PARTY
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER	PARTY
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Gertrude Stein</i>	PARTY
<input type="checkbox"/>	WRITE-IN	PARTY

Gertrude Stein is not a qualified candidate. This shall constitute a vote for George Washington Carver.

(6) Whenever a hand recount of votes of paper ballots is ordered, the provisions of this rule shall be used to determine voter intent.

AUTHORITY: section 115.225, RSMo Supp. 2005. Original rule filed Aug. 8, 2001, effective March 1, 2002. Emergency rescis-*



sion filed Feb. 2, 2006, effective Feb. 18, 2006, expired Aug. 16, 2006. Emergency rule filed Feb. 2, 2006, effective Feb. 18, 2006, terminated April 30, 2006. Emergency rule filed April 20, 2006, effective April 30, 2006, expired Aug. 16, 2006. Rescinded and readopted: Filed Feb. 2, 2006, effective July 30, 2006.

**Original authority: 115.225, RSMo 1977, amended 1993, 1995, 2002.*

15 CSR 30-9.040 Write-In Stickers

PURPOSE: This rule sets out the procedures for the process of using stickers to vote for write-in candidates.

(1) The sticker shall contain the name of a candidate, office sought, and a distinguishing mark in the square immediately preceding the name of the candidate and shall be approximately one inch by three inches (1" × 3") in size with black print on a white background.

(2) The sticker shall be placed by the voter on the write-in line designating the office sought or the sticker shall be placed by the voter on the write-in line on the secrecy envelope.

AUTHORITY: section 115.439.5, RSMo Supp. 2002. Emergency rule filed Oct. 11, 2002, effective Oct. 21, 2002, expired April 18, 2003. Original rule filed Oct. 18, 2002, effective April 30, 2003.*

**Original authority: 115.439, RSMo 1977, amended 1993, 2002.*