

17-Year Old Voter Instructions: Voting Your Optical Scan Ballot

A 17-year old registered voter who will be 18 years of age on or before the date of the next general election may vote in a primary election, including for Presidential delegates. You CANNOT vote on: any candidacy for a state or county political party's central committee, or any question or issue, such as a school tax levy, charter amendment, or local liquor option.

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

1. Before marking your ballot, make sure that there are not any marks on it.
2. If there are marks on the ballot, please return the ballot to the election officials for a clean ballot with no marks already on it.
3. 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 number of ovals or boxes allowed by the directions.
 - ✓ If you vote for fewer candidates than the maximum number allowed by the directions for a particular office, you have under voted that contest and your vote will be counted
 - ✓ If you vote for more candidates than the maximum number allowed by the directions for a particular office, you have over voted that contest and your vote for that contest only will NOT be counted.
4. Use the pen or pencil provided to mark your vote on the optical scan ballot.
5. Completely fill in the oval or box to the **left** of the candidate's name you want to vote for.
6. 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 that 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.
7. If you have questions, ask the election officials for assistance.
8. 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.
9. Once you have completed marking your ballot, review it to make sure it reflects your votes and place it in the envelope given to you.
10. Once you place your ballot in the envelope given to you and return it to the election officials, you may not request another ballot.
11. 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.
12. CONGRATULATIONS! You have voted for the first time and taken an important first step toward being a lifelong voter and a regular participant in your government.