



January 14, 2026

HOUSE BILL No. 1377

DIGEST OF HB 1377 (Updated January 14, 2026 12:27 pm - DI 140)

Citations Affected: IC 3-11; IC 3-12.

Synopsis: Straight ticket voting. Repeals provisions that prohibit counting straight party votes for candidates for election to an at-large district to which more than one person may be elected. Provides that if a voter votes a straight party ticket and also selects one or more individual candidates for an office to which more than one person may be elected, the: (1) individual votes shall be counted unless the total number of individual votes is greater than the number of persons to be elected to the office; (2) straight party votes for the office shall not be counted; and (3) straight party votes for other offices on the ballot shall be counted. Makes conforming amendments.

Effective: July 1, 2026.

Payne

January 8, 2026, read first time and referred to Committee on Elections and Apportionment.
January 14, 2026, reported — Do Pass.

HB 1377—LS 6830/DI 144



January 14, 2026

Second Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2026)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

HOUSE BILL No. 1377

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning elections.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 3-11-2-9, AS AMENDED BY P.L.195-2025,
2 SECTION 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 9. (a) The device of each political party described
4 in section 6 of this chapter shall be:

5 (1) enclosed in a circle not less than three-fourths (3/4) of an inch
6 in diameter; and

7 (2) placed under the name of the party or independent ticket, as
8 required by section 10 of this chapter.

9 (b) A device of a political party must not be printed on a ballot if:

10 (1) there are no candidates of that political party; or

11 (2) the only candidates:

12 (A) of the political party; or

13 (B) that have stated an affiliation with the political party under
14 IC 3-8-2.5-2.5(a)(5);

15 are for election to school board offices ~~or offices to which more~~
16 ~~than one (1) individual is to be elected and which will not be~~
17 credited with a vote under ~~IC 3-12-1-7 or~~ IC 3-12-1-7.1 if a voter

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casts a straight party ticket.

SECTION 2. IC 3-11-2-10, AS AMENDED BY P.L.195-2025, SECTION 5, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10. (a) Public questions shall be placed on the general election ballot in the following order after the statement described in section 7 of this chapter, and the instructions described in subsections (d) and (e) and section 8 of this chapter, if instructions are printed on the ballot:

(1) Ratification of a state constitutional amendment.

(2) Local public questions.

11 Subject to section 10.1 of this chapter, each public question shall be
12 placed in a separate column on the ballot.

(b) The name or title of the political party shall be placed on the general election ballot after the public questions described in subsection (a). The device of the political party shall be placed immediately under the name of the political party. Notwithstanding section 8(b) of this chapter, the instructions for voting a straight party ticket shall be placed to the right of the device on the ballot.

"(1) You are not required to vote a straight party ticket. If you do not wish to vote a straight party ticket, do not make a mark in this section, and proceed to voting the ballot by office.

(2) To vote a straight (insert political party name) ticket for all (insert political party name) candidates on this ballot, except for candidates described in (3) below, make a voting mark on or in this circle and do not make any other marks on this ballot.

(3) To vote for any candidate for

(A) an at-large office (insert county council, city common council, town council, or township board if those offices appear on this ballot) to which more than one (1) person may be elected; or

(B) a school board office.

you must make another voting mark for each candidate you wish to vote for. Your straight party vote will not count as a vote for any candidate for that office.

(4) If you wish to vote for a candidate seeking a nonpartisan office or on a public question, you must make another voting mark on the appropriate place on this ballot.".



1 must also contain a statement that reads substantially as follows: "A
2 vote cast for an independent ticket will only be counted for the
3 candidates for President and Vice President or governor and lieutenant
4 governor comprising that independent ticket. This vote will NOT be
5 counted for any OTHER independent candidate appearing on the
6 ballot.".

7 (e) Except as permitted under section 8(b) of this chapter, the ballot
8 must also contain a statement that reads substantially as follows: "A
9 write-in vote will NOT be counted unless the vote is for a DECLARED
10 write-in candidate. To vote for a write-in candidate, you must make a
11 voting mark on or in the square to the left of the name you have written
12 in or your vote will not be counted.".

13 (f) Subject to section 10.1 of this chapter, the list of candidates of
14 the political party shall be placed immediately under the instructions
15 for voting a straight party ticket. The names of the candidates shall be
16 placed three-fourths (3/4) of an inch apart from center to center of the
17 name. The name of each candidate must have, immediately on its left,
18 a square three-eighths (3/8) of an inch on each side.

19 (g) The circuit court clerk may authorize the printing of ballots
20 containing a ballot variation code to ensure that the proper version of
21 a ballot is used within a precinct.

22 SECTION 3. IC 3-11-2-12.4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.109-2021,
23 SECTION 16, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
24 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 12.4. (a) This section applies whenever more than
25 one (1) candidate may be elected to an office. **However, this section**
26 **does not apply to a school board office.**

27 (b) The office shall be placed on the general election ballot after the
28 offices described in section 12 of this chapter and before the offices
29 described in section 12.9 of this chapter.

30 (c) Whenever candidates are to be elected to a county council, city
31 common council, or town council that includes both an at-large
32 member and a member representing a district, the candidates seeking
33 election as an at-large member shall be placed on the ballot before
34 candidates seeking to represent a district.

35 (d) The ballot shall contain a statement reading substantially as
36 follows above the name of the first candidate: "To vote for any
37 candidate for this office, you must make a voting mark for each
38 candidate you wish to vote for.". ~~A straight party vote will not count as
39 a vote for any candidate for this office.~~

40 SECTION 4. IC 3-11-2-12.9, AS AMENDED BY P.L.195-2025,
41 SECTION 6, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
42 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 12.9. (a) School board offices to be elected at the



1 general election shall be placed on the general election ballot after the
2 offices described in section 12.4 of this chapter.

3 (b) If the ballot contains a candidate for a school board office, the
4 ballot must also contain a statement that reads substantially as follows:

5 (1) "To vote for a candidate for this office, make a voting mark on
6 or in the square to the left of the candidate's name. A straight
7 party vote will not count as a vote for any candidate for this
8 office.", **if only one (1) candidate is to be elected to a school
9 board office.**

10 (2) "**To vote for any candidate for this office, you must make
11 a voting mark for each candidate you wish to vote for. A
12 straight party vote will not count as a vote for any candidate
13 for this office.**", **if more than one (1) candidate is to be elected
14 to a school board office.**

15 (c) Whenever candidates are to be elected to a school board office
16 that includes both an at-large member and a member representing a
17 district, the candidates seeking election as an at-large member shall be
18 placed on the ballot before candidates seeking to represent a district.

19 SECTION 5. IC 3-11-7-4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.195-2025,
20 SECTION 7, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
21 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), a
22 ballot card voting system must permit a voter to vote:

23 (1) except at a primary election, a straight party ticket for all of
24 the candidates of one (1) political party by a single voting mark
25 on each ballot card;

26 (2) for one (1) or more candidates of each political party or
27 independent candidates, or for one (1) or more school board
28 candidates nominated by petition;

29 (3) a split ticket for the candidates of different political parties
30 and for independent candidates; or

31 (4) a straight party ticket and then split that ticket by casting
32 individual votes for candidates. ~~of another political party or
33 independent candidate~~

34 (b) A ballot card voting system must require that a voter who wishes
35 to cast a ballot for a candidate for election to a school board office ~~or
36 an at-large district to which more than one (1) person may be elected;~~
37 ~~on a:~~

38 (1) county council;

39 (2) city common council;

40 (3) town council; or

41 (4) township board;

42 make a voting mark for each individual candidate for whom the voter



1 wishes to cast a vote. The ballot card voting system may not count any
2 straight party ticket voting mark as a vote for any candidate for ~~an~~
3 **election to a school board** office. ~~described by this subsection.~~

4 (c) A ballot card voting system must permit a voter to vote:
5 (1) for all candidates for presidential electors and alternate
6 presidential electors of a political party or an independent ticket
7 by making a single voting mark; and
8 (2) for or against a public question on which the voter may vote.

9 SECTION 6. IC 3-11-7.5-10, AS AMENDED BY P.L.195-2025,
10 SECTION 9, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
11 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), an
12 electronic voting system must permit a voter to vote:

13 (1) except at a primary election, a straight party ticket for all the
14 candidates of one (1) political party by touching the device of that
15 party;
16 (2) for one (1) or more candidates of each political party or
17 independent candidates, or for one (1) or more school board
18 candidates nominated by petition;
19 (3) a split ticket for the candidates of different political parties
20 and for independent candidates; or
21 (4) a straight party ticket and then split that ticket by casting
22 individual votes for candidates. ~~of another political party or
23 independent candidates.~~

24 (b) An electronic voting system must require that a voter who
25 wishes to cast a ballot for a candidate for election to a school board
26 office ~~or an at-large district to which more than one (1) person may be
27 elected, on at~~
28 (1) county council;
29 (2) city common council;
30 (3) town council; or
31 (4) township board;

32 make a voting mark for each individual candidate for whom the voter
33 wishes to cast a vote. The electronic voting system may not count any
34 straight party ticket voting mark as a vote for any candidate for ~~an~~
35 **election to a school board** office. ~~described by this subsection.~~

36 (c) An electronic voting system must permit a voter to vote:
37 (1) for as many candidates for an office as the voter may vote for,
38 but no more;
39 (2) for or against a public question on which the voter may vote,
40 but no other; and
41 (3) for all the candidates for presidential electors and alternate
42 presidential electors of a political party or an independent ticket



1 by making a single voting mark.

2 SECTION 7. IC 3-11-13-11, AS AMENDED BY THE
3 TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS BILL OF THE 2026 GENERAL
4 ASSEMBLY, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
5 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 11. (a) The ballot information, whether placed on
6 the ballot card or on the marking device, must be in the order of
7 arrangement provided for ballots under this section.

8 (b) Each county election board shall have the names of all
9 candidates for all elected offices, political party offices, and public
10 questions printed on a ballot card as provided in this chapter. The
11 county may:

- 12 (1) print all offices and questions on a single ballot card; and
- 13 (2) include a ballot variation code to ensure that the proper
14 version of a ballot is used within a precinct.

15 (c) Each type of ballot card must be of uniform size and of the same
16 quality and color of paper (except as permitted under IC 3-10-1-17).

17 (d) The nominees of a political party or an independent candidate
18 or independent ticket (described in IC 3-11-2-6) nominated by
19 petitioners shall be listed on the ballot with the name and device set
20 forth on the certification or petition. The circle containing the device
21 may be of any size that permits a voter to readily identify the device.
22 IC 3-11-2-5 applies if the certification or petition does not include a
23 name or device, or if the same device is selected by two (2) or more
24 parties or petitioners. In the case of a candidate described in
25 IC 3-8-2.5-2.5(a)(5)(C), a blank space **must be printed** after the
26 candidate's name signifying that the candidate elects not to disclose any
27 affiliation with a political party or that the candidate:

- 28 (1) is not affiliated with a political party; and
- 29 (2) does not identify as an independent candidate.

30 (e) The offices and public questions on the general election ballot
31 must be placed on the ballot in the order listed in IC 3-11-2-12,
32 IC 3-11-2-12.4, IC 3-11-2-12.5, IC 3-11-2-12.7(b), IC 3-11-2-12.9(a),
33 IC 3-11-2-12.9(c), IC 3-11-2-13(a) through IC 3-11-2-13(c),
34 IC 3-11-2-14(a), IC 3-11-2-14(d), and IC 3-11-2-14(e). The offices and
35 public questions may be listed in a continuous column either vertically
36 or horizontally and on a number of separate pages.

37 (f) The name of each office must be printed in a uniform size in bold
38 type. A statement reading substantially as follows must be placed
39 immediately below the name of the office and above the name of the
40 first candidate:

- 41 (1) "Vote for one (1) only.", if only one (1) candidate is to be
42 elected to the office.



1 (2) "Vote for not more than (insert the number of candidates to be
2 elected) candidate(s) for this office. To vote for any candidate for
3 this office, you must make a voting mark for each candidate you
4 wish to vote for.", ~~A straight party vote will not count as a vote for~~
5 ~~any candidate for this office.~~", if more than one (1) candidate is to
6 be elected to the office.

7 (3) "Vote for not more than (insert the number of candidates
8 to be elected) candidate(s) for this office. To vote for any
9 candidate for this office, you must make a voting mark for
10 each candidate you wish to vote for. A straight party vote will
11 not count as a vote for any candidate for this office.", if more
12 than one (1) candidate is to be elected to a school board office.
13 (3) (4) "Vote for one (1) only. A straight party vote will not count
14 as a vote for any candidate for this office.", if only one (1)
15 candidate is to be elected to a school board office.

16 (g) Below the name of the office and the statement required by
17 subsection (f), the names of the candidates for each office must be
18 grouped together in the following order:

19 (1) The major political party whose candidate received the highest
20 number of votes in the county for secretary of state at the last
21 election is listed first.

22 (2) The major political party whose candidate received the second
23 highest number of votes in the county for secretary of state is
24 listed second.

25 (3) All other political parties listed in the order that the parties'
26 candidates for secretary of state finished in the last election are
27 listed after the party listed in subdivision (2).

28 (4) If a political party did not have a candidate for secretary of
29 state in the last election or a nominee is an independent candidate
30 or independent ticket (described in IC 3-11-2-6), the party or

candidate is listed after the parties described in subdivisions (1), (2), and (3).
(5) If more than one (1) political party or independent candidate

34 or ticket described in subdivision (4) qualifies to be on the ballot,
35 the parties, candidates, or tickets are listed in the order in which
36 the party filed its petition of nomination under IC 3-8-6-12.

37 (6) The name of a candidate described in IC 3-8-2.5-2.5(a)(5)(C)
38 is placed after the candidates listed in subdivisions (1) through
39 (5), if applicable.

40 (7) A space for write-in voting is placed after the candidates listed
41 in subdivisions (1) through (6), if required by law.
42 (8) The name of a write-in candidate may not be listed on the

(c) The name of a person in insurance may not be listed on the



ballot.

(h) The names of the candidates grouped in the order established by subsection (g) must be printed in type with uniform capital letters and have a uniform space between each name. The name of the candidate's political party, or the word "Independent" if the:

(1) candidate; or

(2) ticket of candidates for:

(A) President and Vice President of the United States; or

(B) governor and lieutenant governor;

is independent, must be placed immediately below or beside the name of the candidate and must be printed in a uniform size and type. In the case of a candidate described in IC 3-8-2.5-2.5(a)(5)(C), the name of the candidate must be printed with a blank space after the candidate's name signifying that the candidate elects not to disclose any affiliation with a political party or that the candidate is not affiliated with a political party and does not identify as an independent candidate.

(i) All the candidates of the same political party for election to at-large seats on the fiscal or legislative body of a political subdivision must be grouped together:

(1) under the name of the office that the candidates are seeking;

(2) in the order established by subsection (g); and

(3) within the political party, in alphabetical order according to surname.

A statement reading substantially as follows must be placed immediately below the name of the office and above the name of the first candidate: "Vote for not more than (insert the number of candidates to be elected) candidate(s) of ANY party for this office.".

(j) Candidates for election to at-large seats on the governing body of a school corporation must be grouped:

(1) under the name of the office that the candidates are seeking; and

(2) in alphabetical order according to surname.

A statement reading substantially as follows must be placed immediately below the name of the office and above the name of the first candidate: "Vote for not more than (insert the number of candidates to be elected) candidate(s) for this office. A straight party vote will not count as a vote for any candidate for this office.".

(k) The following information must be placed at the top of the ballot before the first public question is listed:

(1) The cautionary statement described in IC 3-11-2-7.

(2) The instructions described in IC 3-11-2-8, IC 3-11-2-10(d), and IC 3-11-2-10(e).



(I) The ballot must include a single connectable arrow, circle, oval, or square, or a voting position for voting a straight party ticket by one (1) mark as required by section 14 of this chapter, and the single connectable arrow, circle, oval, or square, or the voting position for casting a straight party ticket ballot must be identified by:

(1) the name of the political party; and

(2) immediately below or beside the political party's name, the device of that party (described in IC 3-11-2-5).

The name and device of each political party must be of uniform size and type and arranged in the order established by subsection (g) for listing candidates under each office. The instructions described in IC 3-11-2-10(c) for voting a straight party ticket and the statement concerning presidential electors required under IC 3-10-4-3 must be placed on the ballot label. The instructions for voting a straight party ticket must include the statement: "If you do not wish to vote a straight party ticket, do not make a mark in this section and proceed to voting the ballot by office.".

(m) A public question must be in the form described in IC 3-11-2-15(a) and IC 3-11-2-15(b), except that a single connectable arrow, a circle, or an oval may be used instead of a square. Except as expressly authorized or required by statute, a county election board may not print a ballot card that contains language concerning the public question other than the language authorized by a statute.

(n) The requirements in this section:

- (1) do not replace; and
- (2) are in addition to;

any other requirements in this title that apply to optical scan ballots.

(o) The procedure described in IC 3-11-2-16 must be used when a ballot does not comply with the requirements imposed by this title or contains another error or omission that might result in confusion or mistakes by voters.

(p) This subsection applies to an optical scan ballot that does not list:

- (1) the names of political parties or candidates; or
- (2) the text of public questions;

on the face of the ballot. The ballot must be prepared in accordance with this section, except that the ballot must include a numbered circle or oval to refer to each political party, candidate, or public question.

SECTION 8. IC 3-11-13-14, AS AMENDED BY P.L.195-2025, SECTION 11, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 14. (a) In partisan elections, the ballot labels must include a voting square or position where a voter may by one (1) voting



1 mark on each card record a straight party ticket vote for all the
 2 candidates of one (1) political party, except for offices for which the
 3 voter:

4 (1) is required to cast an individual vote for a candidate under
 5 IC 3-11-7-4(b); or

6 (2) has voted individually for a candidate for any other office.

7 (b) A ballot label must not include a voting square or position to
 8 permit a voter to cast a straight party ticket for a political party if:

9 (1) there are no candidates of that political party; or

10 (2) the only candidates:

11 (A) of the political party; or

12 (B) that have stated an affiliation with the political party under
 13 IC 3-8-2.5-2.5(a)(5);

14 are for election to school board offices ~~or offices to which more~~
 15 ~~than one (1) individual is to be elected and~~ which will not be
 16 credited with a vote under ~~IC 3-12-1-7 or~~ IC 3-12-1-7.1 if a voter
 17 casts a straight party ticket.

18 SECTION 9. IC 3-11-14-3.5, AS AMENDED BY THE
 19 TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS BILL OF THE 2026 GENERAL
 20 ASSEMBLY, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 21 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3.5. (a) Each county election board shall have the
 22 names of all candidates for all elected offices, political party offices,
 23 and public questions printed on ballot labels for use in an electronic
 24 voting system as provided in this chapter.

25 (b) The county may:

26 (1) print all offices and public questions on a single ballot label;
 27 and

28 (2) include a ballot variation code to ensure that the proper
 29 version of a ballot label is used within a precinct.

30 (c) Each type of ballot label must be of uniform size and of the same
 31 quality and color of paper (except as permitted under IC 3-10-1-17).

32 (d) The nominees of a political party or an independent candidate
 33 or independent ticket (described in IC 3-11-2-6) nominated by
 34 petitioners must be listed on the ballot label with the name and device
 35 set forth on the certification or petition. The circle containing the
 36 device may be of any size that permits a voter to readily identify the
 37 device. IC 3-11-2-5 applies if the certification or petition does not
 38 include a name or device, or if the same device is selected by two (2)
 39 or more parties or petitioners. In the case of a candidate described in
 40 IC 3-8-2.5-2.5(a)(5)(C), a blank space **must be printed** after the
 41 candidate's name signifying that the candidate elects not to disclose any
 42 affiliation with a political party or that the candidate:



3 (e) The ballot labels must list the offices and public questions on the
4 general election ballot in the order listed in IC 3-11-2-12,
5 IC 3-11-2-12.4, IC 3-11-2-12.5, IC 3-11-2-12.7(b), IC 3-11-2-12.9(a),
6 IC 3-11-2-12.9(c), IC 3-11-2-13(a) through IC 3-11-2-13(c),
7 IC 3-11-2-14(a), IC 3-11-2-14(d), and IC 3-11-2-14(e). Each office and
8 public question may have a separate screen, or the offices and public
9 questions may be listed in a continuous column either vertically or
10 horizontally.

15 (1) "Vote for one (1) only.", if only one (1) candidate is to be
16 elected to the office.

17 (2) "Vote for not more than (insert the number of candidates to be
18 elected) candidate(s) for this office. To vote for any candidate for
19 this office, you must make a voting mark for each candidate you
20 wish to vote for.", ~~A straight party vote will not count as a vote for
21 any candidate for this office.~~ if more than one (1) candidate is to
22 be elected to the office.

23 (3) "Vote for not more than (insert the number of candidates
24 to be elected) candidate(s) for this office. To vote for any
25 candidate for this office, you must make a voting mark for
26 each candidate you wish to vote for. A straight party vote will
27 not count as a vote for any candidate for this office.", if more
28 than one (1) candidate is to be elected to a school board office.

32 (g) Below the name of the office and the statement required by
33 subsection (f), the names of the candidates for each office must be
34 grouped together in the following order:

35 (1) The major political party whose candidate received the highest
36 number of votes in the county for secretary of state at the last
37 election is listed first.

(2) The major political party whose candidate received the second highest number of votes in the county for secretary of state is listed second.

41 (3) All other political parties listed in the order that the parties'
42 candidates for secretary of state finished in the last election are



listed after the party listed in subdivision (2).

(4) If a political party did not have a candidate for secretary of state in the last election or a nominee is an independent candidate or independent ticket (described in IC 3-11-2-6), the party or candidate is listed after the parties described in subdivisions (1), (2), and (3).

(5) If more than one (1) political party or independent candidate or ticket described in subdivision (4) qualifies to be on the ballot, the parties, candidates, or tickets are listed in the order in which the party filed its petition of nomination under IC 3-8-6-12.

(6) The name of a candidate described in IC 3-8-2.5-2.5(a)(5)(C) is placed after the candidates listed in subdivisions (1) through (5), if applicable.

(7) A space for write-in voting is placed after the candidates listed in subdivisions (1) through (6), if required by law. A space for write-in voting for an office is not required if there are no declared write-in candidates for that office. However, procedures must be implemented to permit write-in voting for candidates for federal offices.

(8) The name of a write-in candidate may not be listed on the ballot.

(h) The names of the candidates grouped in the order established by subsection (g) must be printed in type with uniform capital letters and have a uniform space between each name. The name of the candidate's political party, or the word "Independent", if the:

(1) candidate; or

(2) ticket of candidates for:

(A) President and Vice President of the United States; or

(B) governor and lieutenant governor;

is independent, must be placed immediately below or beside the name of the candidate and must be printed in uniform size and type. In the case of a candidate described in IC 3-8-2.5-2.5(a)(5)(C), the name of the candidate must be printed with a blank space after the candidate's name signifying that the candidate elects not to disclose any affiliation with a political party or that the candidate is not affiliated with a political party and does not identify as an independent candidate.

(i) All the candidates of the same political party for election to at-large seats on the fiscal or legislative body of a political subdivision must be grouped together:

- (1) under the name of the office that the candidates are seeking;
- (2) in the party order established by subsection (g); and
- (3) within the political party, in alphabetical order according to



1 surname.

2 A statement reading substantially as follows must be placed
3 immediately below the name of the office and above the name of the
4 first candidate: "Vote for not more than (insert the number of
5 candidates to be elected) candidate(s) of ANY party for this office".

(1) under the name of the office that the candidates are seeking;
and

10 (2) in alphabetical order according to surname.

11 A statement reading substantially as follows must be placed
12 immediately below the name of the office and above the name of the
13 first candidate: "Vote for not more than (insert the number of
14 candidates to be elected) candidate(s) for this office. A straight party
15 vote will not count as a vote for any candidate for this office.".

21 (1) placed on the ballot label; or

(2) posted in a location within the voting booth that permits the voter to easily read the instructions.

24 (m) Except as provided in section 14.5 of this chapter, the ballot
25 label must include a touch sensitive point or button for voting a straight
26 political party ticket by one (1) touch, and the touch sensitive point or
27 button must be identified by:

28 (1) the name of the political party; and

29 (2) immediately below or beside the political party's name, the
30 device of that party (described in IC 3-11-2-5).

The name and device of each party must be of uniform size and type, and arranged in the order established by subsection (g) for listing candidates under each office. The instructions described in IC 3-11-2-10(c) for voting a straight party ticket and the statement concerning presidential electors required under IC 3-10-4-3 must be placed on the ballot label. The instructions for voting a straight party ticket must include the statement: "If you do not wish to vote a straight party ticket, press "NEXT" (or replace "NEXT" with the term used by that voting system to permit a voter to skip a ballot screen) to continue voting.".

41 (n) A public question must be in the form described in
42 IC 3-11-2-15(a) and IC 3-11-2-15(b), except that a touch sensitive



1 point or button must be used instead of a square. Except as expressly
2 authorized or required by statute, a county election board may not print
3 a ballot label that contains language concerning the public question
4 other than the language authorized by a statute.

5 (o) The requirements in this section:

6 (1) do not replace; and
7 (2) are in addition to;

8 any other requirements in this title that apply to ballots for electronic
9 voting systems.

10 (p) The procedure described in IC 3-11-2-16 must be used when a
11 ballot label does not comply with the requirements imposed by this title
12 or contains another error or omission that might result in confusion or
13 mistakes by voters.

14 SECTION 10. IC 3-11-14-14.5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.195-2025,
15 SECTION 13, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
16 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 14.5. A ballot label must not include a touch
17 sensitive point or button to permit a voter to cast a straight party ticket
18 for a political party if:

19 (1) there are no candidates of that political party; or

20 (2) the only candidates:

21 (A) of the political party; or

22 (B) that have stated an affiliation with the political party under
23 IC 3-8-2.5-2.5(a)(5);

24 are for election to school board offices ~~or offices to which more~~
25 ~~than one (1) individual is to be elected and which will not be~~
26 credited with a vote under ~~IC 3-12-1-7 or~~ IC 3-12-1-7.1 if a voter
27 casts a straight party ticket.

28 SECTION 11. IC 3-12-1-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.195-2025,
29 SECTION 14, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
30 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. (a) This subsection does not apply to a ballot
31 card voting system or an electronic voting system. Except as provided
32 in subsection (d), a voting mark made by a voter on or in a voting
33 square at the left of a candidate's name or political party's name shall
34 be counted as a vote for the candidate or candidates of the political
35 party.

36 (b) This subsection applies to a ballot card voting system. A voting
37 mark made by a voter:

38 (1) on or in a circle, oval, or square; or

39 (2) to connect a connectable arrow;

40 immediately below or beside a candidate's name or political party's
41 name shall be counted as a vote for the candidate or candidates of the
42 political party, except as provided in subsection (d).



(c) This subsection applies to a direct record electronic voting system. A voting mark made by a voter touching a touch sensitive point or button below or beside a candidate's name or political party's name shall be counted as a vote for the candidate or candidates of the political party, except as provided in subsection (d).

(d) A voter who wishes to cast a ballot for a candidate for election to a school board office ~~or an at-large district to which more than one~~ (1) person may be elected on a:

- (1) county council;
- (2) city common council;
- (3) town council; or
- (4) township board;

must make a voting mark for each individual candidate for whom the voter wishes to cast a vote. A straight ticket voting mark on a paper ballot, ballot card voting system, or electronic voting system shall not be counted as a straight party ticket voting mark as a vote for any candidate for **an a school board** office, described by this subsection.

SECTION 12. IC 3-12-1-7, AS AMENDED BY P.L.21-2016, SECTION 23, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7. (a) This subsection applies whenever a voter:

- (1) votes a straight party ticket; and
- (2) votes only for one (1) or more individual candidates who are all of the same political party as the straight ticket vote.

Except as provided in subsection (d), or (e), the straight ticket vote shall be counted and the individual candidate votes may not be counted.

(b) This subsection applies whenever:

- (1) a voter has voted a straight party ticket for the candidates of one (1) political party;
- (2) only one (1) person may be elected to an office; and
- (3) the voter has voted for one (1) individual candidate for the office described in subdivision (2) who is:
 - (A) a candidate of a political party other than the party for which the voter voted a straight ticket; or
 - (B) an independent candidate or declared write-in candidate for the office.

If the voter has voted for one (1) individual candidate for the office described in subdivision (2), the individual candidate vote for that office shall be counted, the straight party ticket vote for that office may not be counted, and the straight party ticket votes for other offices on the ballot shall be counted.

(c) This subsection applies whenever:



- (1) a voter has voted a straight party ticket for the candidates of one (1) political party; and
- (2) the voter has voted for more individual candidates for the office than the number of persons to be elected to that office.

The individual candidate votes for that office may not be counted, the straight party ticket vote for that office may not be counted, and the straight party ticket votes for other offices on the ballot shall be counted.

(d) This subsection applies whenever:

- (1) a voter has voted a straight party ticket for the candidates of one (1) political party;
- (2) more than one (1) person may be elected to an office; and
- (3) the voter has voted for **one (1) or more** individual candidates for the office described in subdivision (2) who are:

(A) independent candidates or declared write-in candidates; (B) candidates of a political party other than the political party for which the voter cast a straight party ticket under subdivision (1); or

(C) candidates of the same political party for which the voter cast a straight party ticket under subdivision (1); or

(D) a combination of candidates described in clauses (A), and (B), and (C).

The individual votes cast by the voter for the office for the independent candidates, declared write-in candidates, and the candidates of a political party other than the political party for which the voter cast a straight party ticket shall be counted unless the total number of these individual votes is greater than the number of persons to be elected to the office. The straight party ticket votes for the office shall not be counted. The straight party ticket votes for other offices on the voter's ballot shall be counted.

(e) This subsection applies whenever:

- (1) a voter has voted a straight party ticket for the candidates of one (1) political party;
- (2) more than one (1) person may be elected to an office; and
- (3) the voter has voted for individual candidates for the office described in subdivision (2) who are:

(A) independent candidates, declared write-in candidates, or candidates of a political party other than the political party for which the voter cast a straight party ticket under subdivision (1); and

(B) candidates of the same political party for which the voter cast a straight party ticket under subdivision (1).



1 The individual votes cast by the voter for the office for the independent
 2 candidates, the declared write-in candidates, and the candidates of a
 3 political party other than the political party for which the voter cast a
 4 straight party ticket, and the candidates of the political party for which
 5 the voter cast a straight party ticket shall be counted unless the total
 6 number of these individual votes is greater than the number of persons
 7 to be elected to the office. The straight party ticket votes for the office
 8 shall not be counted. The straight party ticket votes for other offices on
 9 the voter's ballot shall be counted.

10 (f) (e) If a voter votes a straight party ticket for more than one (1)
 11 political party, the whole ballot is void with regard to all candidates
 12 nominated by a political party, declared write-in candidates, or
 13 candidates designated as independent candidates on the ballot.
 14 However, the voter's vote for a school board candidate or on a public
 15 question shall be counted if otherwise valid under this chapter.

16 (fg) (f) If a voter does not vote a straight party ticket and the number
 17 of votes cast by that voter for the candidates for an office are less than
 18 or equal to the number of openings for that office, the individual
 19 candidates votes shall be counted.

20 (fg) (g) If a voter does not vote a straight party ticket and the number
 21 of votes cast by that voter for an office exceeds the number of openings
 22 for that office, none of the votes concerning that office may be counted.

23 SECTION 13. IC 3-12-1-8, AS AMENDED BY P.L.195-2025,
 24 SECTION 16, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 25 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 8. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), a
 26 voting mark made by a voter on or in a circle containing a political
 27 party device shall be counted as a vote for each candidate of that
 28 political party on that ballot.

29 (b) A voter who wishes to cast a ballot for a candidate for election
 30 to a school board office or an at-large district to which more than one
 31 (1) person may be elected on a:

32 (1) county council;
 33 (2) city common council;
 34 (3) town council; or
 35 (4) township board;

36 must make a voting mark for each individual candidate for whom the
 37 voter wishes to cast a vote. A voting mark on or in a circle containing
 38 a political party device shall not be counted as a straight party ticket
 39 voting mark as a vote for any candidate for ~~an~~ a school board office.
 40 described by this subsection.

41 SECTION 14. IC 3-12-1-15, AS AMENDED BY P.L.195-2025,
 42 SECTION 17, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE



1 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 15. (a) This section does not apply to a candidate
2 for a school board office, ~~or an at-large office of a county council, city~~
3 ~~common council, town council, or township board, if those offices~~
4 ~~appear a school board office appears~~ on a ballot.

5 (b) This section applies to a vote cast for one (1) straight party ticket
6 that includes a candidate for election to office who:

7 (1) ceases to be a candidate; and
8 (2) is succeeded by a candidate selected under IC 3-13-1 or
9 IC 3-13-2.

10 (c) A vote cast in the election for the original nominee is considered
11 a vote cast for the successor.



COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Elections and Apportionment, to which was referred House Bill 1377, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to HB 1377 as introduced.)

WESCO

Committee Vote: Yeas 12, Nays 0

HB 1377—LS 6830/DI 144

