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HOUSE BILL No. 1377

Proposed Changes to introduced printing by AM137701

DIGEST OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT

School board elections. Requires that a straight party ticket vote be counted for a school board office if only one candidate for the office has stated an affiliation with the political party for which a voter casts a straight party ticket.

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
6 inch 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
14 under 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
18 casts a straight party ticket.
19 SECTION 2. IC 3-11-2-10, AS AMENDED BY P.L.195-2025,

2026

IN 1377—LS 6830/DI 144



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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.

Subject to section 10.1 of this chapter, each public question shall be 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.

(c) The instructions for voting a straight party ticket must conform as nearly as possible to the following:

"(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) ~~<=>~~ [A straight party vote for a school board office will count if only one (1) candidate for the school board office has stated an affiliation with the party for which you have cast a straight party vote. If you wish t]o vote [individually] 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."

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(d) Except as permitted under section 8(b) of this chapter, if the ballot contains an independent ticket described in section 6 of this chapter and at least one (1) other independent candidate, the ballot must also contain a statement that reads substantially as follows: "A vote cast for an independent ticket will only be counted for the candidates for President and Vice President or governor and lieutenant governor comprising that independent ticket. This vote will NOT be counted for any OTHER independent candidate appearing on the ballot."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SECTION 4. IC 3-11-2-12.9, AS AMENDED BY P.L.195-2025, SECTION 6, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 12.9. (a) School board offices to be elected at the general election shall be placed on the general election ballot after the offices described in section 12.4 of this chapter.

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

◇ [(1)⇒] "To vote for a candidate for this office, make a voting mark on or in the square to the left of the candidate's name. [A straight party vote will not count as a vote for any candidate for this office.]. [A straight party vote [for this office] will<not> count <as a vote for any> [if only one (1)] candidate for <this office.>, if> [the office has stated an affiliation with the party for which you have cast a straight party vote.], if] only one (1) candidate is to be elected to a school board office.
 (2) "To vote for any candidate for this office, you must make a voting mark for each candidate you wish to vote for. A straight party vote [for this office] will<not> count <as a vote for any> [if only one (1)] candidate for th<is> [e] office [has stated an affiliation with the party for which you have cast a straight party vote].", if more than one (1) candidate is to be elected to a school board office.

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

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

- (1) except at a primary election, a straight party ticket for all of the candidates of one (1) political party by a single voting mark on each ballot card;
- (2) for one (1) or more candidates of each political party or independent candidates, or for one (1) or more school board candidates nominated by petition;
- (3) a split ticket for the candidates of different political parties and for independent candidates; or
- (4) a straight party ticket and then split that ticket by casting individual votes for candidates. ~~of another political party or independent candidate.~~

(b) A ballot card voting system must require that a voter who



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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;~~

make a voting mark for each individual candidate for whom the voter wishes to cast a vote [, unless the candidate will be credited with a straight party vote under IC 3-12-1-7]. ~~1. Except as provided in IC 3-12-1-7.1, t~~he ballot card voting system may not count any straight party ticket voting mark as a vote for any candidate for ~~an election to a school board office. described by this subsection.~~

(c) A ballot card voting system must permit a voter to vote:

- (1) for all candidates for presidential electors and alternate presidential electors of a political party or an independent ticket by making a single voting mark; and
- (2) for or against a public question on which the voter may vote.

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

- (1) except at a primary election, a straight party ticket for all the candidates of one (1) political party by touching the device of that party;
- (2) for one (1) or more candidates of each political party or independent candidates, or for one (1) or more school board candidates nominated by petition;
- (3) a split ticket for the candidates of different political parties and for independent candidates; or
- (4) a straight party ticket and then split that ticket by casting individual votes for candidates. ~~of another political party or independent candidates.~~

(b) An electronic voting system must require that 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;~~

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

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wishes to cast a vote [, unless the candidate will be credited with a straight party vote under IC 3-12-1-7]. ~~<P>~~ [1. Except as provided in IC 3-12-1-7.1, t]he electronic voting system may not count any straight party ticket voting mark as a vote for any candidate for an election to a school board office. described by this subsection.

(c) An electronic voting system must permit a voter to vote:

(1) for as many candidates for an office as the voter may vote for, but no more;

(2) for or against a public question on which the voter may vote, but no other; and

(3) for all the candidates for presidential electors and alternate presidential electors of a political party or an independent ticket by making a single voting mark.

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

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

(1) print all offices and questions on a single ballot card; and

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

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

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

(1) is not affiliated with a political party; and

(2) does not identify as an independent candidate.



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

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

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

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

(3) **"Vote for not more than (insert the number of candidates to be elected) candidate(s) for this office. To vote for any candidate for this office, you must make a voting mark for each candidate you wish to vote for. A straight party vote [for this office] will <not> count <as a vote for any> [if only one (1)] candidate for th<is> [e] office [has stated an affiliation with the party for which you have cast a straight party vote].", if more than one (1) candidate is to be elected to a school board office.**

(3) (4) "Vote for one (1) only. A straight party vote [will] [not] [count] [as] [a] [vote] [for] [any] [candidate] [for this office.], [for this office <.>] [will count] if only one (1) candidate <> [for the office has stated an affiliation with the party for which you have cast a straight party vote.], [if only one (1) candidate] is to be elected to a school board office.

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

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

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



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- 1 state is listed second.
- 2 (3) All other political parties listed in the order that the parties'
- 3 candidates for secretary of state finished in the last election are
- 4 listed after the party listed in subdivision (2).
- 5 (4) If a political party did not have a candidate for secretary of
- 6 state in the last election or a nominee is an independent
- 7 candidate or independent ticket (described in IC 3-11-2-6), the
- 8 party or candidate is listed after the parties described in
- 9 subdivisions (1), (2), and (3).
- 10 (5) If more than one (1) political party or independent candidate
- 11 or ticket described in subdivision (4) qualifies to be on the
- 12 ballot, the parties, candidates, or tickets are listed in the order in
- 13 which the party filed its petition of nomination under
- 14 IC 3-8-6-12.
- 15 (6) The name of a candidate described in IC 3-8-2.5-2.5(a)(5)(C)
- 16 is placed after the candidates listed in subdivisions (1) through
- 17 (5), if applicable.
- 18 (7) A space for write-in voting is placed after the candidates
- 19 listed in subdivisions (1) through (6), if required by law.
- 20 (8) The name of a write-in candidate may not be listed on the
- 21 ballot.
- 22 (h) The names of the candidates grouped in the order established
- 23 by subsection (g) must be printed in type with uniform capital letters
- 24 and have a uniform space between each name. The name of the
- 25 candidate's political party, or the word "Independent" if the:
- 26 (1) candidate; or
- 27 (2) ticket of candidates for:
- 28 (A) President and Vice President of the United States; or
- 29 (B) governor and lieutenant governor;
- 30 is independent, must be placed immediately below or beside the name
- 31 of the candidate and must be printed in a uniform size and type. In the
- 32 case of a candidate described in IC 3-8-2.5-2.5(a)(5)(C), the name of
- 33 the candidate must be printed with a blank space after the candidate's
- 34 name signifying that the candidate elects not to disclose any affiliation
- 35 with a political party or that the candidate is not affiliated with a
- 36 political party and does not identify as an independent candidate.
- 37 (i) All the candidates of the same political party for election to
- 38 at-large seats on the fiscal or legislative body of a political subdivision
- 39 must be grouped together:
- 40 (1) under the name of the office that the candidates are seeking;
- 41 (2) in the order established by subsection (g); and
- 42 (3) within the political party, in alphabetical order according to



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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."

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

8 (1) under the name of the office that the candidates are seeking;
9 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 ~~[I will not count as a vote for any]~~ [not count as a vote for any
16 candidate for this office.": for this office will count if only one (1)
17 candidate for th~~is~~e] office has stated an affiliation with the
18 party for which you have cast a straight party vote]."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

41 (m) 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 single connectable



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

5 (n) 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 optical scan ballots.

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

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

15 (1) the names of political parties or candidates; or

16 (2) the text of public questions;

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

20 SECTION 8. IC 3-11-13-14, AS AMENDED BY P.L.195-2025,
 21 SECTION 11, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 22 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 14. (a) In partisan elections, the ballot labels must
 23 include a voting square or position where a voter may by one (1) voting
 24 mark on each card record a straight party ticket vote for all the
 25 candidates of one (1) political party, except for offices for which the
 26 voter:

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

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

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

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

33 (2) the only candidates:

34 (A) of the political party; or

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

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

41 SECTION 9. IC 3-11-14-3.5, AS AMENDED BY THE
 42 TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS BILL OF THE 2026 GENERAL



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1 ASSEMBLY, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
2 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3.5. (a) Each county election board shall have the
3 names of all candidates for all elected offices, political party offices,
4 and public questions printed on ballot labels for use in an electronic
5 voting system as provided in this chapter.

6 (b) The county may:

7 (1) print all offices and public questions on a single ballot label;
8 and

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

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

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

25 (1) is not affiliated with a political party; and

26 (2) does not identify as an independent candidate.

27 (e) The ballot labels must list the offices and public questions on
28 the general election ballot in the order listed in IC 3-11-2-12,
29 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),
30 IC 3-11-2-12.9(c), IC 3-11-2-13(a) through IC 3-11-2-13(c),
31 IC 3-11-2-14(a), IC 3-11-2-14(d), and IC 3-11-2-14(e). Each office and
32 public question may have a separate screen, or the offices and public
33 questions may be listed in a continuous column either vertically or
34 horizontally.

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

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

41 (2) "Vote for not more than (insert the number of candidates to
42 be elected) candidate(s) for this office. To vote for any candidate



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for this office, you must make a voting mark for each candidate you wish to vote for." ~~A straight party vote will not count as a vote for any candidate for this office.~~ if more than one (1) candidate is to be elected to the office.

(3) "Vote for not more than (insert the number of candidates to be elected) candidate(s) for this office. To vote for any candidate for this office, you must make a voting mark for each candidate you wish to vote for. A straight party vote for this office will not count as a vote for any if only one (1) candidate for the office has stated an affiliation with the party for which you have cast a straight party vote.", if more than one (1) candidate is to be elected to a school board office.

~~(3) (4) "Vote for one (1) only. A straight party vote will not count as a vote for any candidate for this office. for this office. will count if only one (1) candidate for the office has stated an affiliation with the party for which you have cast a straight party vote."~~ if only one (1) candidate is to be elected to a school board office.

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

(1) The major political party whose candidate received the highest number of votes in the county for secretary of state at the last 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.

(3) All other political parties listed in the order that the parties' 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)



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- 1 is placed after the candidates listed in subdivisions (1) through
 2 (5), if applicable.
- 3 (7) A space for write-in voting is placed after the candidates
 4 listed in subdivisions (1) through (6), if required by law. A space
 5 for write-in voting for an office is not required if there are no
 6 declared write-in candidates for that office. However, procedures
 7 must be implemented to permit write-in voting for candidates for
 8 federal offices.
- 9 (8) The name of a write-in candidate may not be listed on the
 10 ballot.
- 11 (h) The names of the candidates grouped in the order established
 12 by subsection (g) must be printed in type with uniform capital letters
 13 and have a uniform space between each name. The name of the
 14 candidate's political party, or the word "Independent", if the:
- 15 (1) candidate; or
 16 (2) ticket of candidates for:
- 17 (A) President and Vice President of the United States; or
 18 (B) governor and lieutenant governor;
- 19 is independent, must be placed immediately below or beside the name
 20 of the candidate and must be printed in uniform size and type. In the
 21 case of a candidate described in IC 3-8-2.5-2.5(a)(5)(C), the name of
 22 the candidate must be printed with a blank space after the candidate's
 23 name signifying that the candidate elects not to disclose any affiliation
 24 with a political party or that the candidate is not affiliated with a
 25 political party and does not identify as an independent candidate.
- 26 (i) All the candidates of the same political party for election to
 27 at-large seats on the fiscal or legislative body of a political subdivision
 28 must be grouped together:
- 29 (1) under the name of the office that the candidates are seeking;
 30 (2) in the party order established by subsection (g); and
 31 (3) within the political party, in alphabetical order according to
 32 surname.
- 33 A statement reading substantially as follows must be placed
 34 immediately below the name of the office and above the name of the
 35 first candidate: "Vote for not more than (insert the number of
 36 candidates to be elected) candidate(s) of ANY party for this office."
- 37 (j) Candidates for election to at-large seats on the governing body
 38 of a school corporation must be grouped:
- 39 (1) under the name of the office that the candidates are seeking;
 40 and
 41 (2) in alphabetical order according to surname.
- 42 A statement reading substantially as follows must be placed



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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]~~ [not count as a vote for any candidate for this office.]: for this office will count if only one (1) candidate for th~~is~~[e] office[has stated an affiliation with the party for which you have cast a straight party vote].".[]

(k) The cautionary statement described in IC 3-11-2-7 must be placed at the top or beginning of the ballot label before the first public question is listed.

(l) The instructions described in IC 3-11-2-8, IC 3-11-2-10(d), and IC 3-11-2-10(e) may be:

- (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.

(m) Except as provided in section 14.5 of this chapter, the ballot label must include a touch sensitive point or button for voting a straight political party ticket by one (1) touch, and the touch sensitive point or button 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 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."

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

(o) The requirements in this section:

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

any other requirements in this title that apply to ballots for electronic



1 voting systems.

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

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

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

12 (2) the only candidates:

13 (A) of the political party; or

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

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

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

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

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

31 (2) to connect a connectable arrow;

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

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

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



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- (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 [, unless the candidate will be credited with a straight party vote under IC 3-12-1-7]. ~~←A→~~ [1. Except as provided in IC 3-12-1-7.1, 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



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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

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

The individual votes cast by the voter for the office ~~for the independent candidates; the 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; and the candidates of 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.

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

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

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

[SECTION 13. IC 3-12-1-7.1, AS ADDED BY P.L.195-2025, SECTION 15, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7.1. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), notwithstanding section 7 of this chapter, a straight party vote does not count for any candidate for a school board office.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (c), a vote for a straight party ticket shall be counted for a school board office if only one (1) candidate for the office has stated an affiliation with the political party for which a voter casts a straight party ticket.

(c) This subsection applies whenever a voter:

(1) votes a straight party ticket; and

(2) votes only for one (1) or more individual candidates for school board office.

Unless the total number of the individual votes is greater than the number of persons to be elected to the office, the individual candidate votes for that office shall be counted, the straight ticket vote for that office may not be counted, and the straight party ticket votes for other offices on the ballot shall be counted.

] SECTION 1 ~~4~~ [4]. IC 3-12-1-8, AS AMENDED BY P.L.195-2025, SECTION 16, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 8. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), a voting mark made by a voter on or in a circle containing a political party device shall be counted as a vote for each candidate of that political party on that ballot.



(b) 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 at:

(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 [, unless the candidate will be credited with a straight party vote under IC 3-12-1-7]. ~~<A>~~ [1. Except as provided in IC 3-12-1-7.1, a] voting mark on or in a circle containing a political party device 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 1 ~~<A>~~ [5]. IC 3-12-1-15, AS AMENDED BY P.L.195-2025, SECTION 17, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 15. (a) This section does not apply to a candidate for a school board office, ~~or an at-large office of a county council; city common council; town council; or township board;~~ if those offices appear a school board office appears on a ballot.

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

(1) ceases to be a candidate; and

(2) is succeeded by a candidate selected under IC 3-13-1 or IC 3-13-2.

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

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