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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.

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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,

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DOCUMENT HAS NOT BEEN CHECKED FOR ACCURACY

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

7 (1) Ratification of a state constitutional amendment.  
 8 (2) Local public questions.

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

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

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

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

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

26 (3) ~~to~~ **A straight party vote for a school board office will**  
 27 **count if only one (1) candidate for the school board office has**  
 28 **stated an affiliation with the party for which you have cast a**  
 29 **straight party vote. If you wish to vote [individually] for any**  
 30 **candidate for**

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

35 (B) a school board office, ~~<~~

36 ~~>~~ you must make another voting mark for each candidate you wish  
 37 to vote for. ~~>Your straight party vote will not~~  
 38 ~~count if you have voted for any candidate for that office.~~

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

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

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

25 SECTION 3. IC 3-11-2-12.4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.109-2021,  
26 SECTION 16, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
27 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 12.4. (a) This section applies whenever more than  
28 one (1) candidate may be elected to an office. **However, this section**  
29 **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.

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

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

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

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

8 ◊ 1(1) To vote for a candidate for this office, make a voting  
 9 mark on or in the square to the left of the candidate's name. [A  
 10 straight party vote will not count as a vote for any candidate for  
 11 this office.".] A straight party vote [for this office] will<not>  
 12 count <as a vote for any>[if only one (1)] candidate for <this  
 13 office.", if>[the office has stated an affiliation with the party  
 14 for which you have cast a straight party vote.", if] only one  
 15 (1) candidate is to be elected to a school board office.

16 (2) "To vote for any candidate for this office, you must make  
 17 a voting mark for each candidate you wish to vote for. A  
 18 straight party vote [for this office] will<not> count <as a  
 19 vote for any>[if only one (1)] candidate for the<is>[e] office  
 20 has stated an affiliation with the party for which you have  
 21 cast a straight party vote.", if more than one (1) candidate  
 22 is to be elected to a school board office.

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

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

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

34 (2) for one (1) or more candidates of each political party or  
 35 independent candidates, or for one (1) or more school board  
 36 candidates nominated by petition;

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

39 (4) a straight party ticket and then split that ticket by casting  
 40 individual votes for candidates. of another political party or  
 41 independent candidate.

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



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

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

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

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

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

- 23       (1) except at a primary election, a straight party ticket for all the  
 24       candidates of one (1) political party by touching the device of  
 25       that party;
- 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 candidates.~~

34       (b) An electronic voting system must require that a voter who  
 35       wishes to cast a ballot for a candidate for election to a school board  
 36       office ~~or an at-large district to which more than one (1) person may be~~  
 37       elected; 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[, unless the candidate will be credited with a  
 2       straight party vote under IC 3-12-1-7].◀➡[1. Except as provided  
 3       in IC 3-12-1-7.1, t]he electronic voting system may not count any  
 4       straight party ticket voting mark as a vote for any candidate for an  
 5       **election to a school board** office. described by this subsection.

6       (c) An electronic voting system must permit a voter to vote:  
 7           (1) for as many candidates for an office as the voter may vote  
 8           for, but no more;  
 9           (2) for or against a public question on which the voter may vote,  
 10           but no other; and  
 11           (3) for all the candidates for presidential electors and alternate  
 12           presidential electors of a political party or an independent ticket  
 13           by making a single voting mark.

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

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

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

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

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

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



(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.

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

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

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

20 (3) "Vote for not more than (insert the number of candidates  
21 to be elected) candidate(s) for this office. To vote for any  
22 candidate for this office, you must make a voting mark for  
23 each candidate you wish to vote for. A straight party vote  
24 [for this office] will ~~not~~ count ~~as a vote for any~~ if only  
25 one (1) candidate for the ~~is~~ [el] office has stated an  
26 affiliation with the party for which you have cast a straight  
27 party vote].", if more than one (1) candidate is to be elected  
28 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.

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

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

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



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



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 ~~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 the~~is~~el office has stated an affiliation with the  
 18 party for which you have cast a straight party vote.".  
 19

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

22 (1) The cautionary statement described in IC 3-11-2-7.  
 23 (2) The instructions described in IC 3-11-2-8, IC 3-11-2-10(d),  
 24 and IC 3-11-2-10(e).

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

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

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

42 (m) A public question must be in the form described in  
 43 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



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



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

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

14 (3) (4) "Vote for one (1) only. A straight party vote [will [  
 15 not [ count [ as [ vote [ for [ any [ candidate [  
 16 for this office. ] for this office ~~"~~ will count ] if only one (1)  
 17 candidate ~~"~~ [ for the office has stated an affiliation with the  
 18 party for which you have cast a straight party vote.",] ] if  
 19 only one (1) candidate ] is to be elected to a school board office.

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

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

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

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

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

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

42 (6) The name of a candidate described in IC 3-8-2.5-2.5(a)(5)(C)



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



1 immediately below the name of the office and above the name of the  
 2 first candidate: "Vote for not more than (insert the number of  
 3 candidates to be elected) candidate(s) for this office. A straight party  
 4 vote ~~[will not count as a vote for any]~~[not count as a vote for any  
 5 candidate for this office." for this office will count if only one (1)  
 6 candidate for the~~[e]~~ office has stated an affiliation with the  
 7 party for which you have cast a straight party vote].".  
 8

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

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

- 13 (1) placed on the ballot label; or
- 14 (2) posted in a location within the voting booth that permits the  
 15 voter to easily read the instructions.

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

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

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

33 (n) A public question must be in the form described in  
 34 IC 3-11-2-15(a) and IC 3-11-2-15(b), except that a touch sensitive  
 35 point or button must be used instead of a square. Except as expressly  
 36 authorized or required by statute, a county election board may not print  
 37 a ballot label that contains language concerning the public question  
 38 other than the language authorized by a statute.

39 (o) The requirements in this section:

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

42 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~~



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

5 must make a voting mark for each individual candidate for whom the  
6 voter wishes to cast a vote[, unless the candidate will be credited  
7 with a straight party vote under IC 3-12-1-7]. ~~A~~[1. Except as  
8 provided in IC 3-12-1-7.1, a] straight ticket voting mark on a paper  
9 ballot, ballot card voting system, or electronic voting system shall not  
10 be counted as a straight party ticket voting mark as a vote for any  
11 candidate for ~~an~~ a school board office, described by this subsection.

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

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

21 (b) This subsection applies whenever:

22 (1) a voter has voted a straight party ticket for the candidates of  
23 one (1) political party;

24 (2) only one (1) person may be elected to an office; and

25 (3) the voter has voted for one (1) individual candidate for the  
26 office described in subdivision (2) who is:

27 (A) a candidate of a political party other than the party for  
28 which the voter voted a straight ticket; or  
29 (B) an independent candidate or declared write-in candidate  
30 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.

36 (c) This subsection applies whenever:

37 (1) a voter has voted a straight party ticket for the candidates of  
38 one (1) political party; and

39 (2) the voter has voted for more individual candidates for the  
40 office than the number of persons to be elected to that office.

41 The individual candidate votes for that office may not be counted, the  
42 straight party ticket vote for that office may not be counted, and the

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1 straight party ticket votes for other offices on the ballot shall be  
 2 counted.

3 (d) This subsection applies whenever:

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

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

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

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

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

26     (e) This subsection applies whenever:

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

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

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

38     The individual votes cast by the voter for the office for the independent  
 39       candidates, the declared write-in candidates, and the candidates of a  
 40       political party other than the political party for which the voter cast a  
 41       straight party ticket, and the candidates of the political party for which  
 42       the voter cast a straight party ticket shall be counted unless the total



1       number of these individual votes is greater than the number of persons  
 2       to be elected to the office. The straight party ticket votes for the office  
 3       shall not be counted. The straight party ticket votes for other offices on  
 4       the voter's ballot shall be counted.

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

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

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

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

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

28      (c) This subsection applies whenever a voter:

29      (1) votes a straight party ticket; and  
 30      (2) votes only for one (1) or more individual candidates for  
 31      school board office.

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

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



15 SECTION 1-4-5. IC 3-12-1-15, AS AMENDED BY  
16 P.L.195-2025, SECTION 17, IS AMENDED TO READ AS  
17 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 15. (a) This section  
18 does not apply to a candidate for a school board office, ~~or an at-large~~  
19 ~~office of a county council, city common council, town council, or~~  
20 ~~township board, if those offices appear a school board office appears~~  
21 on a ballot.

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

24 (1) ceases to be a candidate; and  
25 (2) is succeeded by a candidate selected under IC 3-13-1 or  
26 IC 3-13-2.

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

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