

MIT Elections Audit Summit

Ballots, voters & election workers

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Center for Civic Design

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Democracy is a design problem



“An audit is no better than the paper trail it uses.”

Philip Stark

December 7, 2018

Ballot design can fool voters

Even voters who think they know the rules.


<p>REPUBLICAN PARTY PRIMARY ELECTION</p> 	<p>DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRIMARY ELECTION</p> 
<p>5th Congressional District</p> <p>UNITED STATES SENATOR (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Rand PAUL</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Stephen Howard SLAUGHTER</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> James R. GOULD</p>	<p>5th Congressional District</p> <p>PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Martin J. O'MALLEY</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Bernard "Bernie" SANDERS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Hillary CLINTON</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Roque Rocky DE LA FUENTE</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> "UNCOMMITTED"</p>
<p>UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS</p> <p>5th Congressional District (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Harold "Hal" ROGERS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> John BURK, JR.</p>	<p>UNITED STATES SENATOR (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Tom RECKTENWALD</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Grant T. SHORT</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sells WILDER</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Jim GRAY</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Rory HOULIHAN</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Jeff KENDER</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ron LEACH</p>
<p>ALL PRECINCTS</p>	
<p>STATE SENATOR (Vote for One)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Glenn Martin HAMMOND</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ray JONES</p>	
<p>ALL PRECINCTS</p>	

Instructions:

To vote, completely fill in the oval to the right of your choice. Use a blue or black ink pen to mark your ballot. NO RED INK.

If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot.

To vote for a qualified write-in candidate, write the person's name in the write-in space and fill in the oval.



PARTY-NOMINATED OFFICES
Only voters who disclosed a preference upon registering to vote for the same party as the candidate seeking the nomination of any party for the Presidency or election to a party committee may vote for that candidate at the primary election, unless the party has adopted a rule to permit nonparty voters to vote in its primary elections.

VOTER-NOMINATED AND NONPARTISAN OFFICES
All voters, regardless of the party preference they disclosed upon registration, or refusal to disclose a party preference, may vote for any candidate for a voter-nominated or nonpartisan office. The party preference, if any, designated by a candidate for a voter-nominated office is selected by the candidate and is shown for the information of the voters only. It does not imply that the candidate is nominated or endorsed by the party or that the party approves of the candidate. The party preference, if any, of a candidate for a nonpartisan office does not appear on the ballot.

PARTY-NOMINATED OFFICES		VOTER-NOMINATED AND NONPARTISAN OFFICES	
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES		STATE	
Presidential Preference	Vote for One	UNITED STATES SENATOR	Vote for One
WILLIE WILSON	<input type="radio"/>	MIKE BEITKS Party Preference: None Step-Admin Coal/Mayor	<input type="radio"/>
ROQUE DE LA FUENTE	<input type="radio"/>	PAMELA ELIZONDO	<input type="radio"/>
HILLARY CLINTON	<input type="radio"/>	HENRY HEWES	<input type="radio"/>
KEITH J. VINEBERG	<input type="radio"/>	KEITH J. VINEBERG	<input type="radio"/>
MICHAEL STEINBERG	<input type="radio"/>	BERNIE SANDERS	<input type="radio"/>
Write-In	<input type="radio"/>	STEVE STOKES Party Preference: Democrat Small Business Owner	<input type="radio"/>
		ELEANOR GARCIA Party Preference: None Automotive Factory Worker	<input type="radio"/>
		TIM GILDERBLEEVE Party Preference: None Federal Operator	<input type="radio"/>
		CLIVE GREY Party Preference: None Woodworker/Labeler/Entrepreneur	<input type="radio"/>
		LORETTA L. SANCHEZ	<input type="radio"/>
		PHIL WYMAN Party Preference: Republican Aluminum Business/Partner	<input type="radio"/>
		JARRELL WILLIAMSON Party Preference: Republican Health Care Lawyer	<input type="radio"/>
		THOMAS G. DEL BEGARD Party Preference: Republican Business Attorney/Attor	<input type="radio"/>
		RON UNZ Party Preference: Republican Healthcare/Political Activist	<input type="radio"/>
		BREN CONLON Party Preference: Republican Businessman/Attorney/CPA	<input type="radio"/>
		JABON KRAUS Party Preference: None	<input type="radio"/>
		EMORY RODGERS Party Preference: Democrat Financial Manager	<input type="radio"/>
		DEON KRAMPE Party Preference: Republican Retailer	<input type="radio"/>
		MARK MATTHEW HERD Party Preference: Libertarian Community Organizer	<input type="radio"/>
		VON HOUBO Party Preference: Republican Teacher	<input type="radio"/>
		JABON HANANIA Party Preference: None Attorney/Engineer	<input type="radio"/>
		KAMALA D. HARRIS Party Preference: Democrat Attorney General of California	<input type="radio"/>

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS
13TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
(Vote for One)

Nora Buckanan REP

Christine Jennings REP

SENATOR

GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
(Vote for One)

Charlie Crist REP

Jeff Baskins REP

Jim Davis REP

Beryl L. Jones REP

Max Linn REP

Tom Rockaford R/N

Richard Paul Swadlow R/N

Dr. Jon Smith R/N

John Roger Smith R/N

James J. Swarney R/N

Karl C.C. Iddin R/N

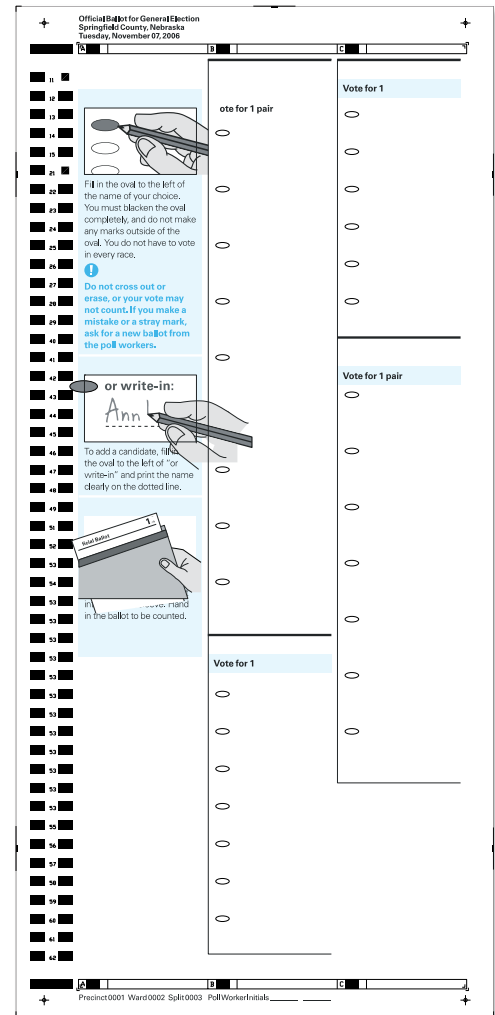
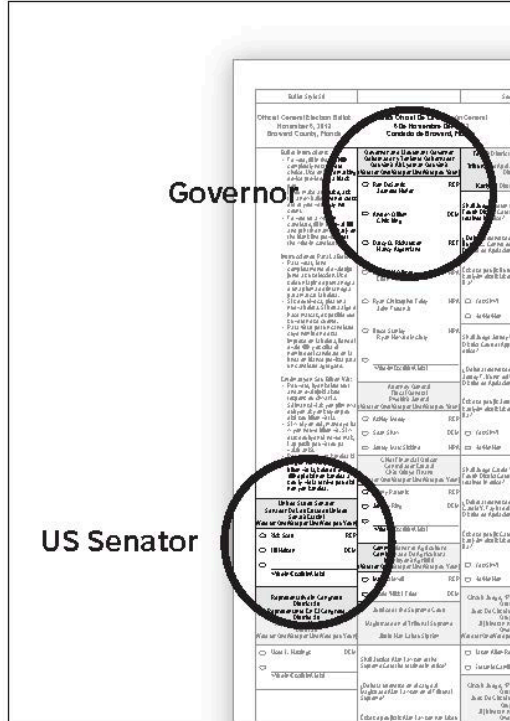
Carol Costigares

Write-In

PAMELA ELIZONDO Party Preference: Green Environmental Health Consultant	<input type="radio"/>	PAUL MERRITT Party Preference: None Self-Employed	<input type="radio"/>
SCOTT A. VINEBERG Party Preference: None Social Entrepreneur	<input type="radio"/>	MASSIE MUNROE Party Preference: Democrat Civil Environmental Engineer	<input type="radio"/>
STEVE STOKES Party Preference: Democrat Small Business Owner	<input type="radio"/>	ELEANOR GARCIA Party Preference: None Automotive Factory Worker	<input type="radio"/>

We know the problem

And we have best practices for ballot design



EAC ballot best practices (2007)

<https://www.eac.gov/election-officials/designing-polling-place-materials/>

Let's have a better paper trail

We can have ballots that are the result of a conversation between the voter and the voting system and avoid ambiguous or inaccurate marks

Options



Selections (plus undervotes)

GOOD FOOD ALL DAY.



BURGERS

4 oz. meat, 4" bun

Drugstore Burger.....9
lettuce, tomato, onion and special sauce

The Greek.....10
lamb burger, tzatziki, feta

The Coombah.....10
beef patty, mozzarella, fried ravioli, fresh basil, marinara

Spicy Salmon.....12
spicy lime mayo, alfalfa sprouts

SANDWICHES

BLT.....12
bacon, lettuce, tomato on toast with spicy mayo

Hot Chicken.....12
hot sauce, spicy mayo, house pickles

BBQ Chicken.....12
house BBQ sauce, cheddar, slantro

Texas Double Smash.....13
2 beef patties, sauced onions, jalapeños, spicy mayo, american cheese

Fried Tofu.....9
tofu, curry mayo, pickled cucumbers

Bleekened Tuna.....14
spicy tuna filet, jalapeno mayo, lettuce, tomato

TOTS

Original.....5

Loded.....8
queso, bacon, scallions, sour cream

Viet-Tots.....8
hoisin, sriracha, cilantro, scallions, peanuts

SALADS

Mixed Greens.....10
house vinaigrette, cucumber, onion, tomato

Fall PSW Salad.....12
mixed greens, spiced pecans, apples, blue cheese, red onion, balsamic vinaigrette

+ patty, tuna, chicken to any salad.....4

+ steak to any salad.....5

Thai Coconut Soup.....9
spicy coconut milk, broth, bay scallops, mussels

BEVERAGES

Community Coffee.....3

Milk, Juice, Soda.....3

SNACKS

Toasted Ravioli.....
homemade marinara

Hot Chicken Sandwich.....
sweet and spicy sauce

Dips & Chips.....
black bean

Spiced Nuts.....
Maggi Buffalo

Popcorn.....

TAI

BBQ Chicken.....
pulled chicken, our house BBQ

Steak.....
marinated skirt, served with spicy corn salsa



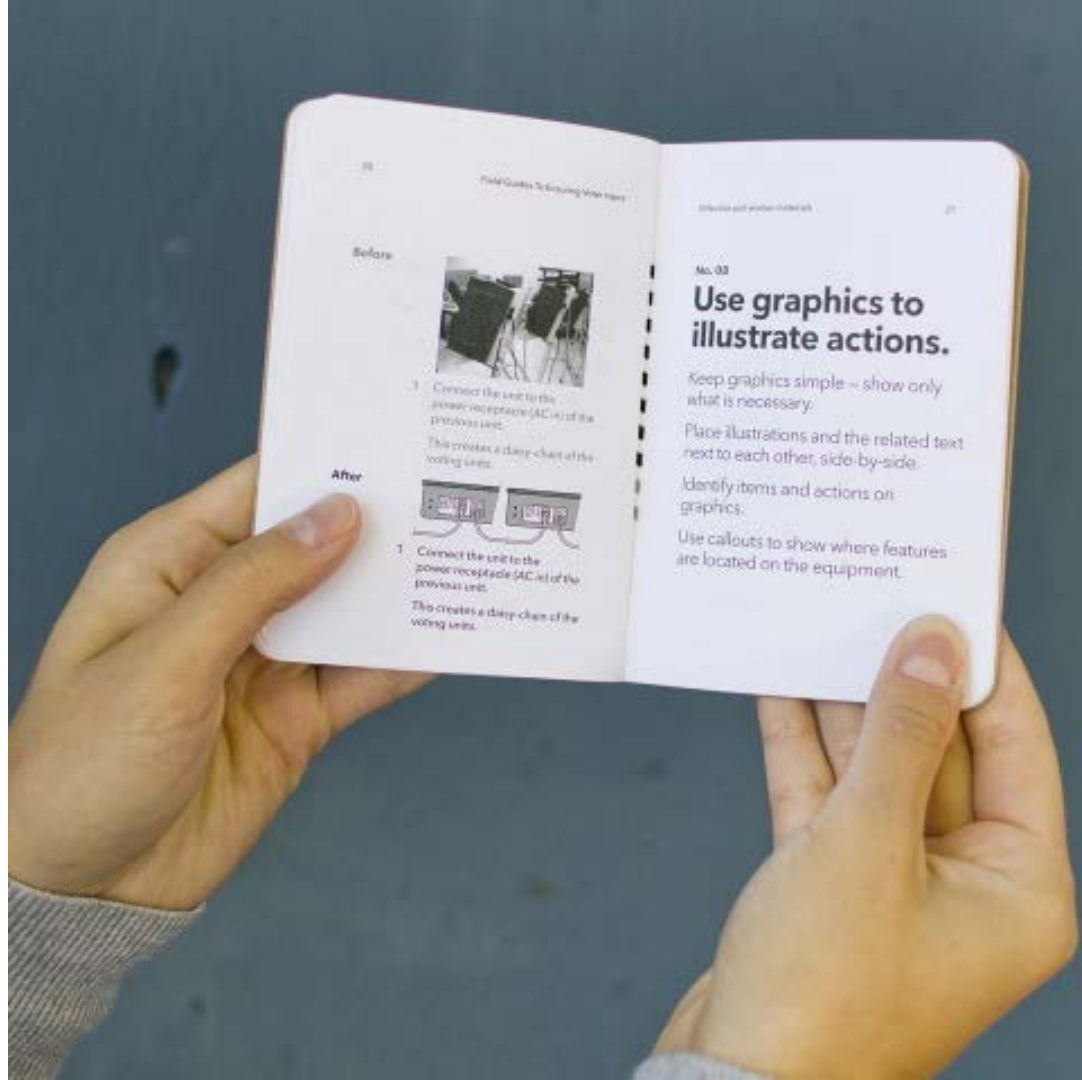
For **Mayor** (vote for 1)
You voted for
Candidate Name

For **Commissioner** (vote for 1)
You voted for
Candidate Name

For **City Council** (vote for 3)
You voted for
Candidate Name
Candidate Name
No selection made

Election workers are people, too

With good instructions, complex procedures make sense



The Field Guides to Ensuring
Voter Intent

<https://civicdesign.org/fieldguides/>

Let's try a quick experiment

Elections work better
when procedures are
usable, accessible, and clear.

For everyone!