Standards for
What Constitutes a Vote
Optical Scan
Electronic Voting Systems

Optical Scan Ballots

All optical scan ballots that are read by a ballot scanner shall be counted in accordance with applicable provisions of the Pennsylvania Election Code. The following standards shall apply in determining whether a ballot has been properly voted and whether a vote should be counted for any office or ballot question when counting ballots by hand. In the event of a recount, the board of elections or a court should provide guidance as to whether the recount shall be conducted by a ballot scanner or by hand. These standards have been adopted in accordance with the Pennsylvania Election Code, where applicable.

Optical Scan 1

A ballot that is properly marked, as specified by the legally valid ballot instructions, in the target area for an office or ballot question shall be counted as a vote for that candidate or ballot response.

For Governor
(Vote for one)

George Washington

Abraham Lincoln

John Adams

Valid Vote for Lincoln

For Governor
(Vote for one)

George Washington

Abraham Lincoln

John Adams

Valid Vote for Adams

Optical Scan 2

A ballot containing a clear mark indicating the intent of the voter, any portion of which is contained in the target area and does not enter into another target area, shall be counted as a vote for that candidate or ballot response.
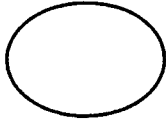
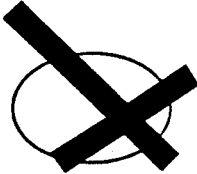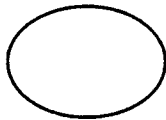## For Governor
(Vote for one)

(*) George Washington

( ) Abraham Lincoln

( ) John Adams

Valid Vote for Washington

For Governor
(Vote for one)

◯   George Washington

◯✕   Abraham Lincoln

◯   John Adams

Valid Vote for Lincoln

For Governor
(Vote for one)

George Washington   ◄ ▬▬

Abraham Lincoln   ◄ ▬▬

John Adams   ◄✕ ▬▬

Valid Vote for Adams

Optical Scan 3

A ballot that has any mark in the target area that partially extends into another target area or areas shall not be counted for that office or ballot question.

For Governor
(Vote for one)
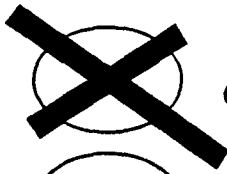

George Washington
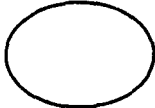
Abraham Lincoln

John Adams

Invalid vote

Optical Scan 4

A ballot that has any mark in the target area that partially extends into an area surrounding a candidate or ballot response, other than its target area, shall be counted as a vote for the candidate or ballot response so marked.
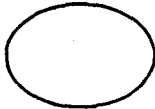
For Governor
(Vote for one)

☒ George Washington

◯ Abraham Lincoln

◯ John Adams

Valid Vote for Washington

For Governor
(Vote for one)

George Washington

Abraham Lincoln

John Adams

Valid Vote for Adams

Optical Scan 5

A ballot properly marked with any device other than the marking device provided to the voter shall be counted.

Optical Scan 6

A ballot marked with more than one type of marking device shall not be counted for any office or ballot question on the ballot.

Optical Scan 7

A ballot with marks for more candidates in an office or more responses to a ballot question than permitted shall be deemed an over-vote, and no vote shall be counted for that office or ballot question.

For Governor
(Vote for one)

○ George Washington

⬤ Abraham Lincoln

⬤ John Adams

Invalid vote

Optical Scan 8

A ballot with a proper mark in the straight party target area and with additional marks for candidates or ballot responses elsewhere on the ballot shall be counted for those candidates or ballot responses properly marked outside the straight party area. For the other offices on the ballot, the ballot shall be counted for the candidates of the political party for which the voter cast a straight party vote.

⬛ Straight Democrat ◯ Straight Republican

For Governor
(Vote for one)

◯ George Washington (Democrat)

⬛ Abraham Lincoln (Republican)

◯ John Adams (Green)

Valid Vote for Lincoln

For Senator
(Vote for one)

◯ Bill Clinton (Democrat)

◯ George Bush (Republican)

◯ Dwight David Eisenhower (Green)

Valid Vote for Clinton

Optical Scan 9

A ballot with marks for more than one party in the straight party target areas, and with additional marks in the target areas of candidates or ballot responses elsewhere on the ballot, shall be counted only for those candidates or ballot responses properly marked.

⬤ Straight Democrat   ⬤ Straight Republican

For Governor
(Vote for one)

◯ George Washington (Democrat)

◯ Abraham Lincoln (Republican)

⬤ John Adams (Green)

Valid Vote for Adams

● Straight Democrat   ● Straight Republican

For Governor
(Vote for one)

◯ George Washington (Democrat)

● Abraham Lincoln (Republican)

◯ John Adams (Green)

Valid Vote for Lincoln

● Straight Democrat   ● Straight Republican

For Governor
(Vote for one)

◯ George Washington (Democrat)

◯ Abraham Lincoln (Republican)

◯ John Adams (Green)

Invalid vote

Optical Scan 10

A ballot on which writings or remarks in the target area appear to be ranking candidates (letters, numbers, etc.) shall be considered valid marks only if they do not exceed the number of candidates permitted to be elected for that office.
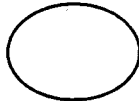
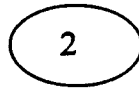## For Governor
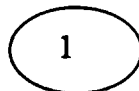### (Vote for one)
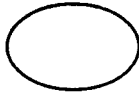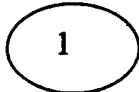
◯ George Washington

(1) Abraham Lincoln

◯ John Adams

Valid Vote for Lincoln

For Governor
(Vote for one)

(2) George Washington

(1) Abraham Lincoln

(3) John Adams

Invalid vote

For Governor
(Vote for Two)

(2) George Washington

(1) Abraham Lincoln

( ) John Adams

Valid Votes for Lincoln & Washington

Optical Scan 11

A ballot with any writings or remarks regarding one or more candidates or ballot responses shall not be counted as a vote for that office or question, unless clarified by an additional mark or marks in the target area(s) that indicate support for those candidates or ballot responses.

For Governor
(Vote for One)

( ) George Washington

( ) Abraham Lincoln

(✓) John Adams *yes*

Valid Vote for Adams

For Governor
(Vote for One)

◯ George *Yes* Washington

◯ Abraham Lincoln

◯ John Adams

Invalid vote

For Governor
(Vote for One)

◯ George *Yes* Washington

◯ Abraham Lincoln

⬤ John Adams

Valid Vote for Adams

For Governor
(Vote for one)

George Washington *LIAR* ◄ ▬▬

Abraham Lincoln ◄ ▬▬▬

John Adams *No Way* ◄ ▬▬

Valid Vote for Lincoln

Optical Scan 12

A ballot on which the voter casts a vote on the ballot and properly writes in a different candidate in the write-in area shall be considered an over-vote for that office if the number of chosen candidates exceeds the number permitted to be voted for in that office and no vote shall be counted, except as provided by Optical Scan 13.

For Governor
(Vote for one)

⬤ George Washington

◯ Abraham Lincoln

◯ John Adams

⬤ Write-In *Franklin Roosevelt*

Invalid vote

Optical Scan 13

A ballot on which the voter casts a straight party vote and properly writes in a candidate in the write-in area shall be counted only for the write-in candidate in that office. For the other offices on the ballot, the ballot shall be counted for the candidates of the political party for which the voter cast a straight party vote.
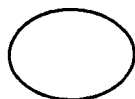
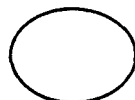⬛ Straight Democrat   ⬭ Straight Republican

For Governor
(Vote for one)

⬭ George Washington (Democratic)

⬭ Abraham Lincoln (Republican)

⬭ John Adams (Green)

⬛ Write-In *Thomas Jefferson*

Valid Vote for Jefferson

Optical Scan 14

A properly cast write-in vote shall contain a mark in the target area and, in the space provided, the written name of a candidate whose name does not otherwise appear on the ballot for that office.
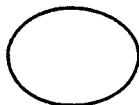
For Governor
(Vote for one)
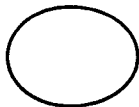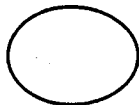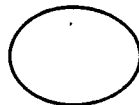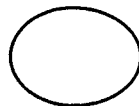
◯ George Washington

◯ Abraham Lincoln

◯ John Adams

⬤ Write-In *Thomas Jefferson*

Valid Vote for Jefferson

For Governor
(Vote for one)

◯ George Washington

◯ Abraham Lincoln

◯ John Adams

◯ Write-In *Thomas Jefferson*

Invalid vote

For Governor
(Vote for one)

◯ George Washington

◯ Abraham Lincoln

◯ John Adams

◯ Write-In *Abraham Lincoln*

Invalid vote

For Governor
(Vote for one)

◯ George Washington

◯ Abraham Lincoln

◯ John Adams

◯ Write-In *A. Lincoln*

Invalid vote

For Governor

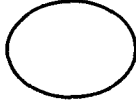**(Vote for one)**

◯ George Washington
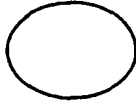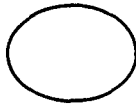
◯ Abraham Lincoln

◯ John Adams

⬤ Write-In *John Adams*
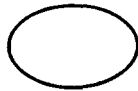
Invalid vote

Optical Scan 15

All properly cast write-in votes must be counted exactly as they appear on the ballot.
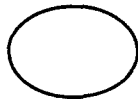
For Governor
(Vote for one)

◯ George Washington
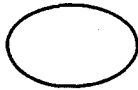
◯ Abraham Lincoln

◯ John Adams

⬤ Write-In *H. Trueman*

Valid Vote for H. Trueman only

Optical Scan 16

If a voter designates a vote for a named candidate on the ballot and also properly writes in the same candidate in the write-in area, no vote shall count for that candidate.

For Governor
(Vote for one)

◯ George Washington

◯ Abraham Lincoln

⬤ John Adams

⬤ Write-In *John Adams*

Invalid vote