

Casting a Write-In Vote

The candidate I would like to vote for is not listed on the ballot. How do I vote for him or her?

You may vote for a candidate not listed on the ballot by writing his or her name in the “write-in” box on your ballot. Each contest on the ballot has a “write-in”. You must also color in the bubble in the “write-in” box for your write-in vote to count.

If I vote a straight-party ticket but then cast a write-in vote in one of the contests, will that ruin my ballot?

No. Your straight-party selection will cast votes for the political party’s candidates in all contests except the contest where you cast the write-in vote. In the contest where you cast the write-in vote, the write-in vote will override the straight-party ticket for that candidate area.

Do I have to spell the candidate’s name correctly?

When you write in a name, the spelling must be close enough so that the name you write in is identifiable with the person you are voting for. When you write the name in, it must be done in a way that the election officials can determine exactly who you are voting for.

Do I need to write in the candidate’s full name?

Initials and last name rather than a full name may be used. However, only a last name would be insufficient. The bottom line is that a write-in vote must be marked in a way that the election officials can determine exactly who you are voting for.

Can I cast a write-in vote for my favorite cartoon character or superhero?

No. Write-in votes will be counted only for live, human beings who are eligible to serve in the office for which they have been voted. Votes cannot be counted for fictional characters.

Can I use a sticker or a stamp to put my write-in vote on my ballot?

No, the write-in vote must be cast in handwriting.

The candidate I would like to vote for lost in the primary election and is not listed on my ballot. Can I still vote for that candidate by writing them in?

Yes, Alabama’s “sore loser” law does not apply to voters writing in a candidate. Any write in votes for that candidate will be counted.