

**1S-2.027 Standards for Determining Voter’s Choice on a Ballot.**

(1) **Application.** The standards in this rule apply to determine whether the voter has clearly indicated a definite choice for purposes of counting a vote cast on a ballot in a manual recount as provided specifically by Section 102.166, F.S.

(2) **Direct recording electronic voting system.**

(a) A vote cast on this voting system is valid for a particular candidate, issue choice, or judicial retention choice when the voter marks the ballot electronically as specified in the ballot instructions.

(b) A vote cast on this voting system is valid for a particular write-in candidate when the voter types on the touch screen the name of a write-in candidate in accordance with the ballot instructions.

(3) **Optical scan voting system.**

(a) A vote cast on this voting system is valid for a particular candidate, issue choice, or judicial retention choice when the voter marks the ballot as specified in the ballot instructions.

(b) A vote cast on this voting system is valid for a particular write-in candidate when the voter writes in the name of a candidate in the designated write-in space and fills in the oval or arrow next to the write-in candidate’s name.

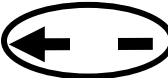






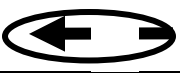




(4) **Manual review and tabulation.**

(a) The standards under this subsection apply in all instances where a contest is not marked as specified in the ballot instructions under subsection (2) or (3) and a manual review of the voter’s markings on a ballot is required to determine whether there is a clear indication that the voter has made a definite choice in a contest.

(b) The canvassing board must first look at the entire ballot for consistency. Then the provisions of paragraph (c) apply to determine whether the voter has made a definite choice in a contest, provided the voter has not marked any other contest on the ballot, or if the voter has marked other contests, he or she has marked them in the same manner, subject to the exceptions in subparagraphs 7., 10., and 15. The following are examples of valid votes after review for consistency:

<b>For Attorney General</b> (Vote for one)
<input type="radio"/> Lucille Ball
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Jack Benny
<input type="radio"/> Desi Arnaz
<input type="radio"/> Lenny Bruce
<b>For Commissioner of Agriculture</b> (Vote for one)
<input type="radio"/> Jack Ritter
<input type="radio"/> Audra Lindley
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Francis Bavier
<input type="radio"/> Jack Dodson
<b>For State Representative</b> (Vote for one)
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Don Nichols
<input type="radio"/> Michael Ross
<input type="radio"/> Bernie West
<input type="radio"/> Norman Fell

*Ballot Situation 1: Recount in race of State Representative. The two ovals in the first two races are filled in properly, but the voter has circled the candidate’s name in the state representative race. Since the voter did not mark the state representative race in the same manner as in the other races, it cannot be determined whether the voter has clearly indicated a definite choice for Don Nichols.*

<b>For Attorney General</b> (Vote for one)	
Lucille Ball	
Jack Benny	
Desi Arnaz	
Lenny Bruce	
<b>For Commissioner of Agriculture</b> (Vote for one)	
Jack Ritter	
Audra Lindley	
Francis Bavier	
Jack Dodson	
<b>For State Representative</b> (Vote for one)	
Don Nichols	
Michael Ross	
Bernie West	
Norman Fell	

*Ballot Situation 2: Recount in race of State Representative. All races on this ballot are marked in the same manner. Since the ballot is consistently marked as in paragraph (c), the vote cast for Michael Ross in the state representative race is a valid vote.*

<b>For Attorney General</b> (Vote for one)		
Lucille Ball	←	—
Jack Benny	←	—
Desi Arnaz	←	—
Lenny Bruce	←	—
<b>For Commissioner of Agriculture</b> (Vote for one)		
Jack Ritter	←	—
Audra Lindley	←	—
Francis Bavier	←	—
Jack Dodson	←	—
<b>For State Representative</b> (Vote for one)		
Don Nichols	←	—
Michael Ross	←	—
Bernie West	←	—
Norman Fell	←	—


*Ballot Situation 3: Recount in State Representative race. Each race is marked differently so that no consistency in marking exists. It cannot be determined which marking, if any, is clearly indicative of the voter's choice. Therefore, the vote cast for Bernie West is not valid.*


(c) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (b), the following marks constitute a valid vote as indicated for a particular candidate, issue choice, or judicial retention choice:


1. The voter circles or underlines either the oval or arrow next to a candidate's name, issue choice, or judicial retention choice.


**Valid Vote for Ball**

**For Attorney General**  
(Vote for one)

 Lucille Ball


 Jack Benny


 Desi Arnaz


 Lenny Bruce


**Valid Vote for Ball**

**For Attorney General**  
(Vote for one)

Lucille Ball 


Jack Benny 


Desi Arnaz 


Lenny Bruce 


**Valid Vote for Ball**

**For Attorney General**  
(Vote for one)

 Lucille Ball


 Jack Benny


 Desi Arnaz


 Lenny Bruce


**Valid Vote for Ball**

**For Attorney General**  
(Vote for one)

Lucille Ball 

Jack Benny 


Desi Arnaz 


Lenny Bruce 


2. The voter circles or underlines the name of a candidate, issue choice, or judicial retention choice.


**Valid Vote for Arnaz**

**For Attorney General**  
(Vote for one)

 Lucille Ball


 Jack Benny


 Desi Arnaz



 Lenny Bruce


**Valid Vote for Arnaz**

**For Attorney General**  
(Vote for one)

Lucille Ball 

Jack Benny 

 Desi Arnaz 

Lenny Bruce 

3. The voter circles or underlines the party abbreviation associated with a candidate's name.

**Valid Vote for Benny**

**For Attorney General**  
(Vote for one)

<input type="radio"/>	Lucille Ball	DEM
<input type="radio"/>	Jack Benny	<b>REP</b>
<input type="radio"/>	Desi Arnaz	GRN
<input type="radio"/>	Lenny Bruce	LBT

**Valid Vote for Benny**

**For Attorney General**  
(Vote for one)

Lucille Ball	DEM	←	—
Jack Benny	<b>REP</b>	←	—
Desi Arnaz	GRN	←	—
Lenny Bruce	LIB	←	—

4. The voter marks an "X," a check mark, a cross, a plus sign, an asterisk or a star, any portion of which is contained in a single oval or within the blank space between the head and tail of a single arrow. The marking must not enter into another oval or the space between the head and tail of another arrow.

**Valid Vote for Ball**

**For Attorney General**  
(Vote for one)

<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Lucille Ball
<input type="radio"/>	Jack Benny
<input type="radio"/>	Desi Arnaz
<input type="radio"/>	Lenny Bruce

**Valid Vote for Ball**

**For Attorney General**  
(Vote for one)

Lucille Ball	←	X	—
Jack Benny	←		—
Desi Arnaz	←		—
Lenny Bruce	←		—

**Invalid Vote**

**For Attorney General**  
(Vote for one)

<input type="radio"/>	Lucille Ball
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Jack Benny
<input type="radio"/>	Desi Arnaz
<input type="radio"/>	Lenny Bruce

**Invalid Vote**


**For Attorney General**  
(Vote for one)


Lucille Ball	←	X	—
Jack Benny	←		—
Desi Arnaz	←		—
Lenny Bruce	←		—


5. The voter draws a diagonal, horizontal, or vertical line, any portion of which intersects two points on the oval and which does not intersect another oval at any two points. If it is a horizontal line, the line must not strike through the name of the candidate.


**Valid Vote for Ball**

**For Attorney General**  
(Vote for one)

 Lucille Ball


 Jack Benny


 Desi Arnaz


 Lenny Bruce


**Valid Vote for Ball**

**For Attorney General**  
(Vote for one)

 Lucille Ball


 Jack Benny


 Desi Arnaz


 Lenny Bruce


**Invalid Vote**

**For Attorney General**  
(Vote for one)

 Lucille Ball

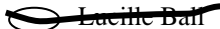
 Jack Benny


 Desi Arnaz


 Lenny Bruce


**Invalid Vote**

**For Attorney General**  
(Vote for one)

 Lucille Ball

 Jack Benny


 Desi Arnaz


 Lenny Bruce


6. The voter draws a diagonal or vertical line that intersects an imaginary line extending from the center of the head of a single arrow to the center of the tail of the same arrow, provided the diagonal or vertical line does not intersect the imaginary line joining the head and tail of another arrow.


**Valid Vote for Ball**

**For Treasurer**  
(Vote for one)

Lucille Ball 

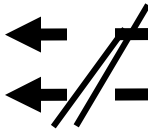
Jack Benny 


Desi Arnaz 


Lenny Bruce 


**Invalid Vote**

**For Treasurer**  
(Vote for one)

Lucille Ball 

Jack Benny 

Desi Arnaz 

Lenny Bruce 

7. The voter marks all the choices for a race but further clarifies a choice for a particular candidate, issue choice or judicial retention choice by placing an additional mark or marks showing support solely for that particular candidate, issue or judicial retention choice.

**Valid Vote for Arnaz**

**For Commissioner of Education**  
(Vote for one)

Lucille Ball

Jack Benny

Desi Arnaz

Lenny Bruce

**Valid Vote for Ball**

**For Commissioner of Education**  
(Vote for one)

Lucille Ball ←

Jack Benny ←

Desi Arnaz ←

Lenny Bruce ←

**Valid Vote to Keep Justice in Office**

**Judicial Retention**  
**State Supreme Court**  
(Vote yes or no)

Shall Justice Tom Poston be retained as Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

8. The voter strikes through all the choices for candidates, issue, or judicial retention except for one and also leaves the write-in candidate space blank.

**Valid Vote for Bruce**

**For Commissioner of Agriculture**  
(Vote for one)

Lucille Ball

Jack Benny

Desi Arnaz

Lenny Bruce

\_\_\_\_\_  
Write-In

9. The voter writes words such as "Vote for [candidate's name]," "Count this vote" or "Vote no on amendment or referendum," or "I want this one", provided there are no other markings in the race that would constitute a valid vote for a different candidate, issue choice, or judicial retention choice pursuant to rule.

**Valid Vote for Arnaz**

**For State Senator**  
(Vote for one)

Lucille Ball

Jack Benny

Desi Arnaz *This one*

Lenny Bruce

**Invalid Vote**

**For State Senator**  
(Vote for one)

Lucille Ball ← —

Jack Benny ← —

Desi Arnaz ← —

Lenny Bruce ← —

*This one*

**Valid "No" vote**

**Proposed Constitutional Amendment No. 1**  
Article \_\_\_\_, section \_\_\_\_  
(Popular Name)

An amendment to limit the increase in the assessed value of a taxpayer's real property after a countywide reappraisal and to require a property tax credit.

YES *I vote no* Proposed Constitutional Amendment No. 1

NO Proposed Constitutional Amendment No. 1

10. The voter fills in the majority of an oval, or the majority of the distance between the head and the tail of an arrow designating a particular candidate, issue choice, or judicial retention choice regardless of how other races on the ballot are marked.

**Valid Vote for Arnaz**

**For School Board Member**  
(Vote for one)

Lucille Ball

Jack Benny

Desi Arnaz

Lenny Bruce

**Valid Vote for Arnaz**

**For School Board Member**  
(Vote for one)

Lucille Ball ← —

Jack Benny ← —

Desi Arnaz ← —

Lenny Bruce ← —

11. If a voter marks fewer candidates than there are positions to be elected for those offices, then the votes for all of those marked candidates shall count. For example, if the voter is allowed to vote for 5 candidates in a special district election (“Vote for 5”) and the voter marks 2 candidates, the votes for those two marked candidates shall count.

**Valid Votes for Arnaz and Bruce**

**For County Commissioner**  
(Vote for three)

Lucille Ball

Jack Benny

Desi Arnaz

Lenny Bruce

**Valid Vote for Benny**

**For School Board Member**  
(Vote for two)

Lucille Ball ← —

Jack Benny ← —

Desi Arnaz ← —

Lenny Bruce ← —

12. The voter draws an arrow from the arrow head to a particular candidate, issue choice or judicial retention choice or draws an arrow head on the tail end of the arrow in lieu of filling in the void between the arrow head and the tail for the particular candidate, issue choice or judicial retention choice.

**Valid Vote for Arnaz**

**For U.S. Senator**  
(Vote for one)

Lucille Ball ← —

Jack Benny ← —

Desi Arnaz ← —

Lenny Bruce ← —

**Valid Vote for Bruce**

**For U.S. Senator**  
(Vote for one)

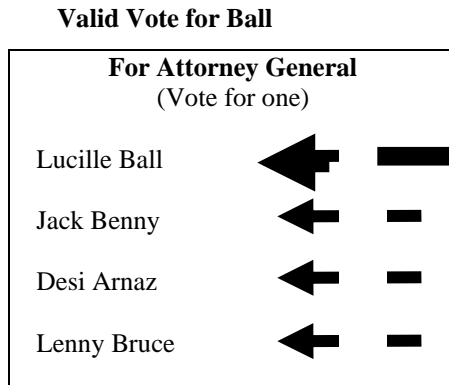
Lucille Ball ← —

Jack Benny ← —

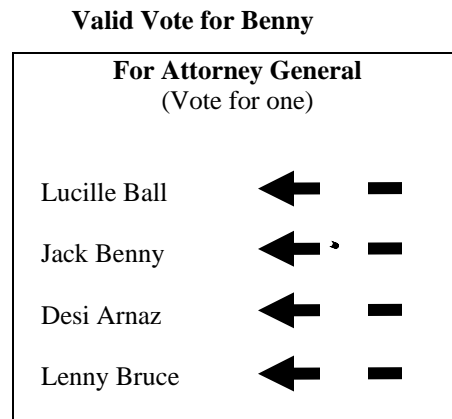
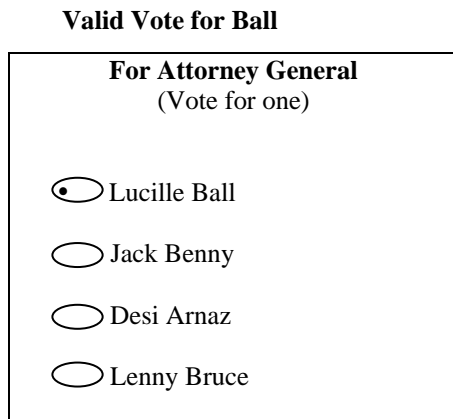
Desi Arnaz ← —

Lenny Bruce ← →

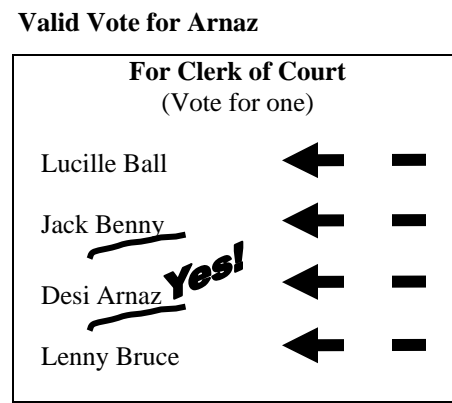
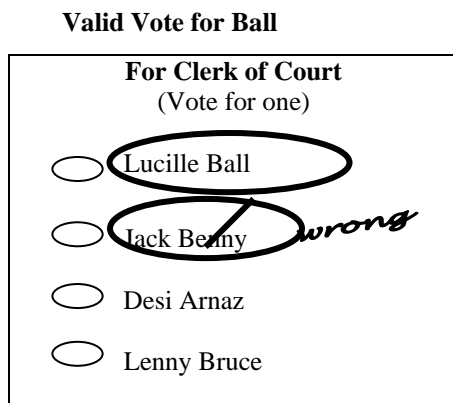
13. The voter darkens or bolds the arrow head and the arrow tail but does not fill in the void between the arrow head and the tail.



14. The voter punches the oval or the void between the arrow head and tail.



15. The voter marks two or more choices similarly in one of the ways indicated in paragraphs 1.- 14. and additionally writes in comments such as “not this,” “ignore this,” “don’t want,” or “wrong,” or “Vote for [candidate’s name]” such that voter’s definite choice is clearly indicated.



**(5) Write-in Voting.**

(a) A voter is determined to have made a definite choice for a write-in vote for the joint office of President/Vice-President if the voter writes in either the last name of the candidate for President or the last name of the candidate for Vice-President. This standard similarly applies to constitute a valid write-in vote for the joint office of Governor/Lieutenant Governor if the voter writes in either the last name of the candidate for Governor or the last name of the candidate for Lieutenant Governor.

**Valid Vote for Joint Qualified Write-in President and Vice President Candidates, Lenny Bruce and Sally Marr**

<b>For President/Vice President</b> (Vote for one)	
<input type="radio"/>	Lucille Ball Buster Keaton
<input type="radio"/>	Jack Benny Don Wilson
<input type="radio"/>	Desi Arnaz Xavier Cugat
<input type="radio"/>	Lenny Bruce Sally Marr
<input type="radio"/>	<u>Marr</u> Write-in

(b) A voter is determined to have made a definite choice for a named candidate if the voter indicates a vote for a candidate named on the ballot and also writes-in the name of that same candidate in the blank space for 'write-in candidate'.

**Valid Vote for Benny**

<b>For Attorney General</b> (Vote for one)	
<input type="radio"/>	Lucille Ball
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Jack Benny
<input type="radio"/>	Desi Arnaz
<input type="radio"/>	Lenny Bruce
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<u>Benny</u> Write-In

(c) A voter is determined to have made a definite choice for a particular candidate if the voter either writes in the name of a qualified write-in candidate or the name of a candidate who is named on the ballot in that race.

**Valid Vote for Smith, if Smith is a qualified write-in candidate**

**For Public Defender**  
(Vote for one)

Lucille Ball

Jack Benny

Desi Arnaz

Lenny Bruce

Smith  
Write-In

**Valid Vote for Bruce**

**For Public Defender**  
(Vote for one)

Lucille Ball      ←      —

Jack Benny        ←      —

Desi Arnaz        ←      —

Lenny Bruce       ←      —

Bruce            ←      —  
Write-In

(d) If a voter abbreviates, misspells or varies the form of the name of a candidate in the write-in candidate space, it shall not affect the determination of whether the voter has made a definite choice.

(e) If a voter indicates a vote for a candidate named on the ballot and also writes in a name of a different person in the write-in candidate space, it shall be considered an overvote and none of the votes are valid for that race.

**Invalid Vote**

**For Sheriff**  
(Vote for one)

Lucille Ball

Jack Benny

Desi Arnaz

Lenny Bruce

GOOFY  
Write-In

**Invalid Vote**

**For Sheriff**  
(Vote for one)

Lucille Ball      ←      —

Jack Benny        ←      —

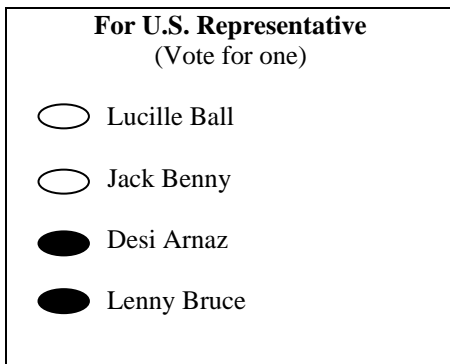
Desi Arnaz        ←      —

Lenny Bruce       ←      —

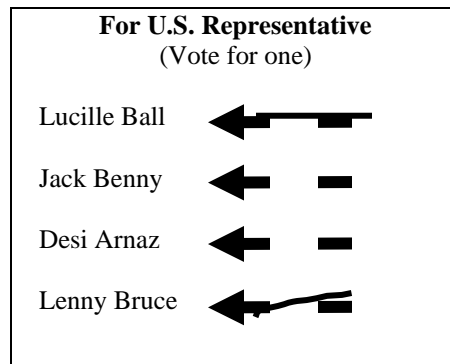
Chester        ←      —  
Write-In

(6) **Overvotes.** Except as otherwise provided in subsections (4) and (5), if the voter marks more choices than there are positions or choices for that office or issue, it shall be considered an overvote and none of the votes are valid for that race.

**Invalid Vote**



**Invalid Vote**



**7) Valid Vote.**

(a) A vote shall not count for any particular candidate, issue choice, or judicial retention choice at issue unless determined to be a valid vote pursuant to this rule.

(b) If a voter does not mark a candidate, judicial retention choice, or issue choice in a contest, the valid votes for other candidates or issues on the same ballot shall still be counted.

*Specific Authority 20.10(3), 97.021, 102.166(4) FS. Law Implemented 101.5614(5) 102.166(4); FS. History—New 6-6-02, 10-6-08.*