

LWML _____ District Convention
Instructions to Tellers on Counting Ballots

Most ballots will be simple to count. The voters will have followed the instructions of the President and marked their ballots clearly. However, occasionally there are questions about how to tally ballots. The most common questions are covered here.

What do we do with blank ballots?

Blank ballots are discarded and not counted.

Two ballots were folded together. What do we do with these?

If one of the ballots is blank it is discarded and the other ballot counted. If both ballots have been filled out, they are recorded as one illegal vote and not credited.

The instructions said to put a check mark in the blank. A voter used an “X” (or circled the name). Is this an illegal vote?

No. As long as you can determine the intent of the voter the method of marking doesn't matter. The vote should be counted.

On the ballot for officers a voter voted for some offices but not others. What do we count?

Votes are recorded for those offices voted for. Blank offices are not counted.

A voter has written in the name of an ineligible candidate. How do we count that vote? What do we do with the rest of the ballot?

A vote for an ineligible candidate is recorded as an illegal vote. However, if the rest of the ballot has legal votes they are counted.

A voter has written in the name of a candidate who was not nominated, although that person would have been an eligible candidate. How do we count that vote?

A write-in vote is counted for that individual, whose name is then added to the tally sheet and that vote is made part of the report.

A voter has voted for fewer than maximum number people for the nominating committee (fewer than maximum number of projects for the mission grants). How do we count that ballot?

A voter has the right to vote for fewer if she chooses. The votes that have been cast are tallied.

A voter has voted for more than the maximum number of people for the nominating committee (more than maximum number of projects for the mission grants). How do we count that ballot?

This vote is counted as an illegal vote. However, other sections of the election ballot are still counted.

It looks like one vote was erased and another candidate voted for. The teller team isn't sure. What do we do?

Any questionable ballots are set aside. When the rest of the ballots have been counted the whole committee looks at the ballot. A majority vote of the committee shall decide how the ballot is recorded.

In adding up the votes, we come up with more votes than the number of eligible voters reported by the credentials committee. What do we do?

If the difference will not change the outcome of the vote, the discrepancy is noted on the tellers' report, but the vote stands. However, if there is any possibility that such ballots might affect the result, the entire ballot vote is null and void and a new ballot vote must be taken. (We certainly hope this won't happen!)

We have a question that's not covered here!

Consult with your friendly district Parliamentarian!