

## 2-Card Ballot Frequently Asked Questions

### 2012 Presidential General Election

### Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections

#### *Why is the ballot so long?*

In addition to candidate races, there are 11 Constitutional Amendments placed on the ballot by the state legislature and a countywide school board referendum. The ballot is four pages, so **EACH VOTER WILL RECEIVE TWO BALLOT CARDS.**

#### *Since the ballot is so long, what can I do to prepare before making my choices?*

- **Request a Mail Ballot.** Vote in the comfort of your home and have more time to study the candidates and amendments before marking your ballot. To request a mail ballot visit [votepinellas.com](http://votepinellas.com) or call (727) 464-VOTE (8683).
- **Attend a Candidate Forum.** Check our web site at [Votepinellas.com](http://Votepinellas.com) for a list of candidate forums. You can hear the candidates speak and ask questions during or after the forum.
- **Research the Constitutional Amendments.** Find pros and cons on the Internet posted by various organizations.
- **Contact the political parties.** The political parties may provide information about candidates and amendments.
- **Contact your legislative representatives.** Your representative may provide information about the amendments.
- **Contact candidates directly.** Many candidates have Web sites and other means of communicating their messages to voters.
- For questions concerning municipal candidates, charter amendments or referendum questions, contact the municipal clerk, who serves as the Supervisor of Elections for municipal elections.

#### *If I vote by mail, how will my voting experience be different with a 2-card ballot as opposed to a 1-card ballot?*

The voting process is the same. Voters have two options for returning mail ballots: 1) mail the ballot with 65 cents postage or 2) deliver the ballot to any of the 14 ballot dropoff locations conveniently located throughout the county.

#### *If I vote at the polls, how will my voting experience be different with a 2-card ballot as opposed to a 1-card ballot?*

The “check-in” process is the same. Voters provide both photo and signature identification, sign the precinct register and receive a ballot ticket. The ballot distribution manager will give each voter 2 ballot cards, a secrecy folder and a black ballpoint pen. Voters will then mark their ballot cards in the privacy booths. After marking their ballot cards, voters will take the pen and both cards in the secrecy folder to the ballot scanner. The voter will then insert each ballot card, one at a time, into the scanner to record their votes.

#### *How does the ballot scanner work with a 2-card ballot?*

Voters can insert either card first, in any configuration. The ballot scanner will indicate that it has recorded the votes and thank the voter for voting. The ballot scanner will then indicate that it is ready to accept the second card; the screen will read “Please insert your ballot.” At this time, the voter should insert the second card. The ballot scanner will again indicate that it has recorded the votes and thank the voter for voting. Again, it does not matter which card is inserted first or second or in which configuration.

***What does the “Public Count” mean on the ballot scanner?***

The public count is the total number of VOTERS who have voted. This public count increments only when the ballot scanner processes “Card 1.”

***What if I put “Card 2” in the scanner first and then “Card 1” second, will my votes be counted?***

YES! The scanner will read both cards, regardless of which card is inserted first and regardless of the configuration of the ballot cards when inserted into the scanner. The public count will increment only when the voter inserts “Card 1.”

***What if I put a card in the scanner and the scanner accepted that card, but the second card I put in the scanner jammed and was damaged. Were the votes on the first card recorded by the scanner?***

YES! After inserting the first card, the scanner screen will indicate when the votes are recorded. Any ballot jam or damage that occurs with inserting the second card has no bearing on the scanner recording the votes from the first card inserted. A damaged card will be spoiled and a replacement ballot card will be issued to the voter.

***What if I make a mistake on one of the cards, do I have to mark both cards again?***

No. If an error is made, voters only have to spoil the card with the mistake. Voters will return to the ballot distribution manager who will assist with the process of spoiling and replacing a card. By law, voters are allowed to receive up to two additional replacement ballot cards: either “Card 1” or “Card 2.” However, the third card issued for either “Card 1” or “Card 2” must be used.

***What if after receiving both cards I decide I don’t want to vote one of the cards?***

Even if voters choose not to vote for anything on a ballot card, they need to insert the card into the ballot scanner. This will ensure that both cards, which equal a complete ballot, are processed by the scanner.

Please note: If no votes were made on a card, the scanner will alert the voter that the card is blank. If the voter wants to vote a blank ballot, the voter should choose to have the scanner accept the card.

***How does the ADA-accessible voting machine, the AutoMark operate with a 2-card ballot?***

The process is virtually the same. Voters will insert either card first, in any configuration. After voters prompt the AutoMark to mark and return the first card, voters will then insert the second card in any configuration. After voters prompt the AutoMark to mark and return the second card, voters will take both cards to the ballot scanner to record their votes. The options of the audio function with headset, Braille keypad, zoom-in large-print function with headset, sip-and-puff device and two-switch paddle device will operate the same and will be available.

***Who should I contact if I have any questions about the election process?***

The Supervisor of Election’s team is available to help our voters in any way we can. Please call (727) 464-VOTE or visit [votepinellas.com](http://votepinellas.com).