Formality of Ballot Papers

The formality requirements for Local Government elections differ from those of State and Federal parliamentary elections.

Examples of formal and informal ballot papers are on the following pages.

Giving Effect to the Elector’s Wishes

The key words in the legislation refer to accepting a ballot paper that ‘clearly indicates the elector’s wishes’.

Marking of the Ballot Paper

In an election where one office is to be filled and two or more candidates are named on the ballot paper an elector is to mark the ballot paper in accordance with regulations, so as to indicate the candidate named on the ballot paper who the elector wishes to be elected.

If two or more offices are to be filled at the election an elector is to mark the ballot paper by placing a tick in the box(es) opposite the name of the candidate(s) for whom the elector wishes to be elected.

Initials and Other Markings

A ballot paper is not rendered informal because the voter by choice reveals their identity.

Returning Officer Decision is Final

The final decision on whether a ballot paper is to be accepted rests with the Returning Officer.

The Returning Officer will refer to the Electoral Commissioner’s guidelines as well as the Act and Regulations, but the determination of validity will always be circumstance specific.

The physical appearance of markings on the ballot paper may well influence the Returning Officer’s decision on the formality of the ballot paper.
ELECTION OF TWO COUNCILLORS
CITY OF MARYVILLE
WEST WARD
Election Date: Saturday XX October 20XX

How to vote
Place a □ in the box next to each of the candidates you want to elect. You may choose up to 2 candidates. If you choose more than 2 your vote will be invalid. Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

CANDIDATES

| CANDIDATE, A | □ |
| CANDIDATE, B | ☑ |
| CANDIDATE, C | ☑ |
| CANDIDATE, D | □ |
| CANDIDATE, E | □ |
| CANDIDATE, F | □ |

1. Formal: Two clear ticks. Some large, the ticks can be seen to be in two boxes.

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CANDIDATES

| CANDIDATE, A | □ |
| CANDIDATE, B | ☑ |
| CANDIDATE, C | □ |
| CANDIDATE, D | □ |
| CANDIDATE, E | □ |
| CANDIDATE, F | □ |

2. Formal: Two candidates are ticked. Initials do not invalidate a ballot paper.

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CITY OF MARYVILLE
WEST WARD
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Place a □ in the box next to each of the candidates you want to elect. You may choose up to 2 candidates. If you choose more than 2 your vote will be invalid. Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

CANDIDATES

| CANDIDATE, A | ☑ |
| CANDIDATE, B | □ |
| CANDIDATE, C | □ |
| CANDIDATE, D | ☑ |
| CANDIDATE, E | □ |
| CANDIDATE, F | □ |

3. Formal: The corrections are sufficiently clear to enable acceptance of the two ticks. The signature does not invalidate the ballot paper.

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WEST WARD
Election Date: Saturday XX October 20XX

How to vote
Place a □ in the box next to each of the candidates you want to elect. You may choose up to 2 candidates. If you choose more than 2 your vote will be invalid. Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

CANDIDATES

| CANDIDATE, A | ☑ |
| CANDIDATE, B | □ |
| CANDIDATE, C | □ |
| CANDIDATE, D | ☑ |
| CANDIDATE, E | □ |
| CANDIDATE, F | □ |

4. Formal: Two candidates are ticked. The writing does not invalidate the vote.
ELECTION OF TWO COUNCILLORS  
CITY OF MARYVILLE  
WEST WARD  

Election Date: Saturday XX October 20XX

How to vote
Place a ✓ in the box next to each of the candidates you want to elect. You may choose up to 2 candidates. If you choose more than 2, your vote will be invalid. Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

CANDIDATES

CANDIDATE, A  □
CANDIDATE, B  ✓
CANDIDATE, C  □
CANDIDATE, D  □
CANDIDATE, E  ✓
CANDIDATE, F  □

5. Formal: The ticks indicate a choice. The words on the paper are to be disregarded.

CANDIDATES

CANDIDATE, A  1
CANDIDATE, B  2
CANDIDATE, C  3
CANDIDATE, D  4
CANDIDATE, E  5
CANDIDATE, F  6

6. Formal: The first two preferences are clear.

ELECTION OF TWO COUNCILLORS  
CITY OF MARYVILLE  
WEST WARD  

Election Date: Saturday XX October 20XX

How to vote
Place a ✓ in the box next to each of the candidates you want to elect. You may choose up to 2 candidates. If you choose more than 2, your vote will be invalid. Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

CANDIDATES

CANDIDATE, A  □
CANDIDATE, B  □
CANDIDATE, C  □
CANDIDATE, D  □
CANDIDATE, E  □
CANDIDATE, F  □

7. Formal: The first two preferences are clear. Other preferences are numbered but cannot be counted.

CANDIDATES

CANDIDATE, A  1
CANDIDATE, B  2
CANDIDATE, C  3
CANDIDATE, D  4
CANDIDATE, E  5
CANDIDATE, F  6

8. Formal: In a first-past-the-post contest, two identical numbers can be interpreted as two ticks.
ELECTION OF TWO COUNCILLORS
CITY OF MARYVILLE
WEST WARD
Election Date: Saturday XX October 20XX

How to vote
Place a [✓] in the box next to each of the candidates you want to elect. You may choose up to 2 candidates. If you choose more than 2, your vote will be invalid. Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CANDIDATES</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CANDIDATE, A</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CANDIDATE, B</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CANDIDATE, C</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CANDIDATE, D</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CANDIDATE, E</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CANDIDATE, F</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. Formal Two ticks indicate two choices. The cross is disregarded.

10. Formal Two ticks indicate two choices. The crosses are disregarded.

11. Formal The ticks represent two formal votes and the crosses can be disregarded.

12. Formal The ticks are close enough to the candidate boxes for the KO to make a decision that there are formal votes for candidates B and E.
**ELECTION OF TWO COUNCILLORS**
**CITY OF MARYVILLE**
**WEST WARD**

**Election Date:** Saturday XX October 20XX

**How to vote**

Place a [✓] in the box next to each of the candidates you want to elect. You may choose up to 2 candidates. If you choose more than 2 your vote will be invalid. Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

**Candidates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Candidate A | [✓]  
| Candidate B |  
| Candidate C |  
| Candidate D |  
| Candidate E | [✓]  
| Candidate F |  

13. Formal: No other markings enable two crosses to be accepted as a clear expression of choice.

14. Formal: The ticks are sufficiently close to the names to indicate a choice for candidates A and D.

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**ELECTION OF TWO COUNCILLORS**
**CITY OF MARYVILLE**
**WEST WARD**

**Election Date:** Saturday XX October 20XX

**How to vote**

Place a [✓] in the box next to each of the candidates you want to elect. You may choose up to 2 candidates. If you choose more than 2 your vote will be invalid. Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

**Candidates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Candidate A | [✓]  
| Candidate B |  
| Candidate C | [✓]  
| Candidate D |  
| Candidate E |  
| Candidate F |  

15. Formal: Numbers 1 and 2 can be considered formal votes.

16. Formal: The arrows indicate two identifiable choices.
Ballot Paper

ELECTION OF TWO COUNCILLORS
CITY OF MARYVILLE
WEST WARD

Election Date: Saturday XX October 20XX

How to vote

Place a [✓] in the box next to each of the candidates you want to elect. You may choose up to 2 candidates. If you choose more than 2, your vote will be invalid. Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

CANDIDATES

CANDIDATE, A
CANDIDATE, B
CANDIDATE, C
CANDIDATE, D
CANDIDATE, E
CANDIDATE, F

07. Formal: The marks are taken to indicate two choices.

18. Formal: Two marks are made for the two candidates. The others are blank, indicating no choices.

Ballot Paper

ELECTION OF TWO COUNCILLORS
CITY OF MARYVILLE
WEST WARD

Election Date: Saturday XX October 20XX

How to vote

Place a [✓] in the box next to each of the candidates you want to elect. You may choose up to 2 candidates. If you choose more than 2, your vote will be invalid. Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

CANDIDATES

CANDIDATE, A
CANDIDATE, B
CANDIDATE, C
CANDIDATE, D
CANDIDATE, E
CANDIDATE, F

19. Formal: Two clear marks indicate a choice.

20. Formal: The names crossed out indicate that these candidates are out to be selected.
ELECTION OF TWO COUNCILLORS 
CITY OF MARYVILLE 
WEST WARD

Election Date: Saturday XX October 20XX

How to vote
Place a [ ] in the box next to each of the candidates you want to elect. You may choose up to 2 candidates. If you choose more than 2, your vote will be invalid. Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

Candidates

Candidate A
Candidate B
Candidate C
Candidate D
Candidate E
Candidate F

21. Formal: The two candidates circled indicate a choice.

22. Formal: Two candidates are definitively indicated.

Candidate A
Candidate B
Candidate C
Candidate D
Candidate E
Candidate F

Candidate A
Participant B
Candidate C
Candidate D
Candidate E
Candidate F

23. Formal: The 1's indicate choice and the bullets indicate the vote.

24. One formal: The cross is a clear indication of preference.
ELECTION OF TWO COUNCILLORS
CITY OF MARYVILLE
WEST WARD

How to vote
Place a [✓] in the box next to each of the candidates you want to elect. You may choose up to 2 candidates. If you choose more than 2, your vote will be invalid. Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

CANDIDATES

CANDIDATE, A
CANDIDATE, B
CANDIDATE, C
CANDIDATE, D
CANDIDATE, E
CANDIDATE, F

25. One formal
The tick indicates a clear preference. It is not clear whether the 1 or the 2 is the second choice, so the other marks are not counted.

26. One formal
The tick indicates a clear preference. It is not clear whether the cross is an indication of preference or rejection.

CANDIDATE, A
CANDIDATE, B
CANDIDATE, C
CANDIDATE, D
CANDIDATE, E
CANDIDATE, F

27. One formal
The 'yes' indicates a clear preference, and the deletions indicate rejection. It is not clear whether the unmarked candidate is a choice.

28. One formal
One candidate is clearly preferred. There is no other choice indicated.
ELECTION OF TWO COUNCILLORS
CITY OF MARYVILLE
WEST WARD

Election Date: Saturday XX October 20XX

How to vote
Place a ☑ in the box next to each of the candidates you want to elect. You may choose up to 2 candidates. If you choose more than 2, your vote will be invalid. Do not make any other marks on the ballot paper.

CANDIDATES

CANDIDATE, A ☑
CANDIDATE, B ☑
CANDIDATE, C ☑
CANDIDATE, D ☑
CANDIDATE, E ☑
CANDIDATE, F ☑

30. Informal: There is no tick and no clear indication whether the cross is a rejection or a preference. The voter’s intention is not clear.

31. Informal: It is not clear whether the crosses are indications of preference or rejection, nor whether the numerals or the crosses are more significant.

32. Informal: Two preferences cannot be discerned.