

Voter Intent on Consolidated Ballots

Presidential Primary 2024 Advisory #04

November 27, 2023

A Presidential Primary consolidated ballot contains two separate political party ballots. Both ballots are printed on one side of a single sheet of paper.

Voter intent materials for consolidated ballots included with this advisory do not address the voter's particular marking style; rather, the focus is on whether the voter marked the correct party ballot.

Declared Party, Opposite Party

For a voter's Presidential Primary ballot to be tabulated, they must stay on "their side" of the ballot. The party declaration selected by the voter on the envelope must match the party ballot voted.

A declared party ballot is a properly voted ballot. Voting the opposite party ballot or voting both party ballots invalidates the voter's ballot.

Voter Intent Principles

The following principles summarize Presidential Primary voter intent principles from WACs [434-219-235](#) and [434-261-086](#):

- When the voter selects a party declaration, they must vote on "their side" of the ballot.
- When the voter marks the "declared" party ballot, the ballot may be tabulated.
- When the voter marks the "opposite" party ballot, the ballot must be rejected.

Statewide standards published in [WAC 434-261-086](#) also apply to properly voted ballots. For example:

- The exceptions to Rule A, "Target Area," still apply. Voters may make obvious stray marks, hesitation marks, written notes, and corrected votes.
- Because the Presidential Primary ballot is a single-race ballot, Rule B, "One Mark on a Ballot," applies. Voters may mark outside the target area but are not required to demonstrate a pattern of similar marks.
- Voters may correct a mistake. For example, a candidate's name that has been crossed out on the opposite party ballot, leaving a candidate marked on the declared party ballot, is a corrected vote for the candidate on the declared party ballot.

Write-in voting rules:

- Political parties may submit to the Secretary of State a list of write-in candidate names to be tallied for that party's ballot no later than seven days before the Presidential Primary.

- A write-in vote on a party ballot is tabulated as a vote for that political party with no exceptions – even if the candidate is a known candidate for another party.
- Only votes for candidate or write-in candidate names provided by the political party are tallied. All votes for write-in candidate names provided by the political party are tallied and included in the certified results.

Inspection

The voter's first completed (returned, marked, and signed) political party declaration may qualify the ballot for further processing. The voter must sign the political party and voter declarations on the same page; elements of different partially completed documents cannot be combined. For voter intent examples related to how the voter marked the declaration envelope or Missing Signature/Party Choice Cure Form, see [Presidential Primary 2024 Advisory #03: Missing Signatures or Party Choice Declarations](#).

Procedures for manual inspection must identify ballots that are not properly voted:

- If the voter votes for a candidate on the opposite party ballot, the ballot must not be tabulated.
- If the voter votes in both races, the ballot must not be tabulated.

If the voter votes for a candidate only on their declared party ballot, the ballot is properly voted and must be tabulated.

Rejection

Political party ballots that are cross-party or both-party voted must be referred to the County Canvassing Board for rejection.

See Presidential Primary 2024 Advisory: Completing the Presidential Primary for more information.

The number of rejected ballots in the following two reconciliation categories should be in the County Canvassing Board minutes:

- Cross-party voted ballots: The party declaration on the envelope does not match the party voted on the ballot.
- Both-party voted ballots: The voter voted for candidates on both party ballots.

These ballots must be referred for rejection and cannot be tabulated.

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Note: The example ballot list beginning on Page 5 contains options for Uncommitted Delegates. The Democratic and Republican Parties will notify the Secretary of State on January 9, 2024 if they will provide an Uncommitted Delegate option on their ballots for the Presidential Primary. If a party chooses not to, this advisory will be updated to reflect that in their examples.

For questions about administering Washington State's 2024 Presidential Primary Election, please contact the Certification and Training Program at (360) 902-4180 or CTsupport@sos.wa.gov.

An information publication of the Certification and Training Program, Elections Division, Office of the Secretary of State.


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Example	Tabulate	Do Not Tabulate	Comments
1. Declared candidate ballot	●		This is a valid vote. The voter selected a political party on the ballot return envelope and voted for a candidate on that party's ballot.
2. Write-in Candidate, Name Provided by Political Party	●		This is a valid vote. The voter selected a political party on the ballot return envelope and voted for a write-in candidate on that party's ballot whose name was provided to the Secretary of State by the political party.
3. Declared Candidate Ballot, Overvote	●		This is a true overvote. When the voter marks more than one candidate within the same party on the declared ballot, it's tabulated as an overvote.
4. Write-in: Declared Candidate Already Printed on Ballot	●		This is not an overvote, but a valid vote for the printed candidate. This is true whether both or no target areas are marked. See WAC 434-261-086(1)(h-p) .
5. Corrected Vote	●		This is a valid vote. The voter selected a political party on the ballot return envelope, voted for the Uncommitted Delegate option on the other party's ballot, followed the ballot's instructions to correct a vote, then voted for a candidate in the political party's ballot they had selected.
6. Write-in: Opposite Party, Known Candidate	●		Even though the known candidate's name is printed on the opposite party ballot, the voter marked the declared party ballot. This is not a valid vote for that candidate because that candidate is not on the declared party write-in list provided by the political party; however, it must be tabulated as a write-in on the declared party ballot. Votes for write-in candidates not provided by the political party will not be individually tallied.
7. Cross-Party Voted Ballot		●	When a vote is marked for a candidate on the opposite party ballot, the ballot has been cross-party voted.
8. Both-Party Voted Ballot		●	When votes are marked on both party ballots, the ballot has been both-party voted.
9. Write-in: Cross-Party Voted Ballot		●	Even though the known candidate is printed on the voter's declared party ballot, writing the candidate's name on the opposite party ballot makes it a vote for the opposite party. The ballot has been cross-party voted.
10. Write-in: Both-party Voted Ballot		●	The voter marked both political party ballots. The act of writing the candidate's name on the opposite party ballot makes it a vote for the opposite party. The ballot has been both-party voted.
11. Cross-party Voted Ballot with Party Designation		●	In this case, a party designation is not considered a valid "written instruction." Even though the known candidate's party is written by the voter, the voter marked the opposite party ballot. A valid write-in vote must be written on the declared party ballot. The ballot has been cross-party voted.

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12. Write-in: Both-party Voted Ballot, Write-in Target Area Not Marked		●	The candidate marked both party ballots. "Yay Candidate D4!!" is considered a write-in vote on the opposite party ballot, regardless if the target area has been marked or not.
Rule B, WAC 434-261-086	Assume the voter intends to vote.		For marks made outside of the target area, see WAC 434-261-086(1)(b) .
Rules C-E, WAC 434-261-086	Assume the voter intends to vote.		For corrected votes and written instructions from the voter, see WAC 434-261-086(1)(c-e) .

Presidential Primary Voter Intent Glossary

Both-party Voted Ballot: The ballot contains votes on both party ballots.

Consolidated Ballot: Two separate political party ballots are printed on one side of a single sheet of paper.

Cross-party Voted Ballot: The marked party declaration on the envelope does not match the party ballot voted.

Declared Party Ballot: Contains votes for a candidate on the ballot of the same party selected by the voter on their declaration.

Opposite Party Ballot: Contains a vote for a candidate on the ballot not of the same party selected by the voter on their declaration.

Overvote: Votes cast for more than one candidate on the declared party ballot. The marks are tabulated as an overvote.

Political Party Declaration: Wording submitted by each major party as required by state or national party rules. Each voter wishing to participate in the Presidential Primary must mark and sign one political party declaration.

Target Area: The oval or rectangle corresponding to a candidate, write-in line, or choice on the ballot where the voter is instructed to mark their vote. Tabulation systems read target areas.

Write-in Vote: A valid vote written by the voter on a declared party ballot. Only write-in votes for candidate and write-in candidate names provided by the political party are valid write-in votes.

Example 1: Declared Candidate Ballot

Action: Tabulate.

This mark is a valid vote to be tabulated for the printed candidate, Candidate D3.

envelope

2 Mark one party declaration box (required)

Democratic Party
 I declare that my party preference is the Democratic Party and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2024 Presidential election.

Republican Party
 I declare that my party preference is the Republican Party and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2024 Presidential election.

Declared Candidate Ballot

ballot

Democratic	Republican
If you selected the Democratic Party on your return envelope, you must vote for one Democratic candidate below.	If you selected the Republican Party on your return envelope, you must vote for one Republican candidate below.
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D1	<input type="radio"/> Candidate R1
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D2	<input type="radio"/> Candidate R2
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Candidate D3	<input type="radio"/> Candidate R3
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D4	<input type="radio"/> Candidate R4
<input type="radio"/> Uncommitted Delegates	<input type="radio"/> Uncommitted Delegates
<input type="radio"/> _____	<input type="radio"/> _____

Example 2: Write-in Candidate, Name Provided by Political Party

Action: Tabulate as a valid write-in.

This mark is a valid vote to be tabulated for the declared write-in candidate, Candidate D5.

Why? Political parties may submit to the Secretary of State a list of write-in candidate names to be counted for that party's ballot no later than 7 days before the Presidential Primary. In the following example, the voter wrote the name of a candidate who is a declared write-in candidate provided by the political party.

Because the voter selected the "Democratic" declaration and properly voted the "Democratic" party ballot, this will be tabulated as a write-in vote for the "Democratic" party ballot to be tallied and included in the certified results.

For additional write-in voting rules applicable to declared party ballots, see [WAC 434-261-086\(1\)\(h-p\)](#).

envelope

2 Mark one party declaration box (required)

Democratic Party
 I declare that my party preference is the Democratic Party and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2024 Presidential election.

Republican Party
 I declare that my party preference is the Republican Party and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2024 Presidential election.

**Declared Candidate Ballot,
Write-in Candidate**

ballot

Democratic	Republican
If you selected the Democratic Party on your return envelope, you must vote for one Democratic candidate below.	If you selected the Republican Party on your return envelope, you must vote for one Republican candidate below.
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D1	<input type="radio"/> Candidate R1
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D2	<input type="radio"/> Candidate R2
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D3	<input type="radio"/> Candidate R3
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D4	<input type="radio"/> Candidate R4
<input type="radio"/> Uncommitted Delegates	<input type="radio"/> Uncommitted Delegates
<input checked="" type="radio"/> <u>Candidate D5</u>	<input type="radio"/> _____

Example 3: Declared Candidate Ballot, Overvote

Action: Tabulate as an overvote.

These marks are for Declared Candidate D3 and the Uncommitted Delegates option. This ballot does not contain a valid vote for any candidate.

Why? The voter marked two target areas on the declared party ballot. This is a true overvote; votes cast for more than one candidate are not permitted. Votes cast for more than one candidate are tabulated as an overvote *only* when the overvote occurs on the declared party ballot.

envelope

2 Mark one party declaration box (required)

Democratic Party
 I declare that my party preference is the Democratic Party and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2024 Presidential election.

Republican Party
 I declare that my party preference is the Republican Party and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2024 Presidential election.

Declared Candidate Ballot, Overvote

ballot

Democratic	Republican
If you selected the Democratic Party on your return envelope, you must vote for one Democratic candidate below.	If you selected the Republican Party on your return envelope, you must vote for one Republican candidate below.
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D1	<input type="radio"/> Candidate R1
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D2	<input type="radio"/> Candidate R2
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Candidate D3	<input type="radio"/> Candidate R3
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D4	<input type="radio"/> Candidate R4
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Uncommitted Delegates	<input type="radio"/> Uncommitted Delegates
<input type="radio"/> _____	<input type="radio"/> _____

Example 4: Write-in: Declared Candidate Already Printed on Ballot

Action: Tabulate.

Why? The voter wrote the name of a candidate who is already printed on the declared party ballot. This is not tabulated as an overvote, nor as a write-in vote, but must be counted as a valid vote for the printed candidate. This applies if both target areas are marked or no target areas are marked.

For additional write-in voting rules applicable to declared party ballots, see [WAC 434-261-086\(1\)\(h-p\)](#).

**Declared Candidate Ballot,
Duplicate per
WAC 434-261-086(1)(i)**

envelope

2 Mark one party declaration box (required)

Democratic Party
I declare that my party preference is the Democratic Party and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2024 Presidential election.

Republican Party
I declare that my party preference is the Republican Party and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2024 Presidential election.

ballot

Democratic	Republican
If you selected the Democratic Party on your return envelope, you must vote for one Democratic candidate below.	If you selected the Republican Party on your return envelope, you must vote for one Republican candidate below.
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D1	<input type="radio"/> Candidate R1
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D2	<input type="radio"/> Candidate R2
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D3	<input type="radio"/> Candidate R3
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D4	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Candidate R4
<input type="radio"/> Uncommitted Delegates	<input type="radio"/> Uncommitted Delegates
<input type="radio"/> _____	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <i>Candidate R4</i> _____

Example 5: Corrected Vote

Action: Tabulate.

Why? The voter selected the Republican Party on their Presidential Primary return envelope, voted for the Democratic Party Uncommitted Delegate option, properly struck the Uncommitted Delegate vote, then voted for Candidate R1.

The voter followed the instructions on the ballot to correct a mistake on their ballot, and the ballot will be counted for Candidate R1.

**Corrected Vote,
Duplicate per
WAC 434-261-086(1)(c)**

envelope

2 Mark one party declaration box (required)

Democratic Party
I declare that my party preference is the Democratic Party and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2024 Presidential election.

Republican Party
I declare that my party preference is the Republican Party and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2024 Presidential election.

ballot

Democratic	Republican
If you selected the Democratic Party on your return envelope, you must vote for one Democratic candidate below.	If you selected the Republican Party on your return envelope, you must vote for one Republican candidate below.
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D1	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Candidate R1
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D2	<input type="radio"/> Candidate R2
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D3	<input type="radio"/> Candidate R3
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D4	<input type="radio"/> Candidate R4
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Uncommitted Delegates	<input type="radio"/> Uncommitted Delegates
<input type="radio"/> _____	<input type="radio"/> _____

Example 6: Write-in: Opposite Party, Known Candidate

Action: Tabulate as a write-in vote for the declared Republican Party ballot. This mark is a write-in vote for Candidate D2, Republican Party; Candidate D2 is not on the Republican Party's provided list of write-in candidates.

Why? The candidate is a known candidate for the Democratic Party, but the voter selected the Republican Party declaration on their ballot return envelope and voted on the Republican Party ballot. Even though the known candidate is printed on the opposite party ballot, a write-in vote on a political party ballot is a vote for that political party – no exceptions. This is not tabulated as a vote for the known candidate printed on the Democratic party ballot, but a vote for a Republican write-in name. Votes for the candidate will not be individually tallied.

Write-in Opposite Party, Known Candidate

envelope

2 Mark one party declaration box (required)

Democratic Party
 I declare that my party preference is the Democratic Party and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2024 Presidential election.

Republican Party
 I declare that my party preference is the Republican Party and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2024 Presidential election.

ballot

Democratic	Republican
If you selected the Democratic Party on your return envelope, you must vote for one Democratic candidate below.	If you selected the Republican Party on your return envelope, you must vote for one Republican candidate below.
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D1	<input type="radio"/> Candidate R1
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D2	<input type="radio"/> Candidate R2
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D3	<input type="radio"/> Candidate R3
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D4	<input type="radio"/> Candidate R4
<input type="radio"/> Uncommitted Delegates	<input type="radio"/> Uncommitted Delegates
<input type="radio"/> _____	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <i>Candidate D2</i> _____

Example 7: Cross-Party Voted Ballot

Action: Do not tabulate.

Why? The mark for Candidate R3 is not a valid vote. The voter marked a target area on the opposite party ballot. This is a cross-party voted ballot. The ballot must be referred to the Canvassing Board for rejection.

envelope

Cross-party Voted Ballot

ballot

2	Mark <u>one</u> party declaration box (required)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Democratic Party I declare that my party preference is the Democratic Party and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2024 Presidential election.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Republican Party I declare that my party preference is the Republican Party and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2024 Presidential election.

Democratic	Republican
If you selected the Democratic Party on your return envelope, you must vote for one Democratic candidate below.	If you selected the Republican Party on your return envelope, you must vote for one Republican candidate below.
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D1	<input type="radio"/> Candidate R1
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D2	<input type="radio"/> Candidate R2
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D3	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Candidate R3
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D4	<input type="radio"/> Candidate R4
<input type="radio"/> Uncommitted Delegates	<input type="radio"/> Uncommitted Delegates
<input type="radio"/> _____	<input type="radio"/> _____

Example 8: Both-Party Voted Ballot

Action: Do not tabulate.

Why? The voter marked target areas on each party's ballot. This is a both-party voted ballot. The ballot must be referred to the Canvassing Board for rejection.

envelope

2 Mark one party declaration box (required)

Democratic Party
 I declare that my party preference is the Democratic Party and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2024 Presidential election.

Republican Party
 I declare that my party preference is the Republican Party and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2024 Presidential election.

Both-party Voted Ballot

ballot

Democratic	Republican
If you selected the Democratic Party on your return envelope, you must vote for one Democratic candidate below.	If you selected the Republican Party on your return envelope, you must vote for one Republican candidate below.
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D1	<input type="radio"/> Candidate R1
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D2	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Candidate R2
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D3	<input type="radio"/> Candidate R3
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Candidate D4	<input type="radio"/> Candidate R4
<input type="radio"/> Uncommitted Delegates	<input type="radio"/> Uncommitted Delegates
<input type="radio"/> _____	<input type="radio"/> _____

Example 9: Write-in: Cross-Party Voted Ballot

Action: Do not tabulate.

Why? The mark for candidate R6 is not a valid vote. The voter selected the Democratic Party declaration but marked a vote on the Republican Party ballot. The ballot must be referred to the Canvassing Board for rejection.

envelope

2 Mark one party declaration box (required)

Democratic Party
 I declare that my party preference is the Democratic Party and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2024 Presidential election.

Republican Party
 I declare that my party preference is the Republican Party and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2024 Presidential election.

Cross-party Voted Ballot, Write-in

ballot

Democratic	Republican
If you selected the Democratic Party on your return envelope, you must vote for one Democratic candidate below.	If you selected the Republican Party on your return envelope, you must vote for one Republican candidate below.
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D1	<input type="radio"/> Candidate R1
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D2	<input type="radio"/> Candidate R2
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D3	<input type="radio"/> Candidate R3
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D4	<input type="radio"/> Candidate R4
<input type="radio"/> Uncommitted Delegates	<input type="radio"/> Uncommitted Delegates
<input type="radio"/> _____	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <i>Candidate R6</i>

Example 10: Write-in: Both-party Voted Ballot

Action: Do not tabulate.

Why? The voter marked target areas on each party's ballot. This is a both-party voted ballot. The ballot must be referred to the Canvassing Board for rejection.

envelope

2 Mark one party declaration box (required)

Democratic Party
 I declare that my party preference is the Democratic Party and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2024 Presidential election.

Republican Party
 I declare that my party preference is the Republican Party and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2024 Presidential election.

Both-party Voted Ballot, Write-in

ballot

Democratic	Republican
If you selected the Democratic Party on your return envelope, you must vote for one Democratic candidate below.	If you selected the Republican Party on your return envelope, you must vote for one Republican candidate below.
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D1	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Candidate R1
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D2	<input type="radio"/> Candidate R2
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D3	<input type="radio"/> Candidate R3
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D4	<input type="radio"/> Candidate R4
<input type="radio"/> Uncommitted Delegates	<input type="radio"/> Uncommitted Delegates
<input checked="" type="radio"/> <u>Candidate D1</u>	<input type="radio"/> _____

Example 11: Cross-party Voted Ballot with Party Designation

Action: Do not tabulate.

Why? The voter selected the Republican Party declaration but marked a vote on the Democratic Party ballot. Even though the known candidate is printed on the opposite party ballot, a write-in vote on a political party ballot is a vote for that political party – no exceptions. This is a cross-party voted ballot. The ballot must be referred to the Canvassing Board for rejection.

envelope

2 Mark one party declaration box (required)

Democratic Party
 I declare that my party preference is the Democratic Party and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2024 Presidential election.

Republican Party
 I declare that my party preference is the Republican Party and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2024 Presidential election.

Cross-party Voted Ballot with Party Designation

ballot

Democratic	Republican
If you selected the Democratic Party on your return envelope, you must vote for one Democratic candidate below.	If you selected the Republican Party on your return envelope, you must vote for one Republican candidate below.
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D1	<input type="radio"/> Candidate R1
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D2	<input type="radio"/> Candidate R2
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D3	<input type="radio"/> Candidate R3
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D4	<input type="radio"/> Candidate R4
<input type="radio"/> Uncommitted Delegates	<input type="radio"/> Uncommitted Delegates
<input checked="" type="radio"/> <u>Candidate R4, Rep.</u>	<input type="radio"/> _____

Example 12: Write-in: Both-party Voted Ballot, Write-in Target Area Not Marked

Action: Do not tabulate.

Why? The voter marked a vote on each party's ballot. This is a both-party voted ballot. "Candidate R3" is considered a write-in vote on the Democratic Party ballot whether or not the voter marks the corresponding target area. A write-in vote on a political party ballot is a vote for that political party – no exceptions. The ballot must be referred to the Canvassing Board for rejection.

**Both-party Voted Ballot, Write-in
 Target Area Not Marked
 WAC 434-261-086(1)(h)**

envelope

2 Mark one party declaration box (required)

Democratic Party
 I declare that my party preference is the Democratic Party and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2024 Presidential election.

Republican Party
 I declare that my party preference is the Republican Party and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2024 Presidential election.

ballot

Democratic	Republican
If you selected the Democratic Party on your return envelope, you must vote for one Democratic candidate below.	If you selected the Republican Party on your return envelope, you must vote for one Republican candidate below.
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D1	<input type="radio"/> Candidate R1
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D2	<input type="radio"/> Candidate R2
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D3	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Candidate R3
<input type="radio"/> Candidate D4	<input type="radio"/> Candidate R4
<input type="radio"/> Uncommitted Delegates	<input type="radio"/> Uncommitted Delegates
<input type="radio"/> <u>Candidate R3</u>	<input type="radio"/> _____