

“Statewide Standards on What is a Vote”

Amendments to WAC 434-261-086 are underlined:



Rule A, “Target Area”

(a) Any marks made in the target area shall be counted as valid votes, with the exceptions below.

Any marks made outside of the target area shall be valid only if they fulfill the consistent pattern requirements of Rule B.

Marks that trace or outline the target area are not valid votes unless they fulfill the consistent pattern requirements of Rule B.

Rule B, “Consistent Pattern”

(b) Marks made outside of the target area shall only be counted as valid votes if a consistent pattern of marks is used throughout the whole ballot. This means that all races and issues for which the voter has indicated a choice must have the same mark.

If some marks are in the target area and some are not, but the same *type* of mark is used in a consistent pattern throughout the whole ballot, all such marks shall be counted as valid votes.

If the marks strike through candidate names or ballot measure responses in a consistent pattern throughout the whole ballot, all such marks shall be counted as valid votes.

Rule D, “Not a Correction”

(d) If the voter has both marked a choice correctly *and* placed an ‘X’ in the same target area, but has not marked a second target area, it shall be counted as a valid vote.

Changes made by the voter to wording printed on the ballot will not invalidate votes cast for that race.

Rule F, “Identifying Marks” (SB 5359)

(f) Marks identifying the voter, such as initials, signatures, or addresses do not disqualify a ballot.