

Shelby County voters:

The presidential contest is split into two columns on your ballot. To vote for president, fill in only 1 oval in the highlighted area.

Shelby County		General Election		November 4, 2008	
<p>Instructions to Voter</p> <p>1. To vote you must completely darken the oval (●) to the left of the candidate or answer of your choice. If you vote for more choices than permitted, your vote for that race or issue will not be counted.</p> <p>2. To cast a write-in vote, darken the oval (●) to the left of the line provided and write in the candidate's name. Only a candidate who has timely filed a valid notice of intent to become a write-in candidate may have a vote counted in his or her favor.</p> <p>3. If you make an error, please return your ballot to an election official and obtain a new ballot. Please do not attempt to erase or cross out any marks made in error.</p>		<p>○ For President: Brian Moore For Vice-President Stewart Alexander Socialist Party USA</p> <p>○ For President: Ralph Nader For Vice-President Matt Gonzalez</p> <p>○ For President: Barack Obama For Vice-President Joe Biden Democratic</p> <p>○ For President: _____ Write-In For Vice-President _____ Write-In</p>		<p>For County Commissioner (Full Term Commencing 1-3-09) Vote For One (1)</p> <p>○ Jack R. Toomey Republican</p> <p>○ Jimmy F. Yost Democratic</p>	
<p>OFFICIAL OFFICE TYPE BALLOT</p>		<p>For Attorney General (Unexpired Term Ending January 9, 2011) Vote For One (1)</p> <p>○ Richard Cordray Democratic</p> <p>○ Mike Crites Republican</p> <p>○ Robert M. Owens</p>		<p>For Prosecuting Attorney Vote For One (1)</p> <p>○ Ralph A. Bauer Republican</p>	
<p>For President and Vice-President Vote For One (1)</p> <p>To vote for President and Vice-President, darken the oval at the left of the joint candidates of your choice. Your vote will be counted for each of the candidates for presidential elector whose names have been certified to the Secretary of State.</p>		<p>For Representative to Congress (4th District) Vote For One (1)</p> <p>○ Mike Carroll Democratic</p> <p>○ Jlm Jordan Republican</p>		<p>For Clerk of Court of Common Pleas Vote For One (1)</p> <p>○ Michele K. Mumford Republican</p>	
<p>○ For President: Chuck Baldwin For Vice-President Darrell L. Castle Constitution Party</p>		<p>For State Senator (12th District) Vote For One (1)</p> <p>○ Keith Faber Republican</p> <p>○ Jack Kaffenberger, Sr.</p> <p>○ Thomas Matthew Democratic</p>		<p>For Sheriff Vote For One (1)</p> <p>○ Dean A. Kimpel Republican</p> <p>○ Douglas Schlagetter Democratic</p>	
<p>○ For President: Bob Barr For Vice-President Wayne Allyn Root Libertarian Party of Ohio</p>		<p>For State Representative (78th District) Vote For One (1)</p> <p>○ John Adams Republican</p>		<p>For County Recorder Vote For One (1)</p> <p>○ Jodi Siegel Democratic</p>	
<p>○ For President: Richard Duncan For Vice-President Ricky Johnson</p>		<p>For County Commissioner (Full Term Commencing 1-2-09) Vote For One (1)</p> <p>○ Larry Kleinhans Republican</p>		<p>For County Treasurer Vote For One (1)</p> <p>○ Linda S. Meininger Democratic</p>	
<p>○ For President: John McCain For Vice-President Sarah Palin Republican</p>		<p>For State Senator (12th District) Vote For One (1)</p> <p>○ Keith Faber Republican</p> <p>○ Jack Kaffenberger, Sr.</p> <p>○ Thomas Matthew Democratic</p>		<p>For County Engineer Vote For One (1)</p> <p>○ Robert B. Geuy Democratic</p>	
<p>○ For President: Cynthia McKinney For Vice-President Rosa A. Clemente Green Party of the United States</p>		<p>For State Representative (78th District) Vote For One (1)</p> <p>○ John Adams Republican</p>		<p>For Coroner Vote For One (1)</p> <p>○ Fred Haussman Republican</p>	
		<p>OFFICIAL NONPARTISAN BALLOT</p>		<p>For Member of State Board of Education (1st District) Vote For One (1)</p> <p>○ Ann E. Jacobs</p> <p>○ Tracey R. Smith</p>	
		<p>VOTE BOTH SIDES</p>			
0001 SIDNEY 1ST WARD A		Split 1		Typ:01 Seq:0001 Spl:01	
Absentee Ballot					

BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE

The presidential contest in Shelby County, Ohio is listed in more than one column. Research on ballot design suggests this could confuse voters and result in some voters not recording a vote in the presidential contest.

In July, the Brennan Center published *Better Ballots*, a study of ballot design flaws in the last several elections and their impact on those elections. The study showed that ballots that featured a single contest split into two columns, as seen on this year's Shelby County ballot, often confused voters. A split contest like this may be seen by voters as two separate races and lead to unintentional overvoting.

In 2002, in Kewaunee County, Wisconsin, for example, the ballot listed the candidates for the gubernatorial election in two columns. Nearly 12% of voters in the county did not have a vote counted in the race; this compares to only 1.1% of voters statewide. The low number of votes recorded in the gubernatorial election in Kewaunee County was undoubtedly because many voters believed the governor's race was actually two races, and voted twice in that race — once for one of the candidates boxed in together in the first column, and once again for one of the candidates boxed in the second column. As a result, none of their votes for Governor counted.

The Brennan Center and the United States Election Assistance Commission have issued ballot design guidelines strongly recommending that a single contest be placed in a single column on a ballot. For the Shelby County ballot, the Brennan Center calls on election officials and advocates in the county to make sure that voters are aware that the presidential contest is split into two columns and to vote only once for president.