

# Wyandot 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.

A WYANDOT COUNTY	B GENERAL ELECTION	C NOVEMBER 4, 2008
<p><b>Instructions to voter</b></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 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>4. Use a black ball point pen.</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 Vote For One (1)</p> <p>○ Joseph A. Kraus</p> <p>○ Joyce Morehart Republican</p> <p>For County Commissioner Vote For One (1)</p> <p>○ Steve Phillips Republican</p> <p>○ Steven J. Seltz</p> <p>○ Steve L. Walton Democratic</p>
<p><b>OFFICIAL OFFICE TYPE BALLOT</b></p>	<p>For Attorney General (One-Year Term Ending 12/31/2010) Vote For One (1)</p>	<p>For County Commissioner Vote For One (1)</p>
<p>To vote for President and Vice President blacken the oval to the left of the set of 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>○ Richard Cordray Democratic</p> <p>○ Mike Crites Republican</p> <p>○ Robert M. Owens</p>	<p>For County Commissioner Vote For One (1)</p> <p>○ Ann K. Dunbar Democratic</p>
<p>For President: ○ Chuck Baldwin For Vice-President Darrell L. Castle Constitution Party</p>	<p>For Representative to Congress (4th District) Vote For One (1)</p> <p>○ Mike Carroll Democratic</p> <p>○ Jim Jordan Republican</p>	<p>For County Commissioner Vote For One (1)</p> <p>○ Michael R. Hetzel Republican</p>
<p>For President: ○ Bob Barr For Vice-President Wayne Allyn Root Libertarian Party of Ohio</p>	<p>For State Senator (26th District) Vote For One (1)</p> <p>○ Karen L. Gillmor Republican</p> <p>○ Thomas L. Kruse Democratic</p>	<p>For County Commissioner Vote For One (1)</p> <p>○ Sandra M. Michell Republican</p>
<p>For President: ○ Richard Duncan For Vice-President Ricky Johnson</p>	<p>For State Representative (2nd District) Vote For One (1)</p> <p>○ Jeffrey A. McClain Republican</p> <p>○ Wanda L. Sharrock Democratic</p> <p>○ Mark A. Smith</p>	<p>For County Commissioner Vote For One (1)</p> <p>○ Carolyn F. Frederick Republican</p>
<p>For President: ○ John McCain For Vice-President Sarah Palin Republican</p> <p>For President: ○ Cynthia McKinney For Vice-President Ross A. Clemente Green Party of the United States</p>	<p>For County Commissioner Vote For One (1)</p> <p>○ Michael B. Kohl Republican</p>	<p>For County Commissioner Vote For One (1)</p>
<p>001 Upper A</p>	<p>1 - 4th Cong</p>	<p>Typ:01 Seq:0001 Spl:01</p>

# BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE

The presidential contest in Wyandot 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 Wyandot 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 Wyandot 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.