

# Auglaize 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.

## OFFICIAL GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT

Auglaize County	General Election	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><input type="radio"/> For President: Ralph Nader For Vice-President Matt Gonzalez</p> <p><input type="radio"/> For President: Barack Obama For Vice-President Joe Biden Democratic</p> <p><input type="radio"/> For President:</p> <p>Write-in _____ For Vice-President</p> <p>Write-in _____</p>	<p><b>For County Commissioner</b> (Full Term Commencing 1-3-09) Vote For One (1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Brent W. Henschen Democratic</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Donald Regula Republican</p> <p><b>For Prosecuting Attorney</b> Vote For One (1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Edwin A. Pierce Republican</p> <p><b>For Clerk of Court of Common Pleas</b> Vote For One (1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Sue Ellen Kohler Republican</p>
<p><b>OFFICIAL OFFICE TYPE BALLOT</b></p>	<p><b>For Attorney General</b> (Unexpired Term Ending January 9, 2011) Vote For One (1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Richard Cordray Democratic</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Mike Crites Republican</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Robert M. Owens</p>	<p><b>For Sheriff</b> Vote For One (1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Allen F. Solomon Democratic</p>
<p><b>For President and Vice-President</b> 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><b>For Representative to Congress</b> (4th District) Vote For One (1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Mike Carroll Democratic</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Jim Jordan Republican</p>	<p><b>For County Recorder</b> Vote For One (1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Ann A. Billings Republican</p>
<p><input type="radio"/> For President: Chuck Baldwin For Vice-President Darrell L. Castle Constitution Party</p>	<p><b>For State Senator</b> (12th District) Vote For One (1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Keith Faber Republican</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Jack Kaffenberger Sr.</p>	<p><b>For County Treasurer</b> Vote For One (1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> April E. Bowersock Republican</p>
<p><input type="radio"/> For President: Bob Barr For Vice-President Wayne Allyn Root Libertarian Party of Ohio</p>	<p><b>For State Representative</b> (78th District) Vote For One (1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Thomas Matthew Democratic</p>	<p><b>For County Engineer</b> Vote For One (1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Douglas P. Reinhart Republican</p>
<p><input type="radio"/> For President: Richard Duncan For Vice-President Ricky Johnson</p>	<p><b>For County Commissioner</b> (Full Term Commencing 1-2-09) Vote For One (1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> John N. Bergman Republican</p>	<p><b>For Coroner</b> Vote For One (1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Thomas R. Freytag Republican</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Deron L. Horman</p>
<p><input type="radio"/> For President: John McCain For Vice-President Sarah Palin Republican</p>	<p><b>For State Representative</b> (78th District) Vote For One (1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> John Adams Republican</p>	<p><b>For County Engineer</b> Vote For One (1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Douglas P. Reinhart Republican</p>
<p><input type="radio"/> For President: Cynthia McKinney For Vice-President Rosa A. Clemente Green Party of the United States</p>	<p><b>For County Commissioner</b> (Full Term Commencing 1-2-09) Vote For One (1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> John N. Bergman Republican</p>	<p><b>For Coroner</b> Vote For One (1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Thomas R. Freytag Republican</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Deron L. Horman</p>
<p><input type="radio"/> For President: Brian Moore For Vice-President Stewart Alexander Socialist Party USA</p>	<p><b>For County Commissioner</b> (Full Term Commencing 1-2-09) Vote For One (1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> John N. Bergman Republican</p>	<p><b>For Coroner</b> Vote For One (1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Thomas R. Freytag Republican</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Deron L. Horman</p>
<p>0010 ST. MARYS 1A 01</p>	<p>Typ:01 Seq:0001 Spl:01</p>	<p>Page 1 of 2</p>

# BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE

The presidential contest in Auglaize 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 Auglaize 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 Auglaize 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.