

# Champaign 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	Champaign 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 or issue, will not be counted.</p> <p>2. To cast a write-in vote, blacken 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:  <input type="radio"/> Brian Moore            For Vice-President            Stewart Alexander            Socialist Party USA</p> <p>For President:  <input type="radio"/> Ralph Nader            For Vice-President            Matt Gonzalez</p> <p>For President:  <input type="radio"/> Barack Obama            For Vice-President            Joe Biden            Democratic</p> <p>For President:  <input type="radio"/> _____            For Vice-President            _____            Write-in</p>		<p>For County Commissioner            (Full Term Commencing 1-2-09)            Vote for One (1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Max M. Coates            Republican</p> <p>For County Commissioner            (Full Term Commencing 1-3-09)            Vote for One (1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Steven R. Hess            Republican</p> <p>For Prosecuting Attorney            Vote for One (1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Nick A. Selvaggio            Republican</p>	
<p><b>VOTE FRONT AND BACK OF BOTH PAGES</b></p>		<p>For Attorney General            (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>For Clerk of Court            of Common Pleas            Vote for One (1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Jeanne Fritz            Democratic</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Penny S. Underwood            Republican</p> <p>For Sheriff            Vote for One (1)</p>	
<p><b>OFFICIAL OFFICE TYPE BALLOT</b></p>		<p>For Representative to Congress            (4th District)            Vote for One (1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Mike Carroll            Democratic</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Jim Jordan            Republican</p>		<p>For County Recorder            Vote for One (1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Robin K. Edwards            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 State Senator            (12th District)            Vote for One (1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Keith Faber            Republican</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Jack Kaffenberger, Sr.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Thomas Matthew            Democratic</p>		<p>For County Treasurer            Vote for One (1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Kermit D. Russell            Republican</p>	
<p>For President:  <input type="radio"/> Chuck Baldwin            For Vice-President            Darrell L. Castle            Constitution Party</p> <p>For President:  <input type="radio"/> 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><input type="radio"/> John Adams            Republican</p>		<p>For County Engineer            Vote for One (1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Fereidoun Shokouhi            Republican</p>	
<p>For President:  <input type="radio"/> Richard Duncanson            For Vice-President            Ricky Johnson</p> <p>For President:  <input type="radio"/> John McCain            For Vice-President            Sarah Palin            Republican</p> <p>For President:  <input type="radio"/> Cynthia McKinney            For Vice-President            Rosa A. Clemente            Green Party of the United States</p>		<p>For Coroner            Vote for One (1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Joshua F. Richards            Republican</p>			
<p>0001 URBANA 1/A</p>		<p>01</p>		<p>Typ:01 Seq:0001 Spl:01</p>	

# BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE

The presidential contest in Champaign 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 Champaign 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 Champaign 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.