

# Lawrence 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	B	C
LAWRENCE 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>4. Use a black ball point pen.</p>	<p>For President:  <input type="radio"/> <b>Ralph Nader</b>            For Vice-President  <b>Matt Gonzalez</b></p> <p>For President:  <input type="radio"/> <b>Barack Obama</b>            For Vice-President  <b>Joe Biden</b></p> <p>For President:  <input type="radio"/> <b>Chuck Baldwin</b>            For Vice-President  <b>Darrell L. Castle</b></p> <p>For President:  <input type="radio"/> _____            Write-In            For Vice-president            _____            Write-In</p>	<p>For County Commissioner  <small>Write-in</small></p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>R. Tanner Heaberlin</b>            Democratic</p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>Les Boggs</b>            Republican</p> <p>For State Representative  <small>Write-in</small></p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>J.B. Collier, Jr.</b>            Republican</p> <p>For County Auditor  <small>Write-in</small></p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>Mike Patterson</b>            Democratic</p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>Cheyri A. Jenkins</b>            Republican</p>
<p><b>OFFICIAL OFFICE TYPE BALLOT</b></p>	<p>For Attorney General  <small>Write-in</small></p>	<p>For Sheriff  <small>Write-in</small></p>
<p>For President and Vice-President  <small>Write-in</small></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 President:  <input type="radio"/> <b>Bob Barr</b>            For Vice-President  <b>Wayne Allyn Root</b>  <small>Libertarian Party of Ohio</small></p> <p>For President:  <input type="radio"/> <b>Richard Duncan</b>            For Vice-President  <b>Ricky Johnson</b></p> <p>For President:  <input type="radio"/> <b>John McCain</b>            For Vice-President  <b>Sarah Palin</b>  <small>Republican</small></p> <p>For President:  <input type="radio"/> <b>Cynthia McKinney</b>            For Vice-President  <b>Rosa A. Clemente</b>  <small>Green Party of the United States</small></p> <p>For President:  <input type="radio"/> <b>Brian Moore</b>            For Vice-President  <b>Stewart Alexander</b>  <small>Socialist Party USA</small></p>	<p><input type="radio"/> <b>Mike Crites</b>            Republican</p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>Robert M. Owens</b></p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>Richard Cordray</b>            Democratic</p> <p>For Representative of Congress  <small>Write-in</small></p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>Richard D. Stobbs</b>            Republican</p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>Charlie Wilson</b>            Democratic</p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>Dennis Spisak</b>  <small>Green Party of Ohio</small></p> <p>For State Representative  <small>Write-in</small></p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>Shane Meldick</b>            Democratic</p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>Clyde Evans</b>            Republican</p> <p>For County Commissioner  <small>Write-in</small></p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>Jason C. Stephens</b>            Republican</p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>Wayne D. Pennington</b>            Democratic</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> <b>Jeff Lawless</b>            Republican</p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>Russell E. Bennett, Jr.</b></p> <p>For County Auditor  <small>Write-in</small></p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>Sharon Gossett Hager</b>            Republican</p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>Susan Sheridan</b>            Democratic</p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>Jonathan Ater</b></p> <p>For County Commissioner  <small>Write-in</small></p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>Stephen Dale Burcham</b>            Democratic</p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>Perry Brock</b>            Republican</p> <p>For County Engineer  <small>Write-in</small></p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>David Lynd</b>            Republican</p> <p><b>VOTE BOTH SIDES</b></p>
0020 A/D #2		Type: 01 Seq: 2002 Sp: 01

# BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE

The presidential contest in Lawrence 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 Lawrence 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 Lawrence 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.