

# Athens 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.

	Athens County	General Election	November 4, 2008
<p>11</p> <p>21</p> <p>31</p> <p>40</p> <p>41</p> <p>42</p> <p>43</p> <p>51</p>	<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"/> 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"/> _____            Write-In            For Vice-President  <input type="radio"/> _____            Write-In</p>	<p>For County Commissioner            Full Term (2008-2011)            (Vote For One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> James L. Pancake            Democratic</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Larry Payne            Republican</p> <p>For County Commissioner            Full Term (2008-2011)            (Vote For One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Mark Sullivan            Democratic</p> <p>For Probation Attorney            (Vote For One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C. David Warren            Democratic</p>
<p>40</p> <p>41</p> <p>42</p> <p>43</p>	<p><b>OFFICIAL OFFICE TYPE BALLOT</b></p>	<p>For Attorney General            Full Term (2008-2011)            (Vote For One)</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 State Auditor            Full Term (2008-2011)            (Vote For One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Ann Trout            Democratic</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><input type="radio"/> For President:            Chuck Baldwin            For Vice-President            Darrell L. Castle            Constitution Party</p> <p><input type="radio"/> For President:            Bob Barr            For Vice-President            Wayne Allyn Root            Libertarian Party of Ohio</p> <p><input type="radio"/> For President:            Richard Duncan            For Vice-President            Ricky Johnson</p> <p><input type="radio"/> For President:            John McCain            For Vice-President            Sarah Palin            Republican</p> <p><input type="radio"/> For President:            Cynthia McKinney            For Vice-President            Rosa A. Clemente            Green Party of the United States</p>	<p>For Representative to Congress            11th District            (Vote For One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Dennis Spisak            Green Party of Ohio</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Richard D. Stobbs            Republican</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Charlie Wilson            Democratic</p> <p>For State Senator            12th District            (Vote For One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Timothy J. Kettler            Green Party of Ohio</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Rick C. Shriver            Democratic</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Jimmy Stewart            Republican</p> <p>For State Representative            12th District            (Vote For One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Debbie Phillips            Democratic</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Jill Thompson            Republican</p>	<p>For Sheriff            Full Term (2008-2011)            (Vote For One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Stephen D. Kane            Republican</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Patrick Kelly            Democratic</p> <p>For County Recorder            Full Term (2008-2011)            (Vote For One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Jessica Markins            Democratic</p> <p>For County Treasurer            Full Term (2008-2011)            (Vote For One)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Javon Kittle Cooper            Democratic</p> <p><b>VOTE BOTH SIDES</b></p>

# BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE

The presidential contest in Athens 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 Athens 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 Athens 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.