

Key Rules to Know

A write-in vote is counted...

- when there are no named candidates on the ballot.
- **only** for the party ballot on which the write-in appears.
- when a named candidate has died.
- even if the oval is not filled in.

A write-in vote is not counted and is reported as blank when...

- an oval is filled in but no name is written next to it.
- it names a deceased or fictitious person (for example, Abe Lincoln or Mickey Mouse).

A write-in candidate does not qualify as a primary winner without a minimum of 25 votes, unless the write-in candidate receives more votes than a candidate whose name is printed on the ballot.

Some Rules are Based on the Office

Federal, Statewide, and General Assembly Offices

- **Registration Required** – Write-in votes are only counted for candidates who registered with either the Secretary of State or their Town Clerk by the filing deadline.
- All other write-in votes (those not registered) are counted as “Other Write-ins”.
- Exception: If the total number of Other Write-ins in a race is equal to or greater than the votes received by any candidate who appears to have won, every write-in vote cast in that race will be counted.
- A named candidate’s consent form serves as their write-in registration for that office across all party ballots.
- Includes: Representative to Congress, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, State Treasurer, Secretary of State, Auditor of Accounts, Attorney General

County and Local Offices

- **Registration NOT Required** – All write-in votes are counted and reported.
- Includes: Probate Judge, Assistant Judge, State's Attorney, Sheriff, High Bailiff, Selectboard Members and other local officials