

Ranked Choice Ballots for Military and Overseas Voters: Presidential Nomination Contests



MODEL STATUTORY LANGUAGE

An Act Relating to the Use of Ranked Choice Ballots for Military and Overseas Voters in times of Presidential Nomination Contests

Section 1: SHORT TITLE

This Act shall be called the “Military and Overseas Voters Ballots for Presidential Nomination Contests Act of 20XX.”

Section 2: PURPOSE

This act aims to increase meaningful participation in presidential elections by military and overseas voters by mandating the use of special absentee ballots that allow voters using such ballots to rank candidates in order of preference. Such ballots uphold voting rights for military and overseas voters when presidential candidates withdraw after their ballots were cast.

Section 3: FORM OF THE RANKED CHOICE BALLOT

- (a) For any qualified electors in the categories named in (state overseas voter provision) who are temporarily outside the territorial limits of the United States, the county board of election commissioners shall prepare a ranked choice ballot for the presidential primary election to be sent to the voter.
- (b) The ranked choice ballot shall contain a list of all candidates qualifying for the election in each office.
- (c) The ranked choice ballot shall permit the elector to vote in the presidential election by ranking the candidates in order of choice.
 - (1) The number of allowable rankings shall be limited to no fewer than 6 candidates.
 - (2) However, the voter shall not be required to indicate his or her preference for more than one (1) candidate on the ballot if he or she chooses.
- (d) Instructions shall be sent with the ranked choice ballot to the voter explaining how to rank candidates in order of choice and how the ballot will be tabulated

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Section 4: TABULATION OF RANKED CHOICE BALLOTS IN PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES

When votes are being tallied, a vote on a ranked choice ballot shall be counted as one vote for the highest ranked candidate who has not withdrawn from the election. A candidate has “withdrawn” from the election only when the candidate’s campaign has given notification to the Secretary of State of the candidate’s official withdrawal in a form prescribed by the Secretary of State.

Section 5: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Act shall go into effect the _____ day of _____ 20_____.