**State of Maine Instructions for Voters: Marking a Ranked-choice Voting Contest**

- **Make only one choice per column**
- **Do not skip columns**
- **Rank as many or as few candidates as you would like**

### How Your Ballot Will Be Counted

- **On election night,** the local election officials will count the 1st choices on all the ballots and report the results to the Secretary of State.

- If no candidate wins a majority of the 1st choice votes, the ballots or memory devices containing the results will be brought to the counting facility in Augusta, to complete the RCV counting process.

- Your vote counts for your 1st choice as long as the candidate has not been defeated (because of having the least votes in any round).

- If your 1st choice candidate is defeated, your 2nd choice will be counted, and so on.

- **Select your 1st choice candidate and fill in the oval next to that candidate’s name in the 1st choice column**

- You do not have to rank all the candidates - your ballot will be counted even if you only rank 1 candidate for an office.

- Marking all the rankings for the same candidate is counted the same as a single 1st choice vote for this candidate, as in the example above.

- If you have a 2nd choice candidate, fill in the oval next to that candidate’s name in the 2nd choice column.

- You may rank other candidates in the same manner until you have ranked all the candidates you would like.

- If you skip a single ranking, the ranking after the single skipped ranking will be moved up and counted during the RCV counting process.

- If you skip two rankings in a row, rankings after the two skipped rankings will not be counted.

- If you skip a 1st choice ranking, your vote will be counted as a blank on Election Night.

- The 2nd choice will be moved up and counted as the 1st choice during the RCV counting process.

- **Do not** rank more than one candidate for the same ranking choice (in the same column).

- This is called an “over-vote” because 2 candidates have been ranked the same.

- It is not possible to know which candidate the voter really wants, so the over-vote and later rankings cannot be counted.

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