

Dealing with doubtful ballot papers

Supporting mayoral elections in England

Translations and other formats

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1 Introduction

1.1 This booklet is designed to assist Returning Officers (ROs) and their deputies in adjudicating doubtful ballot papers at local government elections in England.

1.2 This booklet should also be read in conjunction with our general guidance on managing the [verification and count which can be found on our website](#).

1.3 The RO may delegate the final decision on adjudication to one or more deputies, but this must be done explicitly in writing.¹

1.4 Because the RO discharges a statutory function in adjudicating doubtful votes, the RO or authorised Deputy RO, and not other staff employed by the RO at the count, should carry out this function.

1.5 One of the aims of this booklet is to help to ensure consistency of approach across England.

1.6 This booklet has been developed in consultation with representatives of the electoral community, including members of the Elections, Referendum and Registration Working Group and the UK Electoral Coordination and Advisory Board, and the Electoral Commission is grateful for their assistance throughout this process.

1.7 When undertaking the adjudication of ballot papers it is important to ensure that the process is carried out in full view of all candidates and agents present, as well as in the presence of any Commission representatives and accredited observers in attendance.

Managing the adjudication at local government elections in England

1.8 ROs should not wait until towards the end of the count before starting the adjudication process; this should be carried out regularly throughout the count process in clear view of those entitled to be present.

1.9 Those ballot papers that have been rejected should be stamped with the word 'rejected' and placed in the appropriate package. All other ballot papers must be counted.

1.10 A statement must be prepared showing the number of ballot papers rejected under each of the following headings:²

- want of official mark
- voting for more than one candidate

¹ Section 35(4), Representation of the People Act 1983 (in respect of combined authority mayoral elections, as applied and modified by article 3(2), (3)(a) and (4)(c), 2017 Order

² Rule 48(5), Schedule 1, Local Authority (Mayoral Elections)(England and Wales) Regulations 2007; Rule 51(5), Schedule 1, Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017

- writing or mark by which the voter could be identified
- unmarked or void for uncertainty

2 Principles of adjudication

2.1 Any doubtful ballot papers should be placed in a tray for the supervisor to take to the RO for adjudication. The whole of the ballot paper needs to be considered when adjudicating doubtful votes in case the voter has made any marks outside of the voting boxes.

2.2 The RO may only reject a ballot paper on the following grounds³:

- want of official mark
- where more than one vote has been given
- those where the voter's intention is uncertain
- those that appear unmarked
- having any writing or mark by which the voter can be identified (except the ballot paper number and UIM)

2.3 A ballot paper should not be rejected because the vote is:⁴

- not marked in the proper place
- marked other than by a cross
- marked by more than one mark

A ballot paper should not be rejected if the intention to vote for not more than one candidate clearly appears on the ballot paper, as long as the voter cannot be identified by any writing or mark on the paper.

2.4 Therefore, the following ballot papers will need to be passed to the RO for adjudication:

- those that appear to have no official mark
- those appearing to contain more than one vote
- those with any writing or mark by which the voter may be identified
- those where there is no mark or uncertainty as to the vote

2.5 In addition, in order to help maintain the integrity of the election, the following ballot papers should be passed to the RO for further consideration:

- any ballot paper torn or damaged in any way

³ Rule 48(1), Schedule 1, Local Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007. Rule 51(1), Schedule 1, Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017.

⁴ Rule 48(2), Schedule 1, Local Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007. Rule 51(2), Schedule 1, Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017

- any ballot paper with anything unusual about it (for example, any paper that appears to have been altered, either with a clearly different writing instrument or with correction fluid)

2.6 In the case of ballot papers that appear to have been altered, ROs may consider packaging them separately in case of later challenge or investigation.

Want of official mark

2.7 Absence of the official mark must lead to an automatic rejection. The RO has no discretion.

2.8 However, where instead of a pre-printed official mark a stamping instrument has been used, a partial piercing or embossing of the ballot paper should not in itself result in a rejection. As long as it is clear that the ballot paper has been stamped by polling station staff, the fact that not all the pins have stamped through the ballot paper or that the perforation is not wholly on the paper is immaterial.

Voting for more candidates than the voter is entitled to vote for

2.9 This is a matter for the RO's judgment.

2.10 Additional marks must not lead to a rejection if it is clear that those marks were not intended as a vote.

2.11 A paper on which each of the candidates is marked 1, 2, 3, 4 etc. instead of with a cross (see example 15) should not be rejected on the grounds of voting for more candidates than the voter is entitled to vote for. It is reasonable to conclude that in ranking the candidates the voter is putting them into order of preference and a ballot paper marked in this way should therefore be accepted as a valid vote for the candidate against which the number 1 is marked. This position is consistent with the position set out in the legislation for Scottish Parliamentary elections which states that a paper marked 1, 2 and 3 etc. instead of with a cross must be allowed as a good vote for the candidate or party against which the number 1 is marked.⁵

Writing or mark by which the voter can be identified

2.12 There are two aspects to this:

- either any writing or mark on the ballot paper which, of itself, identifies the voter, or
- the voter can be identified by such writing or mark

⁵ Woodward v. Sarsons (1875), LR 10, CP74 and Cirencester case (1893).

2.13 It is important to bear in mind that the legislation states that the voter **can be**, not may be or might possibly be, identified (which does not include the ballot paper number and unique identifying mark on the back of the ballot paper).

Writing or mark which, of itself, identifies the voter

2.14 A ballot paper should be rejected if:

- the electoral number of the voter written on the ballot paper unequivocally identifies the voter
- it may reasonably be held to bear the name (or signature) or unique address of the voter on its front

The voter can be indirectly identified by any writing or mark on the ballot paper

2.15 The RO is not required to investigate the matter or require evidence to be produced to identify the writing or mark. But, the RO should consider any evidence that is given to them at the time.

2.16 Where there is doubt about the identity of the person who marked the ballot paper, the RO should allow rather than reject the ballot paper.

Unmarked ballot papers

2.17 Unmarked ballot papers should be rejected.

2.18 A ballot paper marked by means other than a pencil should not be rejected simply because of that.

2.19 Marks other than a cross, however faint, may still be valid.

Void for uncertainty

2.20 Establishing voter intention is crucial when determining doubtful ballot papers.

2.21 The key phrase in the Rules is: 'A ballot paper [...] shall not [...] be deemed to be void if an intention that the vote shall be for one only of the candidates **clearly** appears'.⁶

2.22 Each ballot paper should be considered on its own merits and decisions should be taken on a case-by-case basis.

⁶ Rule 48(2)(c)(ii), Schedule 1, Local Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007. Rule 51(2)(c)(ii), Schedule 1, Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017.

2.23 The key question a Returning Officer should ask is whether the voter has, on the face of the paper, indicated a reasonably clear intention to vote for a candidate or candidates.

Decisions on ballot papers

2.24 The decision of the RO is final, but may be subject to review on election petition.⁷

3 Summary

3.1 The principles to be applied are set out above. In practical terms, the general approach can be summarised as follows:

- Always be clear and consistent.
- Take time to ensure that a considered decision is given in every case.
- Determine whether the intention of the vote clearly appears on the ballot paper. As part of this, ROs will need to:
 - consider the whole of the ballot paper
 - consider whether the way a ballot paper has been marked means that a vote for a candidate is clearly apparent

⁷ Rule 49, Schedule 1, Local Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007. Rule 52, Schedule 1, Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017.

4 Examples

4.1 The examples provided here under 'allowed' and 'rejected' are based on previous case law or are taken from the specific rules for local authority and combined authority mayoral elections in England.

4.2 Ultimately, the decision on any particular ballot paper, including the question as to whether an intention to vote for a particular candidate appears, rests with the RO.

Case law references

4.3 Abbreviated case law references have been used throughout this booklet. The following table lists the full case law references.

Abbreviation	Full reference
Berwick-upon-Tweed case	Berwick-upon-Tweed case [1880] 3 O'M&H 178
Buckrose case	Buckrose case, Sykes v. McArthur [1886] 5 O'M&H 110
Cirencester case	Lawson v. Chester Master [1893]
Cornwell v. Marshall	Cornwell v. Marshall [1977] 75 LGR 676 DC
Ely v. Durant	Ely v. Durant [1900] 4SJ 430
Levers v. Morris	Levers v. Morris [1971] 3 All ER QBD
Richmond case	Richmond London, Election, Re [1976] Times, 6 August
Rowe v. Cox	Rowe v. Cox [2001] QBD, Case M/294/01
Ruffle v. Rogers	Ruffle v. Rogers [1982] QB 1220
South Newington case	South Newington case, Lewis v. Shepperdson [1948] 2 All ER 503
West Bromwich case	West Bromwich case, Hazel v. Viscount Lewisham [1911] 6 O'M&H 256
Woodward v. Sarsons	Woodward v. Sarsons [1875] LR10 CP 733

Allowed votes

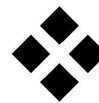
The following are suggested examples of allowed votes.

Example 1

Election of the Mayor for *(insert name of authority)*

Vote for **only one candidate** by putting a cross in the box next to your choice.

BARBER, Ali
5 Anytown Close, Anytown, AT34 6CY
Pelican Party



BOOTS, Dusty
63 Acacia Avenue, Anytown, AT33 5XZ
League of Line Dancers



CLOVER, Elizabeth Mary
9 Seymour Court, Anytown, AT12 E34
Independent

GREY, Earl
(address in [relevant area])
Mad Hatter's Tea Party



HOOD, Robin
64 Purple Road, Anytown, AT12 7HT
The Forest Party



MILLER, Windy
7 Daisy Drive, Anytown, AT98 7RK
Alternative Power Forum



Allow for Boots – Cirencester case, *Ely v. Durant* LAM Rule 48(2)(c) and CAM Rule 51(2)(c)

Example 2

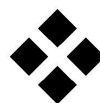
Election of the Mayor for *(insert name of authority)*

Vote for **only one candidate** by putting a cross in the box next to your choice.

BARBER, Ali

5 Anytown Close, Anytown, AT34 6CY

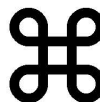
Pelican Party



BOOTS, Dusty

63 Acacia Avenue, Anytown, AT33 5XZ

League of Line Dancers



~~**CLOVER, Elizabeth Mary**~~

~~9 Seymour Court, Anytown, AT12 5B4~~

~~**Independent**~~



GREY, Earl

(address in [relevant area])

Mad Hatter's Tea Party



HOOD, Robin

64 Purple Road, Anytown, AT12 7HT

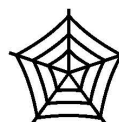
The Forest Party



MILLER, Windy

7 Daisy Drive, Anytown, AT98 7RK

Alternative Power Forum



Allow for Miller – *Woodward v. Sarsons* and LAM Rule 48(2)(c) and CAM Rule 51(2)(c)

Example 3

Election of the Mayor for *(insert name of authority)*

Vote for **only one candidate** by putting a cross in the box next to your choice.

BARBER, Ali
5 Anytown Close, Anytown, AT34 6CY
Pelican Party



BOOTS, Dusty
63 Acacia Avenue, Anytown, AT33 5XZ
League of Line Dancers



CLOVER, Elizabeth Mary
9 Seymour Court, Anytown, AT12 E34
Independent

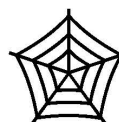
GREY, Earl
(address in [relevant area])
Mad Hatter's Tea Party



HOOD, Robin
64 Purple Road, Anytown, AT12 7HT
The Forest Party



MILLER, Windy
7 Daisy Drive, Anytown, AT98 7RK
Alternative Power Forum



Allow for Hood – LAM Rule 48(2)(c) and CAM Rule 51(2)(c)

Example 4

Election of the Mayor for *(insert name of authority)*

Vote for **only one candidate** by putting a cross in the box next to your choice.

BARBER, Ali
5 Anytown Close, Anytown, AT34 6CY
Pelican Party



BOOTS, Dusty
63 Acacia Avenue, Anytown, AT33 5XZ
League of Line Dancers



CLOVER, Elizabeth Mary
9 Seymour Court, Anytown, AT12 E34
Independent

GREY, Earl
(address in [relevant area])
Mad Hatter's Tea Party

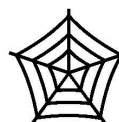


HOOD, Robin
64 Purple Road, Anytown, AT12 7HT
The Forest Party



Hood
The Forest
Party!

MILLER, Windy
7 Daisy Drive, Anytown, AT98 7RK
Alternative Power Forum



Allow for Hood – *Ruffle v. Rogers* and LAM Rule 48(2)(b) and CAM Rule 51(2)(b)

Example 5

Election of the Mayor for *(insert name of authority)*

Vote for **only one candidate** by putting a cross in the box next to your choice.

BARBER, Ali
5 Anytown Close, Anytown, AT34 6CY
Pelican Party



BOOTS, Dusty
63 Acacia Avenue, Anytown, AT33 5XZ
League of Line Dancers



CLOVER, Elizabeth Mary
9 Seymour Court, Anytown, AT12 E34
Independent

GREY, Earl
(address in [relevant area])
Mad Hatter's Tea Party



HOOD, Robin
64 Purple Road, Anytown, AT12 7HT
The Forest Party



MILLER, Windy
7 Daisy Drive, Anytown, AT98 7RK
Alternative Power Forum



Allow for Miller – West Bromwich case and LAM Rule 48(2)(a) and CAM Rule 51(2)(a)

Example 6

Election of the Mayor for *(insert name of authority)*

Vote for **only one candidate** by putting a cross in the box next to your choice.

BARBER, Ali
5 Anytown Close, Anytown, AT34 6CY
Pelican Party



BOOTS, Dusty
63 Acacia Avenue, Anytown, AT33 5XZ
League of Line Dancers



CLOVER, Elizabeth Mary
9 Seymour Court, Anytown, AT12 E34
Independent

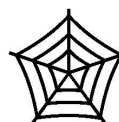
GREY, Earl
(address in [relevant area])
Mad Hatter's Tea Party



HOOD, Robin
64 Purple Road, Anytown, AT12 7HT
The Forest Party



MILLER, Windy
7 Daisy Drive, Anytown, AT98 7RK
Alternative Power Forum



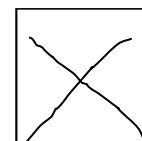
Allow for Clover – LAM Rule 48(2)(b) and CAM Rule 51(2)(b)

Example 7

Election of the Mayor for *(insert name of authority)*

Vote for **only one candidate** by putting a cross in the box next to your choice.

BARBER, Ali
5 Anytown Close, Anytown, AT34 6CY
Pelican Party



BOOTS, Dusty
63 Acacia Avenue, Anytown, AT33 5XZ
League of Line Dancers



CLOVER, Elizabeth Mary
9 Seymour Court, Anytown, AT12 E34
Independent



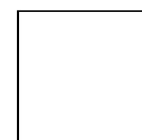
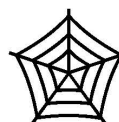
GREY, Earl
(address in [relevant area])
Mad Hatter's Tea Party



HOOD, Robin
64 Purple Road, Anytown, AT12 7HT
The Forest Party



MILLER, Windy
7 Daisy Drive, Anytown, AT98 7RK
Alternative Power Forum



Allow for Barber – Berwick-upon-Tweed case and LAM Rule 48(2)(a) and CAM Rule 51(2)(a)

Example 8

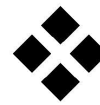
Election of the Mayor for *(insert name of authority)*

Vote for **only one candidate** by putting a cross in the box next to your choice.

BARBER, Ali

5 Anytown Close, Anytown, AT34 6CY

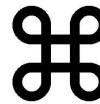
Pelican Party



BOOTS, Dusty

63 Acacia Avenue, Anytown, AT33 5XZ

League of Line Dancers



CLOVER, Elizabeth Mary

9 Seymour Court, Anytown, AT12 E34

Independent

GREY, Earl

(address in [relevant area])

Mad Hatter's Tea Party



HOOD, Robin

64 Purple Road, Anytown, AT12 7HT

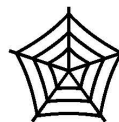
The Forest Party



MILLER, Windy

7 Daisy Drive, Anytown, AT98 7RK

Alternative Power Forum



Allow for Grey – LAM Rule 48(2)(b) and CAM Rule 51(2)(b)

Example 9

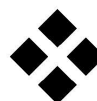
Election of the Mayor for *(insert name of authority)*

Vote for **only one candidate** by putting a cross in the box next to your choice.

BARBER, Ali

5 Anytown Close, Anytown, AT34 6CY

Pelican Party



BOOTS, Dusty

63 Acacia Avenue, Anytown, AT33 5XZ

League of Line Dancers



CLOVER, Elizabeth Mary

9 Seymour Court, Anytown, AT12 E34

Independent

GREY, Earl

(address in [relevant area])

Mad Hatter's Tea Party



HOOD, Robin

64 Purple Road, Anytown, AT12 7HT

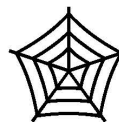
The Forest Party



MILLER, Windy

7 Daisy Drive, Anytown, AT98 7RK

Alternative Power Forum



Allow for Miller – LAM Rule 48(2)(a) and (b) and CAM Rule 51(2)(a) and (b)

Example 10

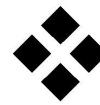
Election of the Mayor for *(insert name of authority)*

Vote for **only one candidate** by putting a cross in the box next to your choice.

BARBER, Ali

5 Anytown Close, Anytown, AT34 6CY

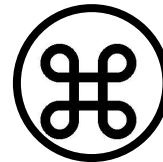
Pelican Party



BOOTS, Dusty

63 Acacia Avenue, Anytown, AT33 5XZ

League of Line Dancers



CLOVER, Elizabeth Mary

9 Seymour Court, Anytown, AT12 E34

Independent

GREY, Earl

(address in [relevant area])

Mad Hatter's Tea Party



HOOD, Robin

64 Purple Road, Anytown, AT12 7HT

The Forest Party



MILLER, Windy

7 Daisy Drive, Anytown, AT98 7RK

Alternative Power Forum



Allow for Boots – LAM Rule 48(2)(a) and (b) and CAM Rule 51(2)(a) and (b)

Example 11

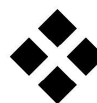
Election of the Mayor for (insert name of authority)

Vote for **only one candidate** by putting a cross in the box next to your choice.

BARBER, Ali

5 Anytown Close, Anytown, AT34 6CY

Pelican Party



BOOTS, Dusty

63 Acacia Avenue, Anytown, AT33 5XZ

League of Line Dancers



CLOVER, Elizabeth Mary

9 Seymour Court, Anytown, AT12 E34

Independent

GREY, Earl

(address in [relevant area])

Mad Hatter's Tea Party



HOOD, Robin

64 Purple Road, Anytown, AT12 7HT

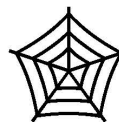
The Forest Party



MILLER, Windy

7 Daisy Drive, Anytown, AT98 7RK

Alternative Power Forum






ELECT BARBER

Allow for Barber – *Ruffle v. Rogers* and LAM Rule 48(2)(a) and (b) and CAM Rule 51(2)(a) and (b) [provided there is no other candidate by the name of Barber].

Example 12

Election of the Mayor for *(insert name of authority)*

Vote for **only one candidate** by putting a cross in the box next to your choice.


BARBER, Ali 5 Anytown Close, Anytown, AT34 6CY Pelican Party		<input type="checkbox"/>
BOOTS, Dusty 63 Acacia Avenue, Anytown, AT33 5XZ League of Line Dancers		<input type="checkbox"/>
CLOVER, Elizabeth Mary 9 Seymour Court, Anytown, AT12 E34 Independent		<input type="checkbox"/>
GREY, Earl (address in [relevant area]) Mad Hatter's Tea Party		<input type="checkbox"/>
HOOD, Robin 64 Purple Road, Anytown, AT12 7HT The Forest Party		<input type="checkbox"/>
MILLER, Windy 7 Daisy Drive, Anytown, AT98 7RK Alternative Power Forum		<input type="checkbox"/>


Allow for Barber – *Levers v. Morris* and LAM Rule 48(2)(a) and CAM Rule 51(2)(a)

Example 13


Election of the Mayor for (insert name of authority)

Vote for **only one candidate** by putting a cross in the box next to your choice.

BARBER, Ali
5 Anytown Close, Anytown, AT34 6CY
Pelican Party 

BOOTS, Dusty
63 Acacia Avenue, Anytown, AT33 5XZ
League of Line Dancers 

CLOVER, Elizabeth Mary
9 Seymour Court, Anytown, AT12 E34
Independent

GREY, Earl
(address in [relevant area])
Mad Hatter's Tea Party 

HOOD, Robin
64 Purple Road, Anytown, AT12 7HT
The Forest Party 


MILLER, Windy
7 Daisy Drive, Anytown, AT98 7RK
Alternative Power Forum 

Allow for Clover – *Levers v. Morris* and LAM Rule 48(2)(b) and (c) and CAM Rule 51(2)(b) and (c). See also *Schofield's Election Law*, Volume 5, Appendix E, E20 (Shaw & Sons, 2008 as updated by supplement issue no.1).

Example 14


Election of the Mayor for (insert name of authority)

Vote for **only one candidate** by putting a cross in the box next to your choice.

BARBER, Ali
5 Anytown Close, Anytown, AT34 6CY
Pelican Party 

BOOTS, Dusty
63 Acacia Avenue, Anytown, AT33 5XZ
League of Line Dancers 

CLOVER, Elizabeth Mary
9 Seymour Court, Anytown, AT12 E34
Independent

GREY, Earl
(address in [relevant area])
Mad Hatter's Tea Party 

HOOD, Robin
64 Purple Road, Anytown, AT12 7HT
The Forest Party 

MILLER, Windy
7 Daisy Drive, Anytown, AT98 7RK
Alternative Power Forum 

Allow for Boots – *Levers v. Morris* and LAM Rule 48(2)(c) and CAM Rule 51(2)(c).
See also *Schofield's Election Law*, Volume 5, Appendix E, E20 (Shaw & Sons, 2008 as updated by supplement issue no.1).

Example 15

Election of the Mayor for *(insert name of authority)*

Vote for **only one candidate** by putting a cross in the box next to your choice.

BARBER, Ali

5 Anytown Close, Anytown, AT34 6CY

Pelican Party

 6

BOOTS, Dusty

63 Acacia Avenue, Anytown, AT33 5XZ

League of Line Dancers

 3

CLOVER, Elizabeth Mary

9 Seymour Court, Anytown, AT12 E34

Independent

 1

GREY, Earl

(address in [relevant area])

Mad Hatter's Tea Party

 2

HOOD, Robin

64 Purple Road, Anytown, AT12 7HT

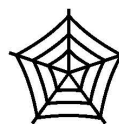
The Forest Party

 5

MILLER, Windy

7 Daisy Drive, Anytown, AT98 7RK

Alternative Power Forum

 4

Allow for Clover – vote marked otherwise than by means of a cross. LAM Rule 48(2)(b) and CAM Rule 51(2)(b).

Rejected votes

The following are suggested examples of rejected votes.

Example 16

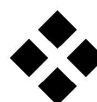
Election of the Mayor for *(insert name of authority)*

Vote for **only one candidate** by putting a cross in the box next to your choice.

BARBER, Ali

5 Anytown Close, Anytown, AT34 6CY

Pelican Party



BOOTS, Dusty

63 Acacia Avenue, Anytown, AT33 5XZ

League of Line Dancers



CLOVER, Elizabeth Mary

9 Seymour Court, Anytown, AT12 E34

Independent

GREY, Earl

(address in [relevant area])

Mad Hatter's Tea Party



HOOD, Robin

64 Purple Road, Anytown, AT12 7HT

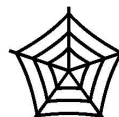
The Forest Party



MILLER, Windy

7 Daisy Drive, Anytown, AT98 7RK

Alternative Power Forum



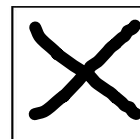
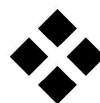
Reject – voter's intention uncertain. Buckrose case and LAM Rule 48(1)(d) and CAM Rule 51(1)(d).

Example 17

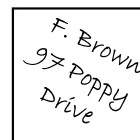
Election of the Mayor for (*insert name of authority*)

Vote for **only one candidate** by putting a cross in the box next to your choice.

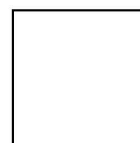
BARBER, Ali
5 Anytown Close, Anytown, AT34 6CY
Pelican Party



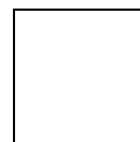
BOOTS, Dusty
63 Acacia Avenue, Anytown, AT33 5XZ
League of Line Dancers



CLOVER, Elizabeth Mary
9 Seymour Court, Anytown, AT12 E34
Independent



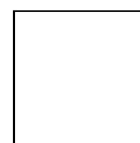
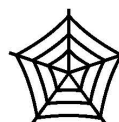
GREY, Earl
(address in [relevant area])
Mad Hatter's Tea Party



HOOD, Robin
64 Purple Road, Anytown, AT12 7HT
The Forest Party



MILLER, Windy
7 Daisy Drive, Anytown, AT98 7RK
Alternative Power Forum








Reject – voter can be identified. *Woodward v. Sarsons*, South Newington case and LAM Rule 48(1)(c) and CAM Rule 51(1)(c).

Example 18

Election of the Mayor for *(insert name of authority)*

Vote for **only one candidate** by putting a cross in the box next to your choice.

BARBER, Ali 5 Anytown Close, Anytown, AT34 6CY Pelican Party		<input type="checkbox"/>
BOOTS, Dusty 63 Acacia Avenue, Anytown, AT33 5XZ League of Line Dancers		<input type="checkbox"/>
CLOVER, Elizabeth Mary 9 Seymour Court, Anytown, AT12 E34 Independent		<input type="checkbox"/>
GREY, Earl (address in [relevant area]) Mad Hatter's Tea Party		<input type="checkbox"/>
HOOD, Robin 64 Purple Road, Anytown, AT12 7HT The Forest Party		<input type="checkbox"/>
MILLER, Windy 7 Daisy Drive, Anytown, AT98 7RK Alternative Power Forum		<input type="checkbox"/>

Reject – voter's intention is uncertain. *Rowe v. Cox* and LAM Rule 48(1)(d) and CAM Rule 51(1)(d).

Example 19

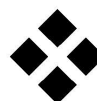
Election of the Mayor for *(insert name of authority)*

Vote for **only one candidate** by putting a cross in the box next to your choice.

BARBER, Ali

5 Anytown Close, Anytown, AT34 6CY

Pelican Party



BOOTS, Dusty

63 Acacia Avenue, Anytown, AT33 5XZ

League of Line Dancers



CLOVER, Elizabeth Mary

9 Seymour Court, Anytown, AT12 E34

Independent

GREY, Earl

(address in [relevant area])

Mad Hatter's Tea Party



HOOD, Robin

64 Purple Road, Anytown, AT12 7HT

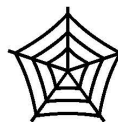
The Forest Party



MILLER, Windy

7 Daisy Drive, Anytown, AT98 7RK

Alternative Power Forum



Reject – voting for more than one candidate. LAM Rule 48(1)(b) and CAM Rule 51(1)(b).

Example 20

Election of the Mayor for (*insert name of authority*)

Vote for **only one candidate** by putting a cross in the box next to your choice.

BARBER, Ali

5 Anytown Close, Anytown, AT34 6CY

Pelican Party



BOOTS, Dusty

63 Acacia Avenue, Anytown, AT33 5XZ

League of Line Dancers



CLOVER, Elizabeth Mary

9 Seymour Court, Anytown, AT12 E34

Independent

GREY, Earl

(address in [relevant area])

Mad Hatter's Tea Party



HOOD, Robin

64 Purple Road, Anytown, AT12 7HT

The Forest Party



M. JONES
AB 561

MILLER, Windy

7 Daisy Drive, Anytown, AT98 7RK

Alternative Power Forum



Reject – voter can be identified. *Woodward v. Sarsons* and LAM Rule 48(1)(c) and CAM Rule 51(1)(c).

Example 21

Election of the Mayor for *(insert name of authority)*

Vote for **only one candidate** by putting a cross in the box next to your choice.

BARBER, Ali
5 Anytown Close, Anytown, AT34 6CY
Pelican Party



BOOTS, Dusty
63 Acacia Avenue, Anytown, AT33 5XZ
League of Line Dancers



CLOVER, Elizabeth Mary
9 Seymour Court, Anytown, AT12 E34
Independent

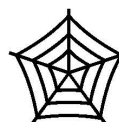
GREY, Earl
(address in [relevant area])
Mad Hatter's Tea Party



HOOD, Robin
64 Purple Road, Anytown, AT12 7HT
The Forest Party



MILLER, Windy
7 Daisy Drive, Anytown, AT98 7RK
Alternative Power Forum


None of the above ✓

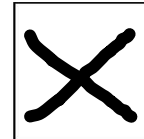
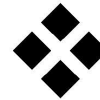
Reject – void for uncertainty. LAM Rule 48(1)(d) and CAM Rule 51(1)(d).

Example 22

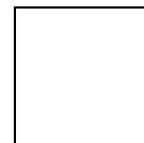
Election of the Mayor for *(insert name of authority)*

Vote for **only one candidate** by putting a cross in the box next to your choice.

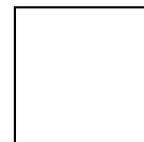
BARBER, Ali
5 Anytown Close, Anytown, AT34 6CY
Pelican Party



BOOTS, Dusty
63 Acacia Avenue, Anytown, AT33 5XZ
League of Line Dancers



CLOVER, Elizabeth Mary
9 Seymour Court, Anytown, AT12 E34
Independent



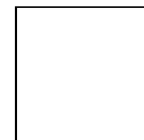
GREY, Earl
(address in [relevant area])
Mad Hatter's Tea Party



HOOD, Robin
64 Purple Road, Anytown, AT12 7HT
The Forest Party



MILLER, Windy
7 Daisy Drive, Anytown, AT98 7RK
Alternative Power Forum



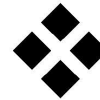
Reject – voting for more than one candidate. LAM Rule 48(1)(b) and CAM Rule 51(1)(b).

Example 23

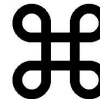
Election of the Mayor for (insert name of authority)

Vote for **only one candidate** by putting a cross in the box next to your choice.

BARBER, Ali
5 Anytown Close, Anytown, AT34 6CY
Pelican Party



BOOTS, Dusty
63 Acacia Avenue, Anytown, AT33 5XZ
League of Line Dancers



CLOVER, Elizabeth Mary
9 Seymour Court, Anytown, AT12 E34
Independent

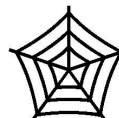
GREY, Earl
(address in [relevant area])
Mad Hatter's Tea Party



HOOD, Robin
64 Purple Road, Anytown, AT12 7HT
The Forest Party



MILLER, Windy
7 Daisy Drive, Anytown, AT98 7RK
Alternative Power Forum



Reject – voting for more than one candidate. LAM Rule 48(1)(b) and CAM Rule 51(1)(b).

Annex - Legislation

The local authority mayoral election rules

The relevant rules for local authority mayoral elections in England are as follows:

Rejected ballot papers

Rule 48. –

(1) Any ballot paper –

- (a) which does not bear the official mark, or
- (b) on which more than one vote is given, or
- (c) on which anything is written or marked by which the voter can be identified except the printed number and other unique identifying mark on the back, or
- (d) which is unmarked or void for uncertainty,

shall, subject to paragraph (2), be void and not counted.

(2) A ballot paper on which the vote is marked –

- (a) elsewhere than in the proper place, or
- (b) otherwise than by means of a cross, or
- (c) by more than one mark, or

shall not for such reason be deemed to be void if –

- (ii) an intention that a vote shall be for one only of the candidates clearly appears, and the way the paper is marked does not itself identify the voter and it is not shown that he can be identified by it.

(4) The returning officer must endorse the word “rejected” on any ballot paper which under this rule is not to be counted, and shall add to the endorsement the words “rejection objected to” if any objection is made to his decision by a counting agent.

(5) The returning officer must draw up a statement showing the number of ballot papers rejected, under the several heads of—

- (a) want of official mark;
- (b) voting for more than one candidate
- (c) writing or mark by which the voter could be identified; and
- (d) unmarked or void for uncertainty

[...]

Decisions on ballot papers

Rule 49. The decision of the returning officer on any question arising in respect of a ballot paper shall be final, but shall be subject to review on an election petition.

The combined authority mayoral election rules

The relevant rules for combined authority mayoral elections are as follows:

Rejected ballot papers

Rule 51. –

(1) Any ballot paper–

- (a) which does not bear the official mark, or
- (b) on which more than one vote is given, or
- (c) on which anything is written or marked by which the voter can be identified except the printed number and other unique identifying mark on the back, or
- (d) which is unmarked or void for uncertainty,

shall, subject to paragraph (2), be void and not counted.

(2) A ballot paper on which the vote is marked–

- (a) elsewhere than in the proper place, or
- (b) otherwise than by means of a cross, or
- (c) by more than one mark,

shall not for such reason be deemed to be void if –

- (ii) an intention that a vote shall be for one only of the candidates clearly appears, and the way the paper is marked does not itself identify the voter and it is not shown that he can be identified by it.

(4) The returning officer must endorse the word “rejected” on any ballot paper which under this rule is not to be counted, and shall add to the endorsement the words “rejection objected to” if any objection is made to the returning officer’s decision by a counting agent.

(5) The returning officer must draw up a provisional statement showing the number of ballot papers rejected, under the several heads of –

- (a) want of official mark,
- (b) voting for more than one candidate,
- (c) writing or mark by which the voter could be identified, and
- (d) unmarked or void for uncertainty

[...]

Decisions on ballot papers

Rule 52. The decision of the returning officer on any question arising in respect of a ballot paper shall be final, but shall be subject to review on an election petition.

[...]