Doubtful ballot papers – allowed votes: Region

Suggested examples of allowed votes are provided here. All of these examples are based on previous case law or taken from the specific rules for this election. Ultimately the decision on any particular ballot paper rests with the Constituency Returning Officer and it is for them to determine their own view of the application of case law.

Case references can be found in Supporting the Scottish Parliamentary election – Dealing with doubtful ballot papers. Other references are to the election rules (Schedule 2 of The Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) Order 2015).

 Allow for C Party – Berwick-upon-Tweed case and Rule 58(2)(a).

 Allow for candidate D – Rule 58(2)(c).

 Allow for B Party – Rule 58(2)(a) and (b).

 Allow for candidate E – Cirencester case, Eley v Durant and Rule 58(2)(c).

 Allow for candidate A Party – Ruffle v Rogers and Rule 58(2)(a) and (b).

 Allow for C Party – Rule 58(3).

 Allow for B Party – Levers v Morris and Rule 58(2)(c). See also Schofield’s Election Law, Volume 5, Appendix E, E20 (Shaw and Sons, 2008, as updated by supplement issue no. 1).
Doubtful ballot papers – rejected votes: Region

Suggested examples of rejected votes are provided here. All of these examples are based on previous case law or taken from the specific rules for this election. Ultimately the decision on any particular ballot paper rests with the Constituency Returning Officer and it is for them to determine their own view of the application of case law.

Case references can be found in Supporting the Scottish Parliamentary election – Dealing with doubtful ballot papers. Other references are to the election rules (Schedule 2 of The Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) Order 2015).

Reject – voted for more than one registered party or individual candidate. Rule 58(1)(c).


Reject – voter can be identified. Woodward v Sarsons, South Newington case and Rule 58(1)(d).

Reject – voted for more than one registered party or individual candidate. Rule 58(1)(c).

Reject – voter’s intention uncertain. Rowe v Cox and Rule 58(1)(e).

 Reject – Voting for more than one registered party or individual candidate. Rule 58(1)(c).

Reject – voter’s intention uncertain. Rule 58(1)(e).