

If the machine cannot read your ballot, or if it finds a problem, it will feed the ballot right back out to you, and it will show an error message on the tiny screen at the left front of the tabulator. Common problems: it may not be able to read your markings, if they're too light, or you may have marked too many ovals for a particular race. You can ask the tabulator tender to help you interpret any error message that shows up, and the poll workers will help you correct any problems. Feel free to ask.

Sometimes, especially in wet weather, the ballots will jam. In that case the poll moderator will help feed the ballot through the machine.

And that's it!

Step 5: You're Done!
Get an "I Voted" Sticker

And find your way to the exit. If you're lucky, the PTA will be having a bake sale just outside the exit door. And thanks! Every voter who takes the time to vote is helping to keep democracy strong in America. Isn't it nice to know you've done your part?



**For New Voters:
It's Easy!**

WHAT TO EXPECT at the POLLS on ELECTION DAY



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All polling places in Connecticut have to adhere to certain guidelines, and most have similar layouts.

Optional: Before You Check In, You Can Double-Check

When you get to the entry door of your polling place, there will be several posters. One lists your rights as a voter. One lists the kinds of ID you'll need at check-in. One will be an enlargement of the ballot, so you can see who's running in your precinct, and how many names you can check off in each column or set of columns. Feel free to stop and read.

Also before you get to the check-in table, there may be a "demonstrator's" table, possibly with an on-screen showing of how the voting machinery works. If there's a person at the table, you can ask him or her any questions you might have. If the demonstrator doesn't know the answers, he'll call over a poll worker who does.

Step 1: Check In

At the first main table inside the doors, there will be two "checkers" with a list of names of people who can legally vote at the precinct. You will have to identify yourself and give your address to the checkers, and you will be asked to do so in the following order:

- ▶ first give them the name of your street.
- ▶ then give them your house number.
- ▶ lastly, give them your name.

So, instead of announcing yourself as "John Jones, 55 Pine Street," you should say, "Pine Street, 55, John Jones." This may sound

backwards, but it's the way the voter lists are printed.

While you are giving your address and name, you will also have to show the checkers acceptable identification. A driver's license or non-driver photo ID will work, as will almost anything preprinted with your name and photo, name and signature, or name and address.

Once the checkers have checked you off as being one of the people who are on the voting list, they will point you to the ballot clerk's desk. In some towns, they will also hand you a token to give to the ballot clerk.

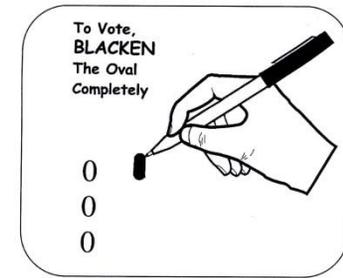
Step 2: Get Your Ballot

The ballot clerk will hand you a ballot, and is supposed to offer you a privacy folder to keep the ballot hidden if you'd like it.

Step 3: Mark Your Ballot

Take your blank ballot, with or without a privacy folder, to any of the "privacy booths" that are set up between the ballot clerk's desk and the voting machine. Each booth should be surrounded on three sides by a cardboard or plastic screen, and each should have a black marking pen for you to use.

When you mark your ballot, be careful to fill in each of your favored candidates' ovals fully. (If you've ever taken a standardized exam, you'll know this procedure.)



One note: if you make a mistake, and fill in an oval that you didn't want to, you should take your ballot back to the ballot clerk and tell him you want a new one. He'll mark the old one "spoiled" and hand you another ballot. You then go back to the privacy booths and start over. Do not try to correct your ballot by marking an X or other cross-out or erasure through the mismarked box – the voting machine won't read it correctly.

Step 4: Put Your Ballot Into the Tabulator

Once you're satisfied with the way you've marked your ballot, carry it to the voting machine. When you get to the head of the line, insert your ballot, and hand the privacy folder, if you're using one, to the "tabulator tender," who should be standing about three feet from the machine.

You can insert the ballot face up or face down, and put either end in first. You cannot insert it crosswise, and you cannot insert it folded.

If the machine can read your ballot, it will disappear almost instantly into the back of the machine and be fed into a ballot compartment below the tabulator.