# CIF for Voting Systems: NIST Standard Test Ballot Specification and Instructions for Participants

This document contains the recommended NIST Standard Test Ballot Specification and an associated set of voting instructions for test participants be used in testing voting systems.

It describes a test ballot and a test script of instructions for test participants for the usability testing of a voting system. The results of the testing provides the data to complete the template for a modified version of ISO/IEC 25062:2006, the Common Industry Format (CIF) for usability test reports. This modified version of the CIF has been tailored for testing voting systems as part of the certification of a voting system to meet the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG) 2.0 requirements 8.3-A and 8.4-A.

It is one of ten companion documents to the [NIST VTS 400-5 Handbook for VVSG 2.0 Usability and Accessibility Test Strategies](https://doi.org/10.6028/NIST.VTS.400-5) and can be downloaded with the Handbook. All documents are also available on the NIST Voting Program website at <https://www.nist.gov/itl/voting/vts-400-5-documents>.

## Test Ballot Specification

The ballot and instructions can be adjusted for testing specific features of the voting system or different election methods. Having a consistent ballot and instructions can make it easier to compare performance of different versions of voting systems.

The updates in this current version include

* The option to use colors or realistic-but-not-real party names[[1]](#footnote-1)
* Expanded diversity represented in candidate names

Information applicable to whole ballot

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Date and Time | November 8, 2022, 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM | |
| State | Hamilton | |
| County | Madison | |
| Party Line Voting Method | Enabled for partisan contests, if the system is being tested with this option  If testing with straight party voting, adjust the voting instructions to keep or change the straight party selections | |
| Party names | The parties may be identified as historical names or colors, depending on the needs of the research. | |
|  | COLOR NAMED PARTIES | HISTORICAL NAMES |
|  | Blue | Federalist |
|  | Yellow | People’s |
|  | Purple | Liberty |
|  | Orange | Constitution |
|  | Pink | Whig |
|  | Gold | Labor |
|  | Grey, Aqua, Brown | Independent[[2]](#footnote-2) |

Information applicable to every contest

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Full-term or partial-term election | Full-term |
| Voting Method | Simple vote for N candidate(s)  The ballot instructions can be adjusted for ranked choice voting or other preferential voting methods |

Contest #0:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Title of Contest | Straight Party Vote |
| Test features | This contest is optional for systems being certified with a straight party option.  Straight party voting and how the system displays the choices made through this feature  Some parties do not have candidates in all contests |
| Partisanship | Partisan |
| Minimum Votes Allowed | 0 |
| Maximum Votes Allowed | 1 |
| Maximum Write-in Votes Allowed | 0 |
| * Option #0.1: Federalist * Option #0.2: People’s * Option #0.3: Liberty * Option #0.4: Constitution * Option #0.5: Whig * Option #0.6: Labor * Option #0.7: Independent * Option #0.8: Independent * Option #0.9: Independent | |

Contest #1:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Title of Office | President and Vice-President of the United States |
| District of Office | Federal: United States |
| Test features | Vote for a pair in a presidential contest  Choice near top of list |
| Partisanship | Partisan |
| Minimum Votes Allowed | 0 |
| Maximum Votes Allowed | 1 |
| Maximum Write-in Votes Allowed | 0 |
| * Candidate #1.1: Joseph Barchi and Joseph Hallaren / Federalist * Candidate #1.2: Adam Cramer and Greg Vuocolo / People’s * Candidate #1.3: Daniel Court and Amy Blumhardt / Liberty * Candidate #1.4: Alvin Boone and James Lian / Constitution * Candidate #1.5: Austin Hildebrand-MacDougall and James Garritty / Whig * Candidate #1.6: Martin Patterson and Clay Lariviere / Labor * Candidate #1.7: Elizabeth Harp and Antoine Jefferson / Independent * Candidate #1.8: Charles Layne and Andrew Kowalski / Independent * Candidate #1.9: Marzena Pazgier and Welton Phelps / Independent | |

Contest #2:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Title of Office | US Senate |
| District of Office | Federal: Statewide |
| Test features | Names difficult to distinguish in audio (Brown/Pound)  Choice at end of list |
| Partisanship | Partisan |
| Minimum Votes Allowed | 0 |
| Maximum Votes Allowed | 1 |
| Maximum Write-in Votes Allowed | 1 |
| * Candidate #2.1: Dennis Weiford / Federalist * Candidate #2.2: Lloyd Garriss / People’s * Candidate #2.3: Sylvia Wentworth-Farthington / Liberty * Candidate #2.4: Heather Nguyen / Constitution * Candidate #2.5: Victor Martinez / Whig * Candidate #2.6: David Brown / Labor * Candidate #2.7: David Pound / Independent | |

Contest #3:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Title of Office | US Representative |
| District of Office | Federal: 6th Congressional District |
| Test features | Medium number of candidates |
| Partisanship | Partisan |
| Minimum Votes Allowed | 0 |
| Maximum Votes Allowed | 1 |
| Maximum Write-in Votes Allowed | 1 |
| * Candidate #3.1: Brad Plunkard / Federalist * Candidate #3.2: Bruce Reeder / People’s * Candidate #3.3: Brad Schott / Liberty * Candidate #3.4: Glen Tawney / Constitution * Candidate #3.5: Carroll Forrest / Whig | |

Contest #4:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Title of Office | Governor | |
| District of Office | State | |
| Test features | Very long list of candidates | |
| Partisanship | Partisan | |
| Minimum Votes Allowed | 0 | |
| Maximum Votes Allowed | 1 | |
| Maximum Write-in Votes Allowed | 1 | |
| * Candidate #4.1: Charlene Franz / Federalist * Candidate #4.2: Gerard Harris / People’s * Candidate #4.3: Linda Bargmann / Liberty * Candidate #4.4: Barbara Adcock / Constitution * Candidate #4.5: Carrie Steel-Loy / Whig * Candidate #4.6: Frederick Sharp / Labor * Candidate #4.7: Alex Wallace /Independent * Candidate #4.8: Barbara Williams / Independent * Candidate #4.9: Althea Sharp / Independent * Candidate #4.10: Douglas Alpern / Independent * Candidate #4.11: Jelani Bongani / Independent * Candidate #4.12: Mike Greher / Independent * Candidate #4.13: Patricia Alexander / Independent * Candidate #4.14: Kenneth Mitchell / Independent * Candidate #4.15: Stan Lee / Independent * Candidate #4.16: Henry Ash / Independent * Candidate #4.17: Karen Kennedy / Independent * Candidate #4.18: Van Jackson / Independent * Candidate #4.19: Debbie Independent / Independent * Candidate #4.20: Joseph Teller / Independent * Candidate #4.21: Greg Ward / Independent * Candidate #4.22: Lou Murphy / Independent * Candidate #4.23: Jane Newman / Independent * Candidate #4.24: Jack Callanann / Independent * Candidate #4.25: Esther York / Independent | | | * Candidate #4.26: Glen Chandler / Independent * Candidate #4.27: Marcia Colgate / Independent * Candidate #4.28: Leslie Porter / Independent * Candidate #4.29: Molly Dalton / Independent * Candidate #4.30: David Davis / Independent * Candidate #4.31: May Peterson / Independent * Candidate #4.32: Patricia Dawkins / Independent * Candidate #4.33: Suzanne Adams / Independent * Candidate #4.34: Mary Miller / Independent * Candidate #4.35: Rosalind Leigh / Independent * Candidate #4.36: Elaine Henry / Independent * Candidate #4.37: Gail Moses / Independent * Candidate #4.38: Daniel Jones / Independent * Candidate #4.39: Don Maybee / Independent * Candidate #4.40: Lillian Cohen / Independent * Candidate #4.41: Richard Mitchell / Independent * Candidate #4.42: Pat York / Independent * Candidate #4.43: Linda Rappaport / Independent * Candidate #4.44: Mike Porter / Independent * Candidate #4.45: Margaret Sharp / Independent * Candidate #4.46: Cathy Steele / Independent * Candidate #4.47: Lawrence Smith / Independent * Candidate #4.48: Bill Kendrick / Independent * Candidate #4.49: Fred Stein / Independent * Candidate #4.50: Jerry Cole / Independent | |

Contest #5:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Title of Office | Lieutenant-Governor |
| District of Office | State |
| Test features | Medium list of candidate |
| Partisanship | Partisan |
| Minimum Votes Allowed | 0 |
| Maximum Votes Allowed | 1 |
| Maximum Write-in Votes Allowed | 1 |
| * Candidate #5.1: Chris Norberg / Federalist * Candidate #5.2: Anthony Parks / People’s * Candidate #5.3: Luis Garcia / Liberty * Candidate #5.4: Charles Qualey / Constitution * Candidate #5.5: George Hovis / Whig * Candidate #5.6: Burt Zirkle / Labor * Candidate #5.7: Brenda Davis / Independent * Candidate #5.8: Edward Freeman / Independent * Candidate #5.9: Paul Swan / Independent | |

Contest #6:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Title of Office | Secretary of State |
| District of Office | State |
| Test features | Single candidate + write-in |
| Partisanship | Partisan |
| Minimum Votes Allowed | 0 |
| Maximum Votes Allowed | 1 |
| Maximum Write-in Votes Allowed | 1 |
| * Candidate #6.1: Laila Shamsi / People’s | |

Contest #7:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Title of Office | State Senator |
| District of Office | State: 31st District |
| Test features | Short list of candidates |
| Partisanship | Partisan |
| Minimum Votes Allowed | 0 |
| Maximum Votes Allowed | 1 |
| Maximum Write-in Votes Allowed | 1 |
| * Candidate #7.1: Edward Shiplett / Constitution * Candidate #7.2: Marty Talarico / People’s | |

Contest #8:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Title of Office | State Assemblyman |
| District of Office | 54th District |
| Test features | Short list of candidates |
| Partisanship | Partisan |
| Minimum Votes Allowed | 0 |
| Maximum Votes Allowed | 1 |
| Maximum Write-in Votes Allowed | 1 |
| * Candidate #8.1: Andrea Solis / Federalist * Candidate #8.2: Amos Keller / People’s * Candidate #8.2: Davitra Rangel / Liberty | |

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### Contest #9:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Title of Office | County Commissioners |
| District of Office | County |
| Test features | Hard to distinguish names  Vote for N of M |
| Partisanship | Partisan |
| Minimum Votes Allowed | 0 |
| Maximum Votes Allowed | 5 |
| Maximum Write-in Votes Allowed | 5 |
| * Candidate #9.1: Camille Argent / Federalist * Candidate #9.2: Chloe Witherspoon / Federalist * Candidate #9.3: Clayton Bainbridge / Federalist * Candidate #9.4: Amanda Marracini / People’s * Candidate #9.5: Yasmina Asfour / People’s * Candidate #9.6: Eric Savoy / People’s * Candidate #9.7: Susan Tawa / People’s * Candidate #9.8: Mary Tawa / People’s * Candidate #9.9: Damian Rangel / Liberty * Candidate #9.10: Valarie Altman / Constitution * Candidate #9.11: Helen Moore / Constitution * Candidate #9.12: John White / Constitution * Candidate #9.13: Joe Schmidt / Whig * Candidate #9.14: Joe Smith / Whig * Candidate #9.15 Martin Schreiner / Independent | |

Contest #10:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Title of Office | Registrar of Wills |
| District of Office | County: 4th seat |
| Test features | No candidate running, must write in or skip |
| Partisanship | Non-partisan |
| Minimum Votes Allowed | 0 |
| Maximum Votes Allowed | 1 |
| Maximum Write-in Votes Allowed | 1 |
| * No candidates | |

### Contest #11:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Title of Office | Mayor |
| District of Office | City of Springfield |
| Test features | Short list of candidates |
| Partisanship | Partisan |
| Minimum Votes Allowed | 0 |
| Maximum Votes Allowed | 1 |
| Maximum Write-in Votes Allowed | 1 |
| * Candidate #11.1: Orville White / Federalist * Candidate #11.2: Gregory Seldon / People’s | |

### Contest #12:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Title of Office | City Council |
| District of Office | City of Springfield |
| Test features | Vote for N or M Exact number in each party |
| Partisanship | Partisan |
| Minimum Votes Allowed | 0 |
| Maximum Votes Allowed | 3 |
| Maximum Write-in Votes Allowed | 3 |
| Candidate #12.1: Harvey Eagle / Federalist  Candidate #12.2: Randall Rupp / Federalist  Candidate #12.3: Carroll Shry / Federalist  Candidate #12.4: Beverly Barker / People’s  Candidate #12.5: Jin Chen / People’s  Candidate #12.6: Rhadka Ramachandrani / People’s | |

Retention Question #1:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Wording of Question | Retain **Robert Demergue** as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court? |
| Options | Yes / No |

Retention Question #2:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Wording of Question | Retain **Elmer Hull** as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court? |
| Options | Yes / No |

Ballot Question #1:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Title of proposition | PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT C |
| Test features | Long ballot question text |
| Wording of proposition | Shall there be amendments to the State constitution intended to have the collective effect of ensuring the separation of governmental power among the three branches of state government: the legislative branch, the executive branch and the judicial branch?  a. Article III, Section 6 of the Constitution shall be amended to read as follows:  Section 6. Holding of offices under other governments. - Senators and representatives not to hold other appointed offices under state government. --No person holding any office under the government of the United States, or of any other state or country, shall act as a general officer or as a member of the general assembly, unless at the time of taking such engagement that person shall have resigned the office under such government; and if any general officer, senator, representative, or judge shall, after election and engagement, accept any appointment under any other government, the office under this shall be immediately vacated; but this restriction shall not apply to any person appointed to take deposition or acknowledgement of deeds, or other legal instruments, by the authority of any other state or country.  No senator or representative shall, during the time for which he or she was elected, be appointed to any state office, board, commission or other state or quasi-public entity exercising executive power under the laws of this state, and no person holding any executive office or serving as a member of any board, commission or other state or quasi-public entity exercising executive power under the laws of this state shall be a member of the senate or the house of representatives during his or her continuance in such office.  b. Article V of the Constitution shall be amended to read as follows: The powers of the government shall be distributed into three (3) separate and distinct departments: the legislative, the executive and the judicial.  c. Article VI, Section 10 of the Constitution shall be deleted in its entirety.  d. Article IX, Section 5 of the Constitution shall be amended to read as follows:  Section 5. Powers of appointment.- The governor shall, by and with the advice and consent of the senate, appoint all officers of the state whose appointment is not herein otherwise provided for and all members of any board, commission or other state or quasi-public entity which exercises executive power under the laws of this state; but the general assembly may by law vest the appointment of such inferior officers, as they deem proper, in the governor, or within their respective departments in the other general officers, the judiciary or in the heads of departments. |

Ballot question #2:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Title of proposition | PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT D |
| Test features | Short text |
| Wording of proposition | Shall there be an amendment to the State constitution concerning recovery of damages relating to construction of real property improvements, and, in connection therewith, prohibiting laws that limit or impair a property owner's right to recover damages caused by a failure to construct an improvement in a good and workmanlike manner? |

Ballot question #3:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Title of proposition | PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT H |
| Test features | Short text |
| Wording of proposition | Shall there be an amendment to the State constitution authorizing Madison and Fromwit Counties to hold referenda on whether to authorize slot machines in existing, licensed pari-mutuel facilities (thoroughbred and harness racing, greyhound racing, and jai alai)? that have conducted live racing or games in that county during each of the last two calendar years before effective date of this amendment? Requires implementing legislation. |

Ballot question #4:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Title of proposition | Ballot Measure 100  Abandoned Vehicle Removal |
| Wording of proposition | Should the Franklin County Vehicle Abatement Program and vehicle registration fees of one dollar per vehicle be renewed for a ten-year term beginning July 1, 2021, for the abatement and removal of abandoned, wrecked, dismantled, or inoperative vehicles?  . |

Ballot question #5

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Title of proposition | BALLOT MEASURE 101 Open Primaries |
| Wording of proposition | Requires primary elections where voters may vote for any state or federal candidate regardless of party registration of voter or candidate. The two primary-election candidates receiving most votes for an office, whether they are candidates with no party or members of same or different party, would be listed on general election ballot. Exempts presidential nominations. Fiscal Impact: No significant net fiscal effect on state and local governments. |

Ballot question #6:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Title of proposition | BALLOT MEASURE 106 College District Bonds |
| Wording of proposition | To upgrade educational facilities and help prepare students for jobs and college transfer by modernizing classrooms and labs, and building facilities for health, medical, science, and technology training, and implementing infrastructure improvements, shall the Franklin Community College District issue $450 million of bonds at legal interest rates with independent oversight, audits, and all funds spent on local sites. |

**End of logical specification for Test Ballot Specification.**

# Instructions for Participants

## This instruction set for test participants is in the form of a script that test administrators would use to ensure consistency across the participants for measuring performance of the usability and accessibility of the voting system being tested.

## Instructions for Participants

In our mock election, we will be using fake names for candidates and colors names or colors for political party names. For example, you might see this:

Joe Jones/People’s Party

Any similarity between names of candidates and real people or colors and real parties is purely coincidental.

Please attempt to vote exactly as described on the following pages

Once you start, we will not be able to help you.

Please do the best you can. If you are stuck and cannot continue, inform the administrator.

Thank you.

For President and Vice President of the United States, vote for  
Adam Cramer and Greg Vuocolo

For Senator, vote for  
David Brown

For Congress, vote for  
Brad Schott

For Governor, vote for  
Cathy Steele

Do not cast a vote for  
Lieutenant Governor

For Registrar of Deeds, write in a vote for  
Christopher Christopher

For State Senator, vote for  
Edward Shiplett

For State Assemblyman, vote for  
Amos Keller

For County Commissioners, vote for   
the Constitution Party candidates only

For Registrar of Wills, write in  
Michael Marchesani

For Mayor, vote for  
Orville White

For City Council, vote for the following candidates:  
Randall Rupp  
Carroll Shry  
Donald Davis

For Chief Justice of the Supreme Court  
Vote to keep Robert Demergue in office

For the question of retaining Justice of the Supreme Court Elmer Hull  
Do not vote

For Proposed Constitutional Amendment C  
Vote for this amendment

For Proposed Constitutional Amendment D  
Vote for this amendment

For Proposed Constitutional Amendment H  
Vote against this amendment

For Ballot Measure 100: Abandoned Vehicle Removal   
Vote against the measure

For Ballot Measure 101: Open Primaries  
Do not vote

For Ballot Measure 106: College District Bonds  
Vote for the measure

Review your choices, and make the following changes:

Vote for your choice for Lieutenant Governor

Check the spelling of the write-in candidate Michael Marchesani for Registrar of Wills

Vote against retaining Justice of the Supreme Court Elmer Hull

Change your vote on Measure 100 to vote for the measure

Cast your ballot

1. The party names are selected from historical parties that no longer operate in the United States or are similar to current party names. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. State variations such as “No Party Preference” or other nonpartisan indicators may be used. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)