



Jefferson County Voting Guide

Election season is here and the following tips will help make your voting experience a pleasant one!

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

Make sure that you are registered and know with which political party you are affiliated. The deadline to register to vote or to change your party preference is October 14, 2008 in order to vote in the General Election.

KNOW WHO YOU ARE VOTING FOR

Get ahead of the game. The ballot is pretty extensive and making educated choices is better than haphazard guesses. Jump on line to: Jeffersoncountyclerkwv.com and click on the 2008 Elections link to view candidates profiles, platforms, financial statements and required filings. Many candidates have a website that you can access through the elections page.

GET TO KNOW YOUR POLLING PLACE

Find out where your polling place is before Election Day on November 4th. If you are unsure, call the clerk's office at 304-728-3386. We also have a full color precinct map online at Jeffersoncountyclerkwv.com under the elections page.

NO EXCUSE EARLY VOTING

If you are not going to be available to vote on Election Day, you can vote early at the Jefferson County Courthouse at 100 East Washington Street. Early voting will take place during the following dates and times:

Monday through Friday: October 15th – October 31st from 9:00am – 5:00pm

Saturday: October 25th and November 1st from 9:00am – 5:00pm

FILL IN THE OVALS

Our county uses an optical scan paper ballot. Ovals must be shaded in for the selections made. Please **DO NOT** circle, check mark or underline your choices as the ballot cannot be read by our tabulating machines. If you foresee difficulty in shading the ovals, please use our **AutoMARK Voter Assist Machine** that will not only mark the ballot for you, but has the ability to enlarge the text, read the ballot via headphones or change the contrast.

REMAIN AT THE BALLOT BOX

All precincts in our county will be equipped with a "smart ballot box" called the M100. Once you have finished voting and have placed your optical scan ballot into a secrecy sleeve, you will hand your ballot to the poll worker who will insert your ballot into the M100. If your ballot choices were properly marked, the poll worker will let you know that your ballot has been accepted and you are free to leave.

IF YOU HEAR A BEEPING NOISE FROM THE M100 BALLOT BOX

That means that the ballot has been over-voted, under-voted or perhaps left blank. Within seconds, the M100 will indicate which contest may need to be reviewed by the voter on the LCD display screen. At that time, **THE VOTER MUST DECIDE AND SELECT FROM TWO OPTIONS:**

Option #1 – ACCEPT – by choosing this option, the ballot will go into the ballot box regardless of how it was cast.

Option #2 – RETURN – by choosing this option, the ballot will be returned – to the voter who can decide to go back to the voting booth and finish voting if they have under-voted **OR** if the ballot has been over-voted, may ask to have their ballot spoiled and be issued a new ballot.

QUICK ELECTION FACTS

- There are approximately 33,300 registered voters in Jefferson County.
- Only about 12,000 citizens exercise their right to vote.
- It cost nearly \$170,000 of local taxpayer dollars to conduct just one election.

- Please be a champion citizen and VOTE!