

# Voter Intent

## Determination of Voter Intent for Colorado Elections



**2023 Addendum for Instant Runoff Voting (IRV)**

# Determination of Voter Intent – IRV Addendum

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## **OVERVIEW**

This guide addendum outlines specific scenarios to aid election judges in determining voter intent in Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) contests in accordance with statute and rules and must be used in IRV contests requiring resolution of voter intent not already covered in the main guide.

Voter Intent for the following situations is covered in the main guide:

- The Target Area
- Marking Patterns
- Corrected Votes
- Written Instructions

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## CHAPTER 1: OVERVOTES

**Election Rule 1.1.40(b)** In a ranked voting contest, [“overvote” means] a voter marked more than one candidate with the same ranking.

**Election Rule 26.7.1** An overvote invalidates the overvoted rankings and all lower rankings marked for that contest on the ballot.

### Example 1: Overvote with no valid rankings

In the example below a voter has selected more than one candidate for the 1<sup>st</sup> Choice rank. This means that there is not a valid ranking for any candidate in this contest as all rankings after the overvoted ranking are invalid.

Municipal Offices			
City of Boulder Mayor (Vote for One)			
	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice
Candidate A	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>3</sup>
Candidate B	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <sup>3</sup>
Candidate C	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>3</sup>

### Example 2: Overvote with a valid ranking

In the example below a voter has selected more than one candidate for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice rank. The 1<sup>st</sup> choice rank will be counted for Candidate B, however this ballot has no valid 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> choice ranks due to the overvoted 2<sup>nd</sup> choice.

Municipal Offices			
City of Boulder Mayor (Vote for One)			
	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice
Candidate A	<input type="radio"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>3</sup>
Candidate B	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>3</sup>
Candidate C	<input type="radio"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <sup>3</sup>

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## CHAPTER 2: SKIPPED RANKINGS

**Election Rule 1.1.51** “Skipped ranking” means a voter did not rank candidates in numerical order (e.g., voter ranks top candidate with a “1” and second candidate with a “3”, or leaves a ranking blank).

**Election Rule 26.7.2** A skipped ranking and any lower ranking must be ignored.

### Example 1:

In the example below the 2<sup>nd</sup> choice ranking is skipped therefore the 3<sup>rd</sup> choice ranking will not count. Only the 1<sup>st</sup> choice ranking for Candidate A is valid on this ballot.

Municipal Offices			
City of Boulder Mayor (Vote for One)			
	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice
Candidate A	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>3</sup>
Candidate B	<input type="radio"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <sup>3</sup>
Candidate C	<input type="radio"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>3</sup>

## CHAPTER 3: DUPLICATE RANKINGS

**Election Rule 1.1.23** “Duplicate ranking” means a voter marked more than one ranking for a candidate in a ranked voting election.

**Election Rule 26.7.3** A candidate who receives a duplicate ranking on a single ballot is credited with the highest ranking marked by the voter. All other rankings for that candidate must be ignored

### Example 1:

In the example below candidate A is ranked for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> choice. Therefore the 1<sup>st</sup> choice ranking for Candidate A is valid and the 2<sup>nd</sup> choice ranking will be ignored. **NOTE:** In this example, a skipped ranking occurs as a result of adjudicating the duplicate ranking, therefore the 3<sup>rd</sup> choice does not count (all rankings after the skip are ignored).

Municipal Offices			
City of Boulder Mayor (Vote for One)			
	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice
Candidate A	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>3</sup>
Candidate B	<input type="radio"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <sup>3</sup>
Candidate C	<input type="radio"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>3</sup>

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## CHAPTER 4: DUPLICATE RANKING AND OVERVOTES

When resolving duplicate rankings and overvotes in the same IRV contest, resolve duplicate rankings first and then check to see if there are overvotes.

### Example 1: Duplicate Ranking not affecting an Overvote

In the example below the ranking for candidate C is duplicated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> choice rankings.

- The duplicate ranking for Candidate C in the 3rd choice is ignored
- This still results in an overvote starting at the second ranking for Candidates A and C
- For this ballot, only the 1st choice for Candidate B is valid

Municipal Offices			
City of Boulder Mayor (Vote for One)			
	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice
Candidate A	<input type="radio"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>3</sup>
Candidate B	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>3</sup>
Candidate C	<input type="radio"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <sup>3</sup>

### Example 2: Duplicate Ranking removing an Overvote

In the example below Candidate B's ranking is duplicated in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> choices.

- The 1<sup>st</sup> choice ranking for Candidate B is valid and the 2nd choice is ignored
- This means that there is no overvote in the 2nd choice as only one second choice remains. The 2nd choice ranking for Candidate A is valid

Municipal Offices			
City of Boulder Mayor (Vote for One)			
	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice
Candidate A	<input type="radio"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>3</sup>
Candidate B	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>3</sup>
Candidate C	<input type="radio"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <sup>3</sup>