

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

**ATTACHMENT B TO THE DIRECTIVE FOR ELECTRONIC VOTING
SYSTEMS**

**AN EXPLANATION AND SELECTED EXAMPLES OF “THE PENNSYLVANIA
METHOD”**

The Pennsylvania requirements for electronic voting systems are found in the Pennsylvania Election Code at 25 P.S. § 3031.7. The third requirement, at § 3031.7(3), is unique to Pennsylvania, and is often referred to as “the Pennsylvania method.”

To change a vote for a straight political party ticket in an election where more than one candidate is elected, the Election Code, at § 3031.7(3), requires the voter to make one mark for a candidate in the other party for whom the voter would like to vote. In doing so, this action requires that the votes previously made by the voter for all candidates for that office be erased. Then the voter must be able to select candidates of either party for that office up to the number allowed or write in an individual’s name, as provided at 25 P.S. § 3031.7(5) & (6).

As an example, assume that there are 3 Democratic candidates (Jones, Smith and Roberts) and 3 Republican candidates (Perry, James and O’Donnell) for school director, where voters may select up to 3 candidates in a general election. The voter initially selects a straight party ticket for all Democratic candidates. In this school director race, however, the voter then desires to vote for Mr. Perry, a Republican. The Pennsylvania Election Code requires that the voter be required to make one mark to vote for Mr. Perry. When the voter makes his mark for Mr. Perry, all of the Democratic candidates for the office of school director are deselected at the same time. Once the Democratic candidates are deselected, the voter must be able to reenter or mark the ballot for not more than 2 additional candidates from either party or write in not more than two additional names.

For a different example, assume that there are 3 Democratic candidates (Jones, Smith and Roberts) and 3 Republican candidates (Perry, James and O’Donnell) for school director, where voters may select up to 3 candidates in a general election. The voter initially selects a straight party ticket for all Democratic candidates. In this school director race only, however, the voter desires to vote only for one Democratic candidate, Jones. The Pennsylvania Election Code requires that the voter be required to make one mark to vote for Mr. Jones. When the voter makes his mark for Mr. Jones, all of the other Democratic candidates for the office of school director are deselected at the same time. Once the other two Democratic candidates are deselected, the voter must be able to reenter or mark the ballot for not more than 2 additional candidates from either party or write in not more than two additional names.

Once a voter has voted a straight party and voted for a candidate of the same or another party in the same office using the “Pennsylvania Method,” as explained above, the

requirements of the Pennsylvania Election Code at § 3031.7(3) no longer apply. For example, the next time that the voter votes for another candidate in the same office after voting a straight party and then voting for a candidate of the same or another party, then he must deselect a candidate in that office before voting another time for another candidate for that same office.

NOTE: This document is intended to assist vendors in preparation for an examination of an electronic voting system. However, it is not meant to be an exhaustive analysis of all of the possibilities that § 3031.7(3) of the Pennsylvania Election Code may present.