

CHAPTER XI. ELECTIONS

11.15. Election Of Officers.

(1) All elective county offices shall be nonpartisan.

(2) The manner of nominating and electing officers shall be the same as that established by state law for nominating and electing circuit court judges, except as this charter provides to the contrary. Election of county officers under this Section shall be held at the November general election according to "Score Then Automatic Runoff (STAR) Voting" as described in subsection (5) of this section.

(3) Petitions or declarations of candidacy shall contain no reference to any political party ballot or to the political party affiliation of the candidate.

(4) The names of all candidates shall appear on the election ballot. The ballot shall direct the elector to score each candidate appearing on the ballot on a scale of zero to five, with zero being the lowest score possible and five being the highest score possible. The ballot shall inform the elector of how votes will be tallied under subsection (5) of this section.

(5) Votes cast shall be tallied according to Score Then Automatic Runoff (STAR) Voting, as follows:

(a) For each office for which a candidate appears on the ballot, the vote tally system shall calculate the sum total of the scores received by each candidate and then determine the two candidates who received the greatest total scores.

(b) Of the two candidates identified under subsection (5)(a) of this section, the vote tally system shall determine in whose favor each elector's ballot was cast, as follows: Each elector's ballot shall be considered cast in favor of the candidate who received the greater score, but if an elector gave both candidates the same score, the elector's ballot shall not be considered in favor of either candidate.

(c) The candidate in whose favor a greater number of ballots were cast as determined under subsection (5)(b) of this section shall be elected and, for purposes of section 4.50 of this charter, shall be deemed the candidate who received a majority of votes cast.

(6) The County Commissioners shall, by ordinance, establish rules necessary for the orderly administration of the election using Score Then Automatic Runoff (STAR) Voting as described in subsection (5) of this section. Such rules shall provide for the determination of the prevailing candidate in cases of a tie-vote at any stage of Score Then Automatic Runoff (STAR) Voting.