MONTGOMERY COUNTY NEW VOTING SYSTEM FAQs

Am I supposed to scan my own ballot?

Yes. You should scan your own ballot. A poll worker should never scan your ballot for you unless you have specifically requested assistance.

Why did I get a warning message when I "overvoted"?

The scanner is programmed to alert you when you have made more selections in a particular race than allowed. For example, if you can only vote for one candidate in a race and you voted for two. In this instance, the system will alert you that you can choose to correct your ballot, or you can cast it as is. If you choose to cast the ballot as is, the scanner will not count any race that had more than the allowable number of votes cast. The scanner will count the rest of the correctly marked ballot.

Can my ballot be traced?

No. There is no number or identifying information on the ballot. It cannot be tied to any voter.

Can I still vote if the scanner is not working?

Yes. If the scanning device is not functioning for any reason, the poll worker can deposit the ballots into a secure auxiliary bin. These ballots will be scanned and counted at the end of the night by the Judge of Elections.

Can I scan my ballot upside down so no one can see my selections?

Yes. It doesn't matter how the ballot is fed into the scanner. The scanner will accurately count the selections marked on your ballot.

How is my vote kept private?

You should keep your marked ballot in the privacy folder at all times until you feed it into the scanner. Scanned ballots are deposited into a random pile inside the scanner, so they are not in the order in which people voted.

Can there be a larger tipped pen to mark my ballot?

The pens used are the pens recommended by the system manufacturer. There are a couple of reasons to use the fine point pen. The first is that a thicker tipped pen would make write-in selections very difficult to read. The second reason is that some voters tend to rest the pen on the ballot before making a final decision to vote for a candidate. A thicker tipped pen could leave a mark sufficient enough to indicate an actual vote for a candidate when the voter did not intend to do so.

The marker bled through to the other side of the ballot. Is that a problem?
No. Votes cannot be misread due to a bleed through. They are quick-drying, so the ink will not interfere with the scanner. The ballot will always be set up so that the ovals on the front will not line up with the ovals on the back if the ballot is two-sided.

Can anyone use the electronic ballot marking device?
Yes. You may elect to use the electronic ballot marking device to mark your ballot. Once the ballot is printed, you will still place your marked ballot into the scanning device.

Will there be a straight-party voting option in the General Election?
Yes. The Pennsylvania Election Code requires that a straight party voting option be included on the ballot. The straight party voting option and instructions will be the first voting choice that appears on your ballot and will look like this:

STRAIGHT PARTY

If you choose to vote a **Straight Party** ticket, darken the oval to the right of the party of your choice. This allows you to make a single selection that will cast a vote for all the candidates of one party. In any race, you may choose candidates individually from any party by filling in the oval next to the names of the candidates you wish to vote for. The candidates you selected individually for that race will override your straight party selections **for that race only**.

| Democratic Party | ○ |
| Republican Party | ○ |