Updated 8/26/2025.

Election Policies and Procedures

313. Counting Write-in Votes

CBJ Code 29.07.050(g) states that "Votes for a write-in candidate may not be counted unless that candidate has filed a letter of intent or declaration of candidacy…."

If no certified write-in candidates have filed a letter of intent with the Clerk's Office, then no write-in votes will be adjudicated or counted, including write-in votes for candidates whose names already appear on the ballot. If one or more write-in candidate filed letters of intent with the Clerk's Office, then write-in votes will be counted under the following conditions:

1. Candidate's name is written as it appears on the filed letter of intent
2. Candidate's last name only is written as it appears on the letter of intent, except for a case in which two or more candidates have the same last name, in which case the correct initial or reasonable spelling of the first name must also be included
3. Any reasonable spelling of first and last name
4. Commonly known nicknames along with the candidate's last name
5. Name of candidate whose name is printed on the ballot
6. Names with or without suffixes (e.g. Jr., Sr., III), unless a suffix is required to distinguish between candidates with the same first and last name
7. In counting votes for a write-in candidate, the election official shall disregard any abbreviation, misspelling, or other minor variation in the form of the name of the candidate if the intent of the voter can be ascertained

Write-in votes are rejected under the following circumstances

1. Fictional names, "none of the above", etc.
2. Initials only
3. First name only
4. Oval opposite the candidate's name is not marked