Nov. 24, 1964 R. R. CLARK 3,158,316

WRITE-IN VOTING CARD FOR VOTING MACHINE SYSTEMS

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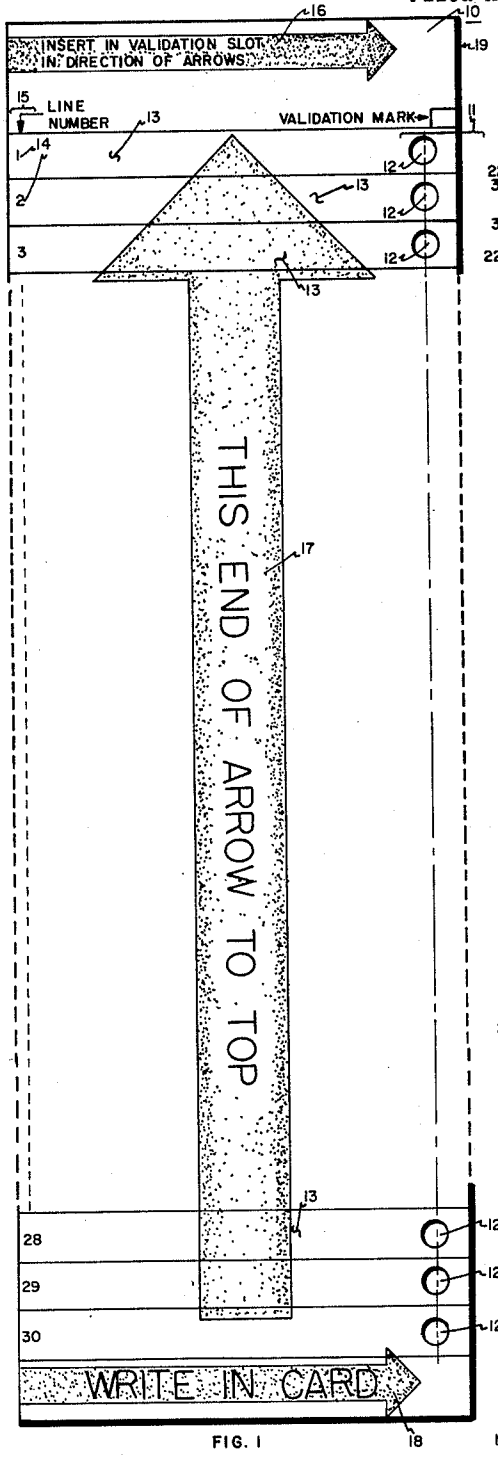


FIG. 1

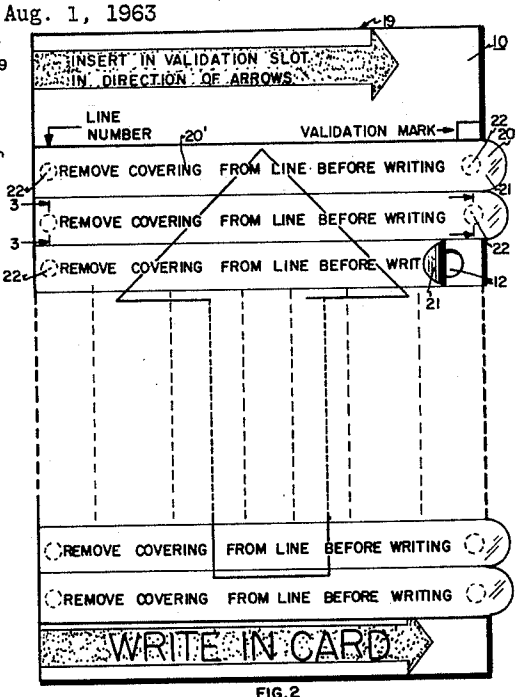


FIG. 2

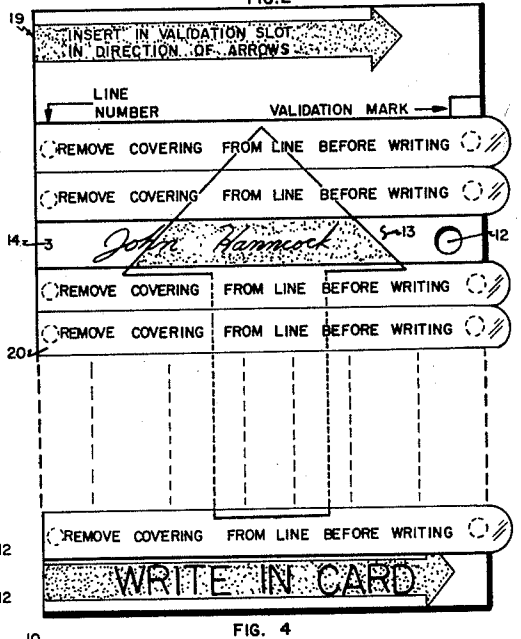


FIG. 4

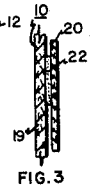


FIG. 3

INVENTOR.
RUEL R. CLARK
BY M. Ralph Hoffer
HIS ATTORNEY

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WRITE-IN VOTING CARD FOR VOTING MACHINE SYSTEMS

Ruel R. Clark, Salt Lake City, Utah, assignor to Larrie D. White, Salt Lake City, Utah

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The present invention relates to voting cards usable as auxiliary or ancillary ballots for automatic voting machine systems and, more particularly, to a new and improved composite ballot card usable for voting for write-in candidates.

Accordingly, a principal object of the present invention is to provide a new and improved write-in card or ballot for using in automatic voting machine systems.

A further object of the invention is to provide a write-in card or ballot wherein spaces in which write-in selections are made may be sensed by a mechanical or electronic means so that tabulation of voting selections may be facilitated in automatic voting machine systems.

A further object of the invention is to proved a new and useful write-in card for voting machine systems wherein the voter is accommodated in making write-in selections in a simple, direct, and assured accurate manner, and is further convenienced by suitable indicia so that the card may be easily introduced in the voting machine system accommodating the same.

A further object of the invention is to provide a voting card wherein covering strip removal from a composite voting card will present perforations suitable for mechanical or electronic sensing opposite spaces designed to receive write-in selection, this in a manner such that sensing of selections for particular offices, for example, may be made in a fool-proof and accurate manner.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a write-in card for voting machines wherein covering strips are provided over write-in spaces and perforations registered therewith such that the removal of a covering strip uncovers not only the perforation to be sensed but also solely that write-in space on the card which is in correspondence therewith.

While particular embodiments of the present invention have been shown and described, it will be obvious to those skilled in the art that changes and modifications may be made without departing from this invention in its broader aspects, and, therefore, the aim in the appended claims is to cover all such changes and modifications as fall within the true spirit and scope of this invention.

FIGURE 1 is a plan view of the base card employed in the composite voting card or ballot contemplated by the present invention; for convenience of illustration the medial portion of the card is indicated only in broken-line configuration, and it will be understood that the write-in spaces, line number indicia, and sensible perforations employed will extend substantially through the entire body of the card.

FIGURE 2 is a view similar to FIGURE 1, is compressed lengthwise for convenience of illustration, and indicates the composite voting card wherein the base card shown in FIGURE 1 is provided with a plurality of covering strips which cover respective lines on the voting card base; the tab portion of one of the covering strips is pulled back to indicate the manner in which the covering strips are removed from the base card of the ballot.

FIGURE 3 is an enlarged, sectional detail taken along the line 3—3 in FIGURE 2, indicating representative means of adhering the individual covering strips to the base card of the ballot.

FIGURE 4 is a similar to FIGURE 3, but illustrates that once a particular covering strip has been removed, the voting user may write in the name of a candidate he

desires for a particular office, and the fact that a write-in candidate's name has been written in may be sensed from the perforation uncovered and in registry therewith.

In FIGURE 1 base card 10 includes along its right-hand margin 11 a multiplicity of mutually spaced, linearly oriented, write-in, sensible perforations 12 which are respectively aligned with a multiplicity of write-in spaces 13. The latter are respectively identified by indicia 14 which come under a column, at left hand margin 15 of base card 10, identified as "Line Number." Of course, other types of indicia such as letters may be used to identify the respective write-in spaces 13, where desired. Furthermore, the perforations while preferably linearly related and mutually spaced, may conceivably be disposed and slightly displaced orientations so long as registration with the respective indicia 14 and the write-in spaces 13 is maintained.

Suitable indicia 16, 17, and 18, visible whether exposed or covered by the covering strips 20, and with appropriate instructions thereon, are given in order that the card may be properly placed in the receiving slot of a voting machine, not shown, in order that exposed ones of sensible perforations 12 may be properly detected by the voting machine. It will be noticed that the indicia 16, 18 are important to determine intended translational movement of the card into the receiving slot of the voting machine and also (see indicia 17) to insure that the card is not placed backwards in the slot.

FIGURE 2 indicates that the composite voting card 19, in addition to including base card 10, also is provided with a multiplicity of covering strips 20 individual ones of which preferably include the writing indicia "Remove Covering From Line Before Writing" 20' or some similar instruction. The individual covering strips 20 each preferably include tab portions 21 which protrude somewhat beyond the right hand margin 11 of base card 10 and facilitate removal thereof. The covering strips 20 are preferably translucent and, indeed, preferably transparent such as the character of a clear acetate material. In the course of manufacturing the composite voting card 19, there will be disposed upon base card 10 certain adhesive dots 22 to accommodate the releasable securement to the base card 10 of the several covering strips 20. One suitable type of adhesive is an adhesive going under the name "Tipping Glue" identified as 1–MC82 and manufactured by the Pierce Specialized Equipment Company in California. Other types of adhesives are possible. While conceivably the adhesive could be applied either to the individual covering strips 20 or to base card 10 and this either in dots or other configurations or conceivably completely along the lines respectively covered by the covering strips 20, it is deemed preferable that but two dots 22 be supplied each line as indicated. The third strip from the top of the upper three series of strips of FIGURE 2 is shown with the tab portion 21 bent over to expose its associated, sensible perforation 12. This will be a condition which occurs when the voter commences to remove the covering strip from a particular line so as to indicate that the line has been written upon and is therefore to be sensed by the voting machine, not shown, to be used in the system.

FIGURE 3 is merely an indication, shown in enlarged cross section, of a portion of a composite card 19, indicating the presence and disposition of the individual adhesive dots 22 in the composite card.

In FIGURE 4 is shown a composite card 19 wherein one of the writing spaces 13 has been uncovered to permit its sensible perforation 12 to be uncovered and also to allow the voter to write in the name of the write-in candidate for a particular office which he selects. Hence, if desired, the numeral 3 in FIGURE 4, as indicia 14, can represent a particular office and the name written in "John Hancock" signifying the write-in choice of the voter for

that particular office. It is thus seen that many offices may be accommodated by use of the inventor's composite card.

In operation, a voter will be presented with a voter's write-in card, i.e. the composite voting card 19 shown in the drawing. The card will be presented to the voter such that all lines 1 through 30, for example, see FIGURE 1, will be covered by their respective covering strips 20.

When the voter desires to write in the name of a candidate for a particular office, then he will simply remove the appropriate covering strip, to expose space 3, for example, as shown in FIGURE 4, and then the voter simply writes in the name of the write-in candidate he prefers. This writing will be done in the space 13, see FIGURES 1 and 4, which is uncovered by the removal of the associated covering strip 20. Simultaneously with the presentation of the particular write-in spaces 13, there will be exposed the associated sensible perforation 12 which, through conventional switch means, not shown, may be sensed, indicating that the voter using this particular card made a write-in selection at space 3.

While the indicia 14 might conceivably be printed on the covering strips themselves, it is desirable that the covering strips be transparent to reveal the indicia 14 through covering strips. The tipping glue employed, adhesive 22, may also be of a transparent nature so that the indicia 14 as in FIGURE 4 may be easily read through the covering strips 20.

While particular embodiments of the present invention have been shown and described, it will be obvious to those skilled in the art that changes and modifications may be made without departing from this invention in its broader aspects, and, therefore, the aim in the appended claims is to cover all such changes and modifications as fall within the true spirit and scope of this invention.

I claim:

1. A write-in voting card for automatic voting machine systems, said voting card including, in combination, a base card provided with a multiplicity of write-in candidate writing spaces and a plurality of perforations in respective registry therewith, and a multiplicity of covering strips, individual ones of which are individually removably affixed to said base card and removably disposed over respective ones of said writing spaces and also over corresponding one of said perforations.

2. A voting card according to claim 1 wherein said base card includes writing space identification indicia disposed in correspondence with respective ones of said writing spaces.

3. A voting card according to claim 1 wherein said base card includes writing space identification indicia disposed in correspondence with respective ones of said writing spaces, and wherein said covering strips are transparent, said indicia being viewable therethrough.

4. A voting card according to claim 1 wherein the same includes indicia means for directing insertion of said voting card into a voting machine.

5. A voting card according to claim 1 wherein said covering strips include tab extremity portions protruding beyond said base card and facilitating grasping thereof for removing said covering strips from said base card.

6. A write-in voting card for automatic voting machine systems, said voting card including, in combination, a base card provided with a multiplicity of write-in candidate writing spaces and a plurality of perforations in respective registry therewith, and a multiplicity of covering strips individual ones of which are individually removably affixed to said base card and removably disposed over respective ones of said writing spaces and also over corresponding ones of said perforations, and adhesive means for releasably securing said covering strips to said base card over said writing spaces and perforations as aforesaid.

7. A voting card according to claim 6 wherein said adhesive means comprises spaced adhesive dots proximately disposed with respect to the extremities of said covering strips.

No references cited.