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Fielder

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[54] TABULATING TYPE BALLOT

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** .....**235/61.12 R,** 283/5

[51] **Int. Cl.** ...**B42d 15/00,** G06k 19/00, G06k 21/00

[58] **Field of Search** 283/5; 235/61.12, 61.603

[56] **References Cited**

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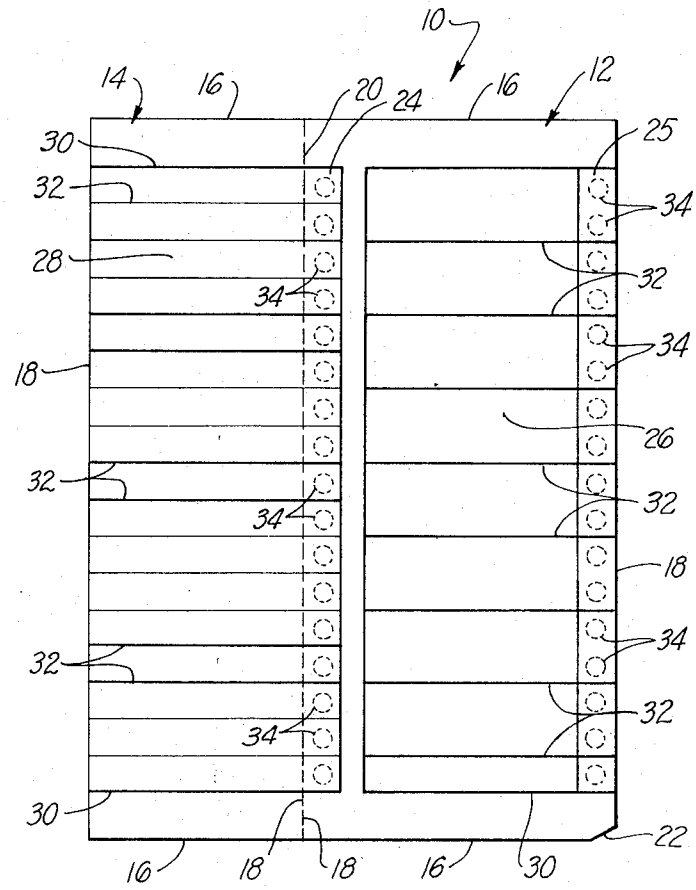
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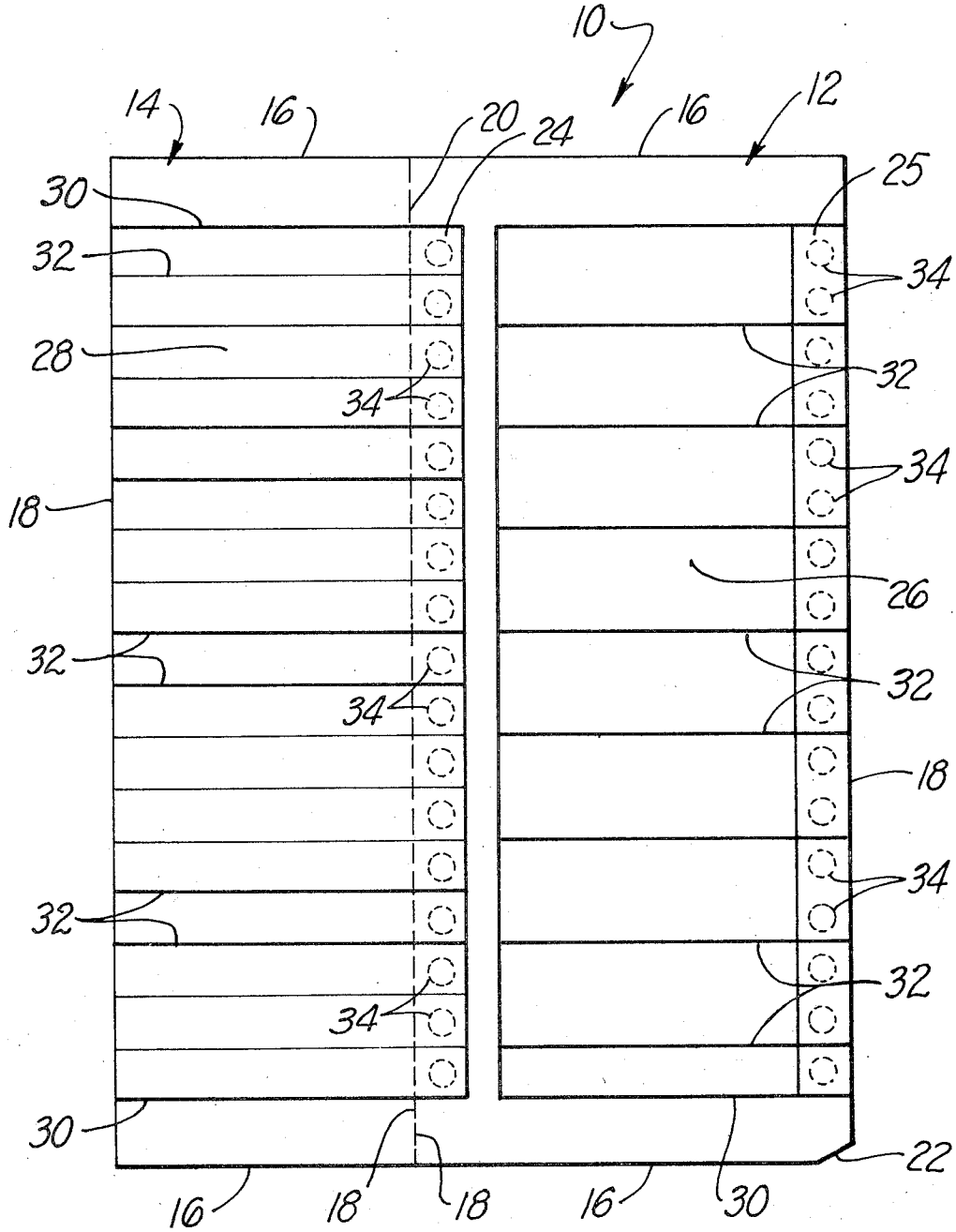
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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A tabulating card type ballot is disclosed which has a tear-off section joined to a tabulating card section with perforations. Areas indicating items to be voted upon are indicated on the tear-off section and in a voting column located in the center region of the card section. Tabulating columns containing voting areas surrounded by perforations are located on each side of the voting column on the card section. These voting areas are positioned opposite areas indicating items to be voted upon on the tear-off section and in the voting column.

1 Claim, 1 Drawing Figure





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TABULATING TYPE BALLOT

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application contains subject matter which is related to the subject matter of the James C. Fielder et al. application Ser. No. 408,119 filed Nov. 2, 1964 entitled: "Tabulating Type Ballot Construction".

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Many different types of voting procedures have been and are being utilized. In elections where a large number of voters register their votes for many years it has been common to utilize so-called paper ballots which are marked and then manually counted. The expense of this type of procedure is frequently quite great. Further, with this type of procedure considerable time is frequently required to obtain a tabulation of the votes.

Although machines for automatically counting the votes recorded on such ballots have been developed and utilized, by and large such machines are considered to be undesirable for any one of several reasons. Such reasons concern the costs of such machines, the accuracy of their operation, and the reliability of such machines during their use for their intended purpose.

As the result of disadvantageous factors with respect to so-called paper ballots various types of so-called voting machines have also been developed. Many of such machines can be considered as disadvantageous because of their cost and because it has been alleged that when unscrupulously handled they are capable of being used so as to thwart intentions of those voting.

As a result of these and related factors, tabulating card-type ballots as are indicated in the aforenoted application Ser. No. 408,119 have been developed. These ballots are considered to be effective structures which can be used so as to overcome problems encountered with various types of prior voting procedures and equipment as are briefly indicated in the preceding.

With ballots as set forth in this prior application items to be voted upon are indicated on both sides of a tabulating card type of structure and the card itself is structured so that the votes for items indicated on one side of the card cannot be confused with votes for items on the other side of the card. These ballots are intended to be tabulated by machine so as to effect substantial cost savings and so as to eliminate errors of manual ballot counting.

The acceptability of any ballot for use in elections of widespread import is of course governed by many factors such as various election laws, human desires and the like. Because of such factors, it is considered that, although ballots as set forth in the aforenoted application are very desirable and effective, they cannot or will not be accepted for use in all elections.

One factor involved in this contemplated lack of acceptance lies in the fact that all items to be voted upon are not indicated on a single side of the ballot. It is felt that because of this there is a chance that individuals utilizing the tabulating card type ballots as set forth in the aforenoted application may, through an inadvertence, not vote on the items indicated on both of the surfaces of the card.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An objective of this invention is to provide new and improved tabulating card type ballots which eliminate this objection to ballots of the type set forth in the aforementioned application. Another objective of this invention is to provide inexpensive tabulating card type ballots which may be easily and conveniently used because they contain appropriate voting areas and areas indicating items to be voted upon on a single one of their surfaces. A further objective of this invention is to provide tabulating card-type ballots which contain more usable area to indicate items to be voted upon and votes than is possible in a single tabulating card.

In accordance with this invention these objectives are achieved by providing a tabulating card-type ballot having a tabulating section joined to a tear-off section by perforations. Appropriate ballot-type areas arranged in rows or columns on the tear-off section and the card section are used to indicate items to be voted upon. Columns containing voting areas separated by perforations are located on the card section so that each of these voting areas is located adjacent to and opposite a ballot area containing an indication of an item to be voted upon.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

The invention is best more fully explained by refering directly to the accompanying drawing in which:

the FIGURE shows a top plan view of a tabulating card-type ballot of this invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

In the drawing there is shown a tabulating card-type ballot **10** of this invention formed out of a single sheet of a material such as cardboard so as to have opposed surfaces. Only the upper surface of this complete card **10** is illustrated or shown in the drawing since the appearance of the rear surface is unimportant as far as this invention is concerned. This rear surface may be printed so as to contain voter instructions or the like if this is desired.

The complete ballot **10** includes a tabulating card section **12** and a tear-off section **14**. These sections **12** and **14** have adjacent ends **16** and side edges **18**. It will be noted that adjacent side edges **18** of the card section **12** and the tear-off section **14** are joined by perforations **20** so that the tear-off section **14** may be easily manually removed from the card section **12**. This card section **12** preferably has its ends **16** and edges **18** dimensioned so as to correspond to the dimensions of a card capable of being easily machine tabulated. A conventional diagonally shaped corner **22** is provided on the card section **12** for the purpose of facilitating the orientation of this section **12** during machine tabulation.

The card section **12** is divided into two tabulating columns **24** and **25**, each of which extends generally between the ends **16** adjacent to the edges **18** and into a voting column **26** located between these columns **24** and **25** and parallel to them. The tear-off section **14** includes a voting column **28** corresponding to the voting column **26** extending between its ends **16**. It will be noted that the column **28** extends to the edge **18** of the

section 14 connected by perforations 20 to the card section 12. Preferably heavy printed borders 30 are used on the complete ballot 10 so as to indicate a correspondence of the voting column 28 on the tear-off section 14 with the tabulating column 24 and a correspondence of the voting column 26 with the tabulating column 25.

The voting columns 26 and 28 are subdivided by lines 30 into various ballot areas 32 adapted to contain printing indicating items to be voted upon. In the tabulating columns 24 and 25 directly opposite each of these areas there is located a voting area 34 of a circular configuration surrounded by perforations. These areas 34 are adapted to be easily and manually removed from the card section 12 by being pushed with an appropriate stylus-type instrument so as to indicate items voted upon.

During the use of the complete ballot 10, selected of the areas 34 are removed in the indicated manner so as to indicate votes for various items indicated on the complete ballot 10. After this is done, the tear-off section 14 may be easily manually severed from the card section 12 so that this card section may be machine processed. After such a voting operation the tear-off section 14 may be thrown away or given to the voter as a receipt indicating that a ballot has been cast. When the tear-off section 14 is used for this purpose, its rear surface may contain a ballot serial number or the like.

I claim:

1. A tabulating card-type ballot formed out of a single sheet of material having surfaces, which ballot comprises:

a tabulating card section and a tear-off section,

said card section having ends and sides having the dimensions of a card capable of being machine tabulated,

said tear-off section having ends and sides, a side of said tear-off section being contiguous with a side of said card section and being attached to said card section by perforations,

a surface of said card section being divided into two tabulating columns and a voting column, said tabulating columns extending along the sides of said card section said voting column being located parallel to and between said tabulating columns,

said tear-off section and said voting column being subdivided into a plurality of ballot areas indicating items to be voted upon,

said tabulating column adjacent to said tear-off section containing a plurality of voting areas separated from the remainder of said card section by perforations, each of said voting areas being located opposite one of said ballot areas on said tear-off section,

the other of said tabulating columns adjacent to said voting column on said card section containing a plurality of other voting areas separated from the remainder of said card section by perforations, each of said other voting areas being located opposite one of the said ballot areas on said voting column,

said voting areas being capable of being severed from said card section manually so as to indicate items voted upon as shown by said ballot areas,

said tear-off section being capable of being manually detached from said card section so as to separate said card section from said tear-off section so that said card section is capable of being tabulated by machine.

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