

K. FITZPATRICK.
VOTING MACHINE.

APPLICATION FILED JUNE 27, 1914.

Patented Dec. 7, 1915.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

1,162,853.

FIG. 1.

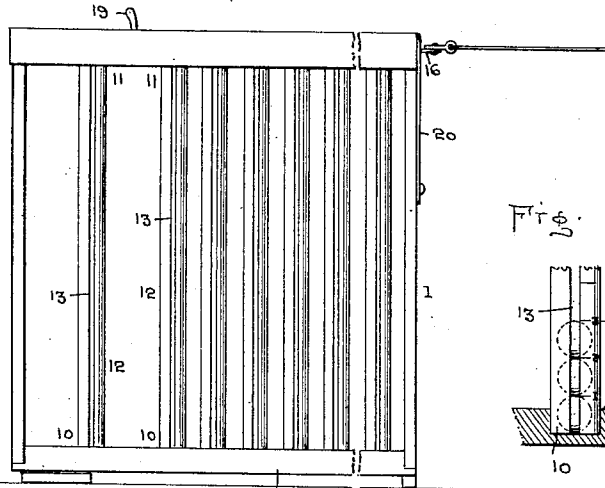


FIG. 4.

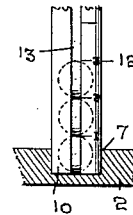


FIG. 3.

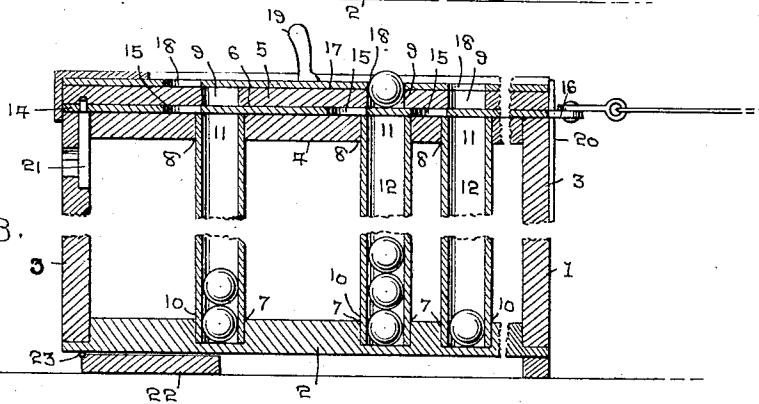


FIG. 2.

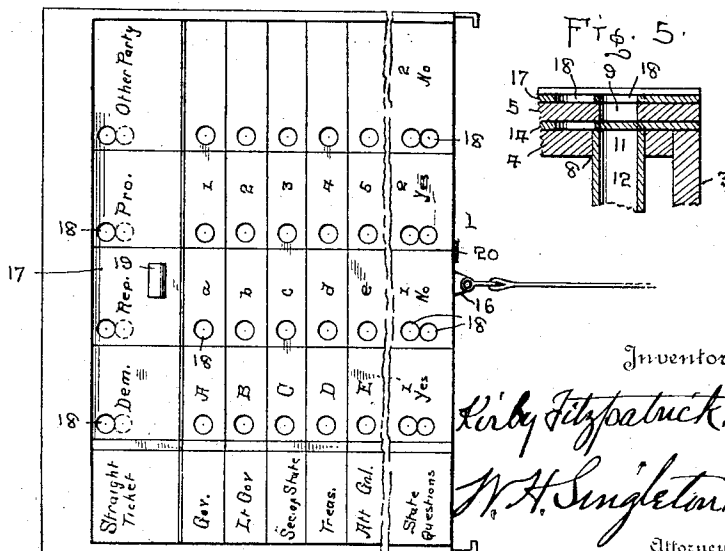
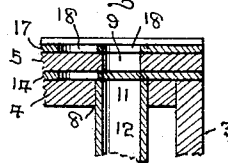


FIG. 5.



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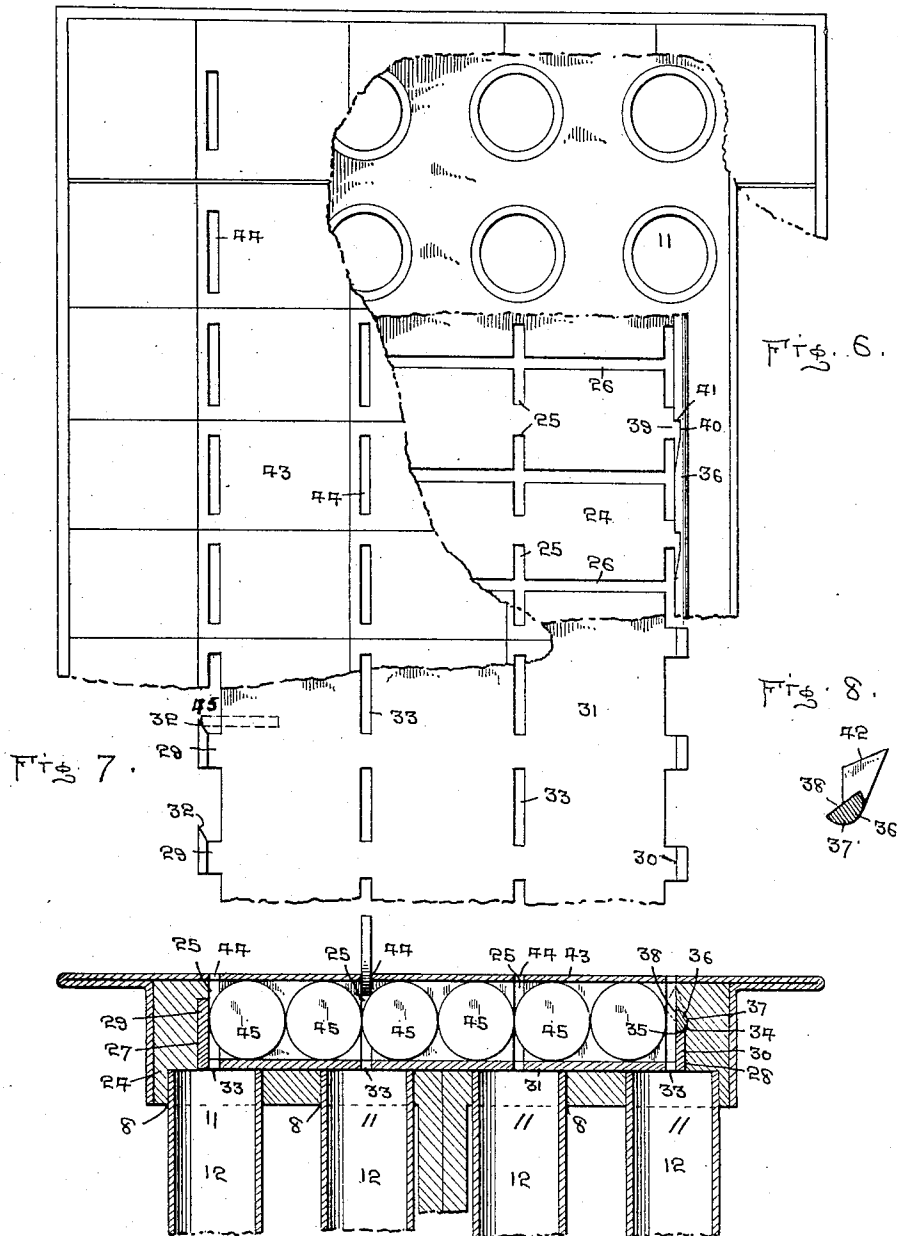
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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

KIRBY FITZPATRICK, OF OKLAHOMA, OKLAHOMA.

VOTING-MACHINE.

1,162,853.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, KIRBY FITZPATRICK, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Oklahoma city, in the county of Oklahoma and State of Oklahoma, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Voting-Machines, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a new and useful improvement in voting machines, more particularly those which are to be used in political elections, where there are several parties in the field and a number of positions to be voted upon.

The object of the invention is not only to simplify the construction and render easier the use of the device, but to produce a voting machine which dispenses with machinery and can be used by persons unskilled in the use of mechanism.

The invention consists in a voting machine having provision for voting "straight tickets" and "split tickets" and arranged so that the vote for either prevents a vote for the other.

The invention consists in one form in a voting machine having only one piece to be operated by a voter whether the "straight ticket" or a "split ticket" be voted.

The invention further consists in a voting machine provided with several receptacles to receive the indicia of the voters' choice and provided with a closure to allow voting only in certain of and not all of the receptacles at the same time.

The invention further consists in certain details of construction.

In the annexed drawings: Figure 1 is a side view of one form of the device, parts being broken away. Fig. 2 is a top view, parts being broken away. Fig. 3 is an enlarged longitudinal section. Fig. 4 is an enlarged detail. Fig. 5 is another enlarged detail. Fig. 6 is a plan view of another form, partly broken away. Fig. 7 is a transverse section of the top part of the device. Fig. 8 is a detail view.

In these drawings: The numeral 1 represents a box having the bottom 2, the ends 3 and plate 4 and filler 5 having the space 6 between them. There are no sides to the box but it is open-sided. The bottom 2 has on the inside on top a number of circular recesses 7 and registering therewith the plate 4 has circular holes 8 of the same diameter as the recesses 7 and the filler 5 has smaller

circular holes 9 registering with the holes 8 and the recesses 7. In the recesses 7 and circular holes 8 are secured the lower ends 10 and upper ends 11 of tubes 12 having an inner diameter substantially the same as that of the circular holes 9, the tubes 12 having vertical slits 13. In the space 6 between the plate 4 and filler 5 is placed an inner slide 14 having circular holes 15 of substantially the same size as the holes 9, and a handle 16. On top of the filler 5 there is a thin top slide 17 also having circular holes 18 of the same diameter as the holes 9. This top has a handle 19 and is held in place by its edges passing under flanges at the sides of the top of the machine. If desired, there may be placed at the end of the machine a spring 20 to return the slides 14 and 17. Also there may be a lock 21 to fasten the slide 14 so that the box may not be tampered with. At the bottom there may be a lip 22 hinged at 23 so as to tilt up one end of the machine and thus incline the top. Such construction as described is to be arranged as indicated in top view, Fig. 2, so that the voting machine may be used for "straight tickets" and "split tickets" for voting for officials and also for voting on any question which may be before the people.

The tubes 12 are placed in rows, as many rows as there are parties in the field, one end tube of each row being somewhat farther from the next tube than are the other tubes from one another. The top of the box with its plate, filler and two slides is of a size to cover the tops of all the tubes, each tube having its complement of holes above it. The rows of tubes are to be placed sufficiently far apart so that the desired information as to parties and candidates may be placed on the top slide.

The use of the device is illustrated in Fig. 2. Upon the top of plate 17 there is indicated that the top row of holes is for votes for the "straight ticket," the names of the various parties being located each at its own hole. Under these and along each row of holes are placed the titles of the offices for which votes are to be cast and the names of the candidates for each office placed in rows under the appropriate party name. At the last row may be placed the title of any question to be voted upon. It will be noticed that at this last row, there are to be two holes as indicated in Figs. 2 and 5, the reason for which will be explained. At this

row of holes there is placed something to indicate an affirmative and a negative vote. Each voter is given a number of spheres. After deciding whether he will vote a "straight ticket" or a "split ticket", he prepares to "cast his ballot". If a "straight ticket", he grasps the handle 19 and pulls the slide 17 until the holes 18 register with the holes 9. The slide 14 forms a bottom for these registering holes 18 and 9. The voter places a sphere in the place he desires for voting a "straight ticket". After he retires, the official pulls out the slide 14. This allows the sphere to run down the tube 12 below the holes 18 and 9. Should the voter desire to vote a "split ticket", he makes his choice of the holes other than those for the "straight ticket" and places spheres, one for each hole, as many as he chooses in these holes. These spheres rest upon the slide 14. After the voter retires, the official pulls out the slide 14 and the several spheres run down the tubes. By having the two holes 18 for the tubes for "State questions", the holes in the filler, above these tubes, are open whatever be the position of the top slide 17. After the sphere drops, the official releases the slide 14 and the spring 20 forces the slide 14 and slide 17 back to place.

With such a device, it will be seen that there may be voting either for the "straight ticket" or a "split ticket" but not for both. For if the top slide 17 be untouched, spheres may only be placed for a "split ticket". If the top slide 17 be moved for the "straight ticket", the holes for a "split ticket" are closed.

To insure that any spheres improperly placed upon the slide 17 will not remain over the holes 18 in the slide 17, with the possibility of dropping through when the movement of the slide 17 brings the holes 18 into registry with the holes 9 in the filler 5, the official may tilt or incline the top of the box by turning down the lip 22 which would elevate the end of the box at the lip above the other end. This action would cause the improperly placed spheres to roll out of the shallow depressions 18 in the slide 17 and thus remove them from the slide. Properly inserted spheres, having partially passed through the holes 18 in the slide 17 and into the holes 9 of the filler 5, would not be dislodged by such tilting of the box.

After the polls have closed, the official by visual inspection through the slits 13 may see the spheres in the tubes without unlocking the box. Also the tubes 12 are to have numbers placed upon them as indicated in Fig. 4. These numbers are spaced apart the diameter of a sphere. As the spheres are all of the same diameter, the number of spheres and votes, for each tube may be quickly determined by noticing the number at the top of the column of spheres.

The depth of the holes in the filler is such that only one sphere at a time may be voted. Preferably the relation of the diameter of a sphere to the hole should be such that when a sphere is in place in a hole of the filler 5 and resting on the slide 14, the parts will be locked.

On Sheet II is shown a modification of the device. Instead of spheres, voting disks are used. The top of the machine is made with slots instead of holes but placed in rows and lines as are the holes in the other form. And located at these slots is the same information as to parties, offices and names of candidates as in the other form. A frame 24 has the holes 8 to receive the tops 11 of the tubes 12, arranged in rows and lines as in the other form. This frame 24 has the short slots 25 placed across it in rows above the tops of the tubes 12. The grooves 26 are arranged across it the other way, the grooves 26 connecting the slots 25. The frame 24 also has recesses 27 and 28 in which fit the upturned projections 29 and 30 of a sliding plate 31 which comes between the tops 11 of the tubes 12 and the bottom of the frame 24. The projections 29 have the beveled edges 32 all in one direction. This sliding plate 31 has short slots 33 arranged in rows with the short slots 25. In the frame 24, just above this recess 28 there is a curved channel 34 having the opening 35 toward the inside of the frame. In this channel 34 is placed a bar 36 having the curved back 37 filling the curved channel and a flat face 38, the diameter of the bar and channel being the same, so that when the curved back 37 of the bar 36 is coincident with the curve of the channel the flat face 38 of the bar is flush with the opening 35 and the main part of the bar 36 is within the channel 34. Spaced lengthwise, this bar 36 has on the inside notches 39 with curves 40 lengthwise and straight edges 41. At one end, the bar 36 has an angular lug 42. The box is fitted with a cover 43 having slots 44 coincident with the slots 25. In the grooves 26 are placed a number of disks 45 there being in each groove enough disks to partially but not entirely fill the grooves 26 throughout their lengths, such disks resting with their bottoms upon the top of the sliding plate 32. With this form of voting machine, voting disks are used.

The voter places a disk in the desired voting slot 44 and presses it down between the edges of two of the disks 45, pushing them along the groove 26, the end disk 45 bearing against the projections 29 and 30 of the plate 31. The bar 36 is so placed in the machine that the projection 42 comes opposite the line of disks at the upper end of the machine. As in the other form, this line is for the "straight tickets". Should a voting disk be placed in a slot 44 for the "straight

ticket", the locking disks 45 are so closely spaced that the end one bearing against the angular lug 42 partially turns the bar 36 in the channel 34 until the edge of the bar 5 bears against all of the end locking disks in the other lines or those for the "split tickets". The voting disk thus passes down and rests upon the sliding plate 31 just above a tube and at the same time through the locking disks and bar locks the other lines of disks so that a disk may not be inserted in any slot for a "split ticket". The official pulls out the sliding plate 31 and the voting disk drops into the tube through the slot 33. The sliding plate 31 is then returned, the beveled edges 32 bearing against the disks at that side and adjusting all of the locking disks. Should the voter vote a "split ticket", the locking disks would be forced against the edge of the bar 36 and turn the angular lug 42 so as to lock the disks of the "straight ticket" slots and prevent voting at these slots.

Having described my invention, what I claim is:

1. A voting machine, having two operative positions for means for voting "straight tickets" and "split tickets" respectively, normally adjusted so that the means for voting "split tickets" is in operative position, and provided with means, consisting of only one piece to be operated by the voter, to adjust the means for voting "straight tickets" in operative position, and means for re-adjustment to normal position after the operation of the means for voting "straight tickets."

2. A voting machine for voting "straight tickets" and "split tickets" and having tubes with open tops, a slide covering the tops of the tubes and having holes to register with the open tops of the tubes, a stationary filler above this slide and having holes alined with the tubes, and above the filler, a second slide covering the holes in the

filler and having holes to register with the holes in the filler.

3. A voting machine having tubes with open tops, a slide covering the tops of the tubes and having holes to register with the open tops of the tubes, a filler above this slide and having holes alined with the tubes, and above the filler, a second slide covering the holes in the filler and having holes to register with the holes in the filler, in combination with spheres adapted in size to the tubes and alined holes, the holes in the top slide being of slight depth and the depth of these holes and that of the holes in the filler combined being a little greater than half the diameter of the spheres.

4. A voting machine having means for three kinds of voting and provided with means wholly distinct from the voting means, and consisting in only one piece to be operated by the voter for rendering constantly operative the means for one kind of voting and rendering alternatively inoperative the means for the remaining two kinds of voting.

5. A voting machine having means for three kinds of voting and provided with means wholly distinct from the voting means, and consisting in only one piece to be operated by the voter for rendering constantly operative the means for one kind of voting and rendering alternatively inoperative the means for the remaining two kinds of voting and means for operation by the election official after each operation of the machine by a voter, to prevent any unauthorized operation of any of the voting means.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

KIRBY FITZPATRICK.

Witnesses:

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K. MCGLOTHLIN.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."