

R. G. COTTER.
BALLOT TALLY SHEET.
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1,416,792.

Patented May 23, 1922.

18	14	12	15	17	20
	STATE			PROPOSITION	Yes
	Governor				No
	RICHARD ROE Rep.			PROPOSITION	Yes
	HARRY ROE Prog.				No
	RICHARD ROE JR. Proh.			PROPOSITION	Yes
	JOHN DOE Dem.				No
	Lieutenant Governor				
	THOS. ROE Dem.				
	JAMES ROE Rep.				

Fig. 1.

18	14	15	16	17	20

Fig. 2.

18	18	10	f	e	d	c	b	a	h
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Fig. 3.

Inventor:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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BALLOT TALLY SHEET.

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Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented May 23, 1922.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RICHARD G. COTTER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Sausalito, in the county of Marin and State of California, have invented a new and Improved Ballot Tally Sheet, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to voting systems or appliances and has particular reference to a type or form of ballot designed especially to facilitate the counting of the ballots after the polls are closed, and at the same time serving to reduce to a minimum the likelihood of error in making the election returns.

More definitely stated, the invention contemplates the printing of the ballot having the names of the candidates or propositions to be voted upon, all arranged in two or more columns, as may be determined by the number of candidates or propositions, the columns of names or propositions to have arranged directly opposite them, blank voting squares, all the squares for each column of names being at a uniform distance from the vertical right hand edge of the sheet, means further being provided for assembling the sheets one upon another but offset laterally a distance substantially equal to the width of said voting squares.

A further object of the invention is to so design and print the ballots as to render them suitable for assemblage in the manner just stated so that when a large number of ballots are connected each to each, along vertical lines provided for that purpose, the group or assemblage of ballots may be inspected, counted and the totals for each candidate registered in a space provided for that purpose.

Another object of the invention is to provide a sheet, which may be called a starting sheet, upon which a plurality of ballots may be readily assembled and upon which the result for each candidate or subject matter being voted upon may be properly recorded.

The foregoing and other objects of the invention will hereinafter be more fully described and claimed and illustrated in the drawings, in which like characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the views, and in which Figure 1 is a broken view indicating a portion of the face of a single ballot of two columns.

Figure 2 is a broken view indicating a

portion of the face of a group or assemblage of six ballots, it being understood that the group may consist of any convenient number of ballots.

Figure 3 is an edge view of the device of Figure 2 as viewed in the direction of the arrow 21. This figure is greatly exaggerated so as to show the adhesive portions.

In carrying out this invention in a practical embodiment, it is obvious that the ballots may be printed in a uniform style with respect to size and subject matter printed thereon, and also they may be made of any suitable size or length according to the number of candidates or public measures being voted upon. As shown herein each ballot will be wide enough to contain two or more columns of names of candidates or propositions to be voted upon, and at the extreme right hand edge of each column of names or propositions, a vertical column or columns of blank squares for the cross or other marks to be placed by a voter in making his selection, and also upon the left hand edge of the ballot, a blank margin in which to apply paste, mucilage or other fastening means by which the ballots are to be fastened into a group or assemblage.

The drawing sets forth in a somewhat diagrammatic manner a group or assemblage of six ballots indicated by the reference characters *a*, *b*, *c*, *d*, *e* and *f*. These ballots, though all designed to be precisely alike in every particular, are indicated by separate reference characters for the purpose of better describing the novel and useful features of the invention.

Referring to Figure 2, it will plainly appear that the ballot *f* extends from the line 10 to the left as far as the line 11, and includes the column of names 12, the voting squares 16, and the margin or space 18. Under the block 14, is a block 15 for the names of candidates for governor, for example; and at the right hand edge of each column of names is arranged a voting square or squares 16 for each candidate as is usual in ballots. Below the block 15 are other blocks for groups of names of candidates or other questions or propositions to be voted upon. At 18 is a space of suitable width for mucilage or paste in fastening the ballots of a group together. At *h* is what may be termed a starting sheet of a length corresponding to the length of the ballots

and of any suitable width, to serve as a base upon which to assemble the ballots in the manner hereinafter described. The margin 20, of the starting sheet is to be used as a space in which to enter the total number of votes received by each candidate.

At *k* in Fig. 2, a portion of ballot *f* is indicated as cut away to show the paste or mucilage as applied to the left hand margin of ballot *e* and to the starting sheet *k*, for the purpose of securing the ballots each to each and to the starting sheet.

If the number of candidates is not too great, a single column ballot may be sufficient and the width thereof may be only great enough to cover the portions 18, 12 and 16. If, however, the number of candidates or propositions is so great as to make a single column ballot unwieldy, I prefer to print the ballots with two or more columns of names of candidates or propositions to be voted on as indicated in Figure 1, the second column being somewhat narrower than the first, and the third, if there be such, somewhat narrower than the second, the columns being separated from each other by heavy vertical lines as indicated by *m* in Figure 1.

Each voter, as heretofore, will be given a single ballot such as represented by Figure 1, and described as above. A voter will then mark, fold and cast his ballot in substantially the same manner as heretofore.

The advantages of this improved form of ballot and system of counting will be readily appreciated when considered in connection with the tabulating of the results of the election in any precinct. Instead of the officers of the election struggling with an effort to count and tabulate the ballots as heretofore, reading each entire ballot and tallying each name as read, which is a very tedious and difficult matter with the use of the common ballot, especially if it is a large one, the first step in the system of counting, as herein proposed, is to apply a ballot upon the starting sheet *k* as indicated at the right hand side of Figure 2, leaving the margin 20 of the starting sheet exposed at the right hand edge 17 of the ballot, herein indicated as *a*. The first ballot is secured to the starting sheet along the space 18, by applying mucilage or paste, or any other suitable fastening means. The second ballot *b* is then applied on ballot *a* and secured as before, leaving exposed to view all the voting squares 16 of ballot *a*. The third ballot *c* is then applied in the same manner, any desired number of ballots being assembled each to each and secured in position, leaving exposed to view all the voting squares 16 of each ballot. As each ballot is secured in its proper place all votes marked on said ballot are automatically and accurately tallied for the respective candidates or propositions voted for, eliminating the tedious work of

reading the ballots, and also the many errors resulting from incorrect reading and tallying.

Since the ballots are assembled in perfect lateral alignment, the heavy rulings serving as guide marks in bringing the ballots into proper position, all of the squares 16 pertaining to a single candidate appear in a straight line at the right of such candidate's name. The last ballot applied to the group of ballots carries a display of the names of the candidates, as indicated in column 12 Figure 2, and since all of the voting squares in the horizontal line to the right of any candidate's name pertain to that name and to no other name, the total number of votes for such candidate is found by simply totaling the number of properly marked voting squares appearing to the right of such candidate's name in any group or assemblage of ballots.

The totals thus obtained will then be entered upon the blocks 20 of the starting sheet *k*. As is usual in the printing of ballots, certain lines will be printed heavier than others, so as to serve in guiding the eye in finding the totals, and also as guide marks in assembling the ballots.

If the ballot is printed in two columns as indicated in Figure 1, each ballot will be folded back along the heavy-ruled vertical line *m*, Figure 1, leaving exposed to view the first column of names with the accompanying voting squares, the second column being folded under so as to be out of view. The folded ballots are then assembled, as heretofore described, and the totals registered for all candidates whose names appear in the first column. All ballots in the assembled group will then be unfolded, the assembled group will then carry a display of all names in the second column together with all the voting squares pertaining to said names, the first column of names and voting squares now being hidden from view. The totals will now be entered as before. If there be other columns they will be unfolded and the totals found and entered as in the second column, thus completing the work of counting the ballots and finding the total vote cast for each candidate and proposition voted upon.

It will be noted that there has been no oral reading of the ballots, and that each assembled group of ballots becomes a tally sheet upon which are accurately recorded all votes cast in said group of ballots.

By turning the ballots as one would turn the pages of a book, any individual ballot may be inspected for any purpose desired.

The gum or other means for attaching the ballots together, as heretofore set forth, may be applied either before or after the voting is done, but by applying the paste or gum at the time the ballots are assembled there

will be no danger of the paste becoming moistened inadvertently while the ballot is being handled by the voter, with the result that the folded ballot will become damaged, defeating the object of the invention.

I claim:

1. The herein described election ballot having two or more vertical columns of spaces for the names of candidates or propositions to be voted upon, each column being somewhat narrower than the adjacent column at the left and one or more columns of voting squares adjacent the lateral right hand edge of each column of spaces for names of candidates or propositions, said ballot being provided along the left hand edge with a suitable vertical space for fastening means, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

2. In a device of the character set forth, the combination of a plurality of ballots of similar size and form and having vertical columns of candidates' or other proposition spaces arranged thereon, each column being somewhat narrower than the column adjacent at the left and means to attach the several ballots each to each in a definite position providing for a projection of each ballot beyond the next one adjacent thereto in a lateral direction, whereby the voting spaces opposite the name of each candidate

or proposition will appear in a straight horizontal line.

3. In a voting device of the character set forth, the combination of a series of ballots of uniform size, shape and printing, each ballot having two or more vertical columns of names of candidates or propositions to be voted on with a voting square or squares opposite each name, a starting sheet of a length corresponding to the length of each ballot and having vertically arranged spaces corresponding to the several marking spaces aforesaid, and means to securely connect any ballot of a series to said starting sheet, leaving the vertical margin of the starting sheet exposed opposite the respective voting squares of said ballot, and also to secure all the succeeding ballots of the series each to each and to the said starting sheet, with all of the voting squares of the several ballots exposed opposite the names of the respective candidates whereby the totals of votes for the several candidates may be readily ascertained and marked upon said starting sheet.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

RICHARD GARRETT COTTER.

Witnesses:

W. J. BOYD,
J. M. PUTNAM.