Dec. 5, 1944. G. D. RATHBUN 2,364,098

VOTING MACHINE BALLOT PARTS

Filed Nov. 24, 1942 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1

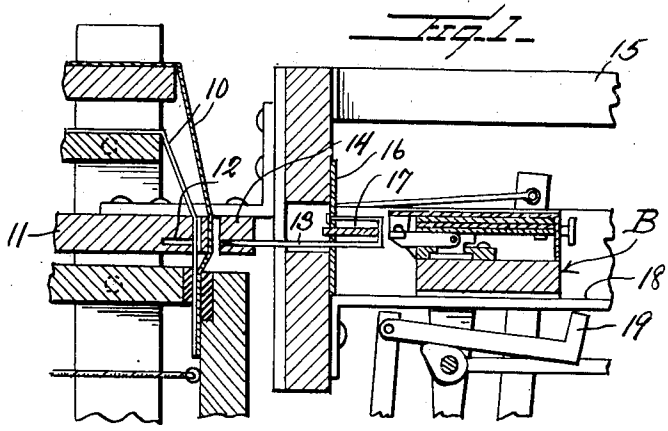


Fig. 4

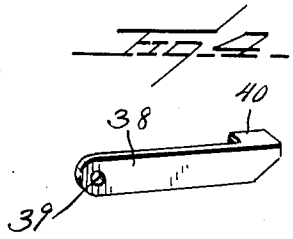


Fig. 2

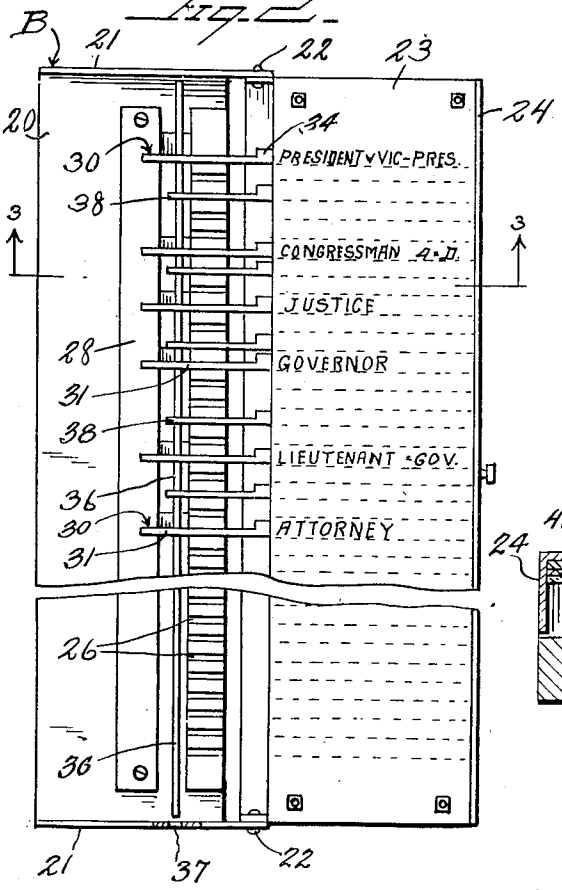


Fig. 5

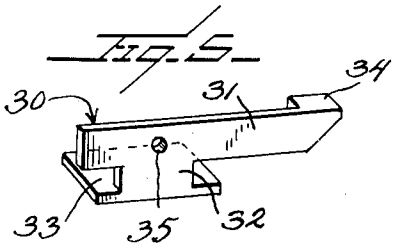
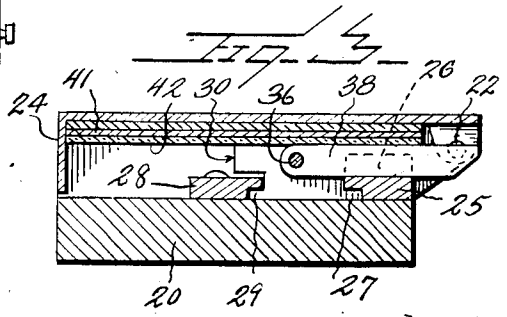


Fig. 3



Inventor

George D. Rathbun

By Coleman & Lawson

Attorneys

Dec. 5, 1944. G. D. RATHBUN 2,364,098

VOTING MACHINE BALLOT PARTS

Filed Nov. 24, 1942 3 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 6

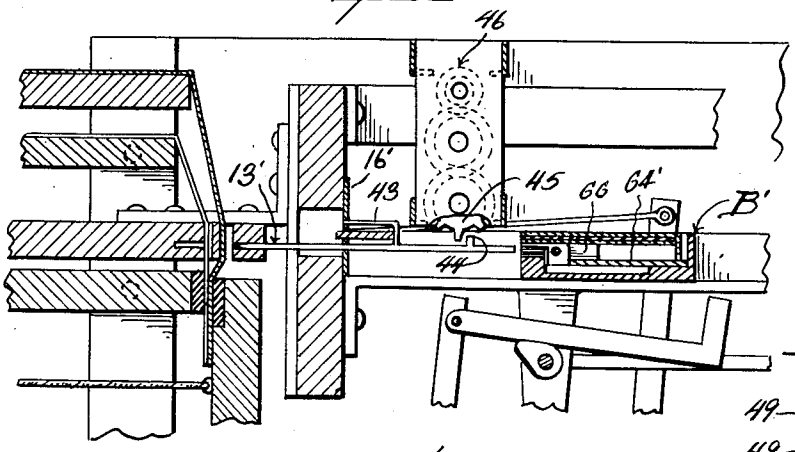


Fig. 9

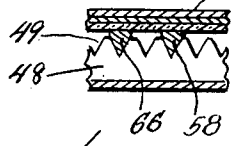


Fig. 10

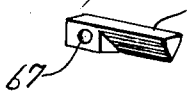


Fig. 11

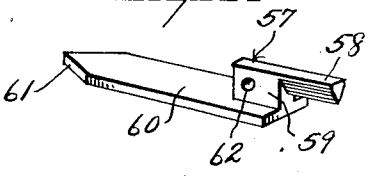


Fig. 7

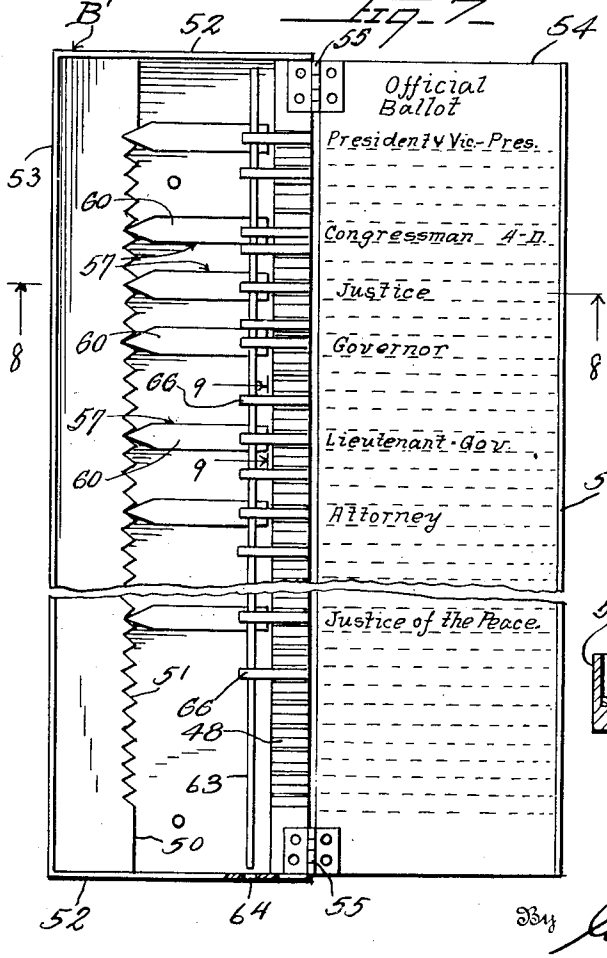
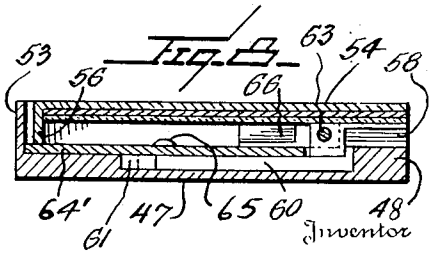


Fig. 8



Inventor

George D. Rathbun

By Bleman & Lawson

Attorneys

Dec. 5, 1944. G. D. RATHBUN 2,364,098

VOTING MACHINE BALLOT PARTS

Filed Nov. 24, 1942 3 Sheets-Sheet 3

Fig. 12.

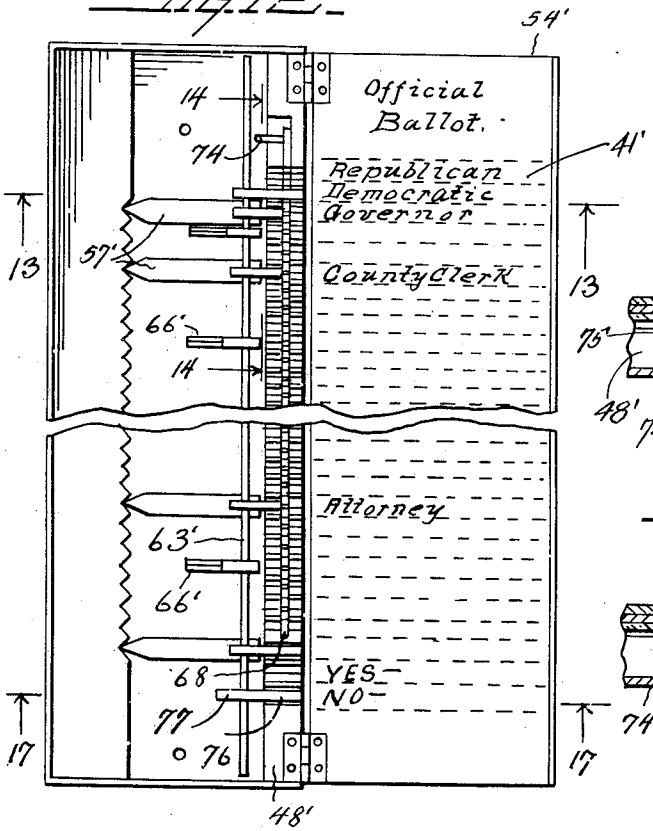


Fig. 14.

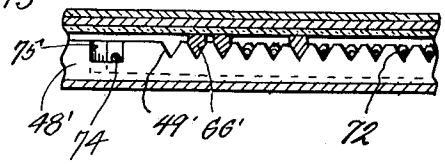


Fig. 15.

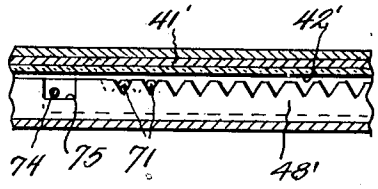


Fig. 16.

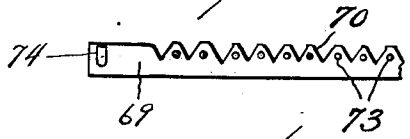


Fig. 13.

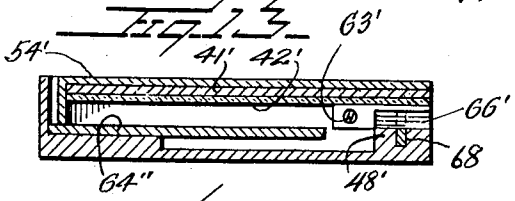


Fig. 18.

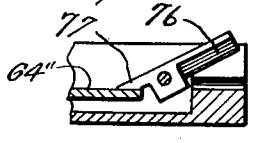


Fig. 17.

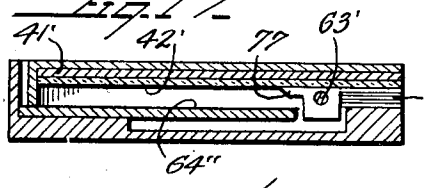
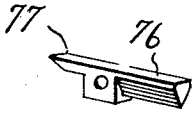


Fig. 19.



Inventor

George D. Rathbun

By Coleman & Lawson

Attorneys

Patented Dec. 5, 1944

2,364,098

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,364,098

VOTING MACHINE BALLOT PART

George D. Rathbun, Manhattan, Kans.

Application November 24, 1942, Serial No. 466,766

15 Claims. (Cl. 235—50)

This invention relates generally to the class of voting or balloting machines, and pertains particularly to an improved ballot part for use in such machine, the present application being a continuation in part of my pending application for patent on Voting machine, Serial No. 379,524, filed February 18, 1941.

A primary object of the present invention is to provide an improved ballot part for use in a voting machine, which is designed to permit more than one person to vote at the same time, to thereby speed up the voting, and to also permit a larger number of persons to vote with one voting machine.

Another object of the invention is to provide an improved ballot part for use in a voting machine, which is comparatively small and light, and which can be easily and simply operated and is readily adjustable to meet varying situations.

Another object of the invention is to provide an improved ballot part for use in a voting machine, which is so designed and constructed as to prevent the voter from voting for too many candidates for the same office, or illegally voting, thus effectively interlocking against wrong voting and without making the weight or size of the ballot part such as to make the part inconvenient to handle, the interlocking being accomplished through the avoidance of the use of or omission of mechanism which could be used in wrong or illegal voting.

Still another object of the invention is to provide an improved ballot part for use in a voting machine, which is so designed that the destruction of the vote may be easily and quickly accomplished before the ballot part is turned over to another voter for use.

A still further object of the invention is to provide an improved ballot part for use in a voting machine, which after being set by the voter and made ready for use in the voting machine for the recording of the vote, cannot easily be deciphered if an attempt is made to inspect the ballot part by those who may happen to handle it before it is placed in the machine for the recording of the vote.

Another object of the invention is to provide an improved ballot part for use in a voting machine wherein shiftable candidate indicators are employed and means is provided for the carrying of a candidate or ballot list as a part of the ballot piece, whereby the voter is enabled to accurately and quickly select the person for whom or the items for which he intends to cast his vote without having to depend upon the memorizing of such persons or items from a list considered before entering the voting booth.

Still another object of the invention is to provide an improved ballot part, for use in a voting machine, which is designed for cooperative action with perforating elements forming a part of the voting machine, whereby when such ballot part has had candidate indicating or selector fingers set by the voter in accordance with his voting desires, such fingers are made to cooperate with such perforating elements in the voting machine for the simultaneous recording by punches or perforations in a record strip or record strips, and/or sheets of paper, all votes of the voter.

Another object is to provide an improved ballot part for use in a voting machine, which is constructed to establish an interlocking relation with the registering mechanism of the machine whereby the separation of the record of all votes cast for candidates of each office is automatically effected.

The invention will be best understood from a consideration of the following detailed description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, it being understood, however, that the invention is not to be considered as limited by the specific illustration or description but that such illustration and description constitute a preferred embodiment of the invention.

In the drawings—

Figure 1 is a sectional view of a portion of the voting machine in association with which the present improved ballot port may be used, showing the ballot part in transverse section and in position ready to be shifted for the recording of a vote.

Figure 2 is a view in plan of the embodiment of the ballot part particularly illustrated and claimed in the pending application Serial No. 379,524, previously referred to, showing the cover open.

Figure 3 is a view in transverse section of the ballot part of Figure 2 with the cover closed, the section of the closed ballot being substantially on the line 3—3 of Figure 2.

Figure 4 is a view in perspective of a candidate indicator finger per se.

Figure 5 is a view in perspective of the office divider per se of the form of ballot part shown in Figure 2.

Figure 6 is a sectional view of a portion of a voting machine of a construction slightly modified from that shown in Figure 1 and showing

in transverse section a second or modified embodiment of the ballot part in position in the machine ready to be advanced for the recording of a vote.

Figure 7 is a view in plan of the second or modified embodiment of the ballot part shown in Figure 6, the cover of such modified ballot part being open.

Figure 8 is a view in transverse section of the modified ballot part or second embodiment, with the cover closed, the section being taken substantially on the line 8—8 of Figure 7.

Figure 9 is a fragmentary section taken substantially on the line 9—9 of Figure 7.

Figure 10 is a view in perspective of the candidate indicator finger used in the second embodiment of the ballot part shown in Figure 7.

Figure 11 is a view in perspective of the office divider used in the second embodiment of the ballot part shown in Figure 7.

Figure 12 illustrates a slight modification of the ballot part structure as shown in Figure 7 by means of which straight party ticket voting may be carried out, while the voter has the option of voting a mixed ticket or the straight ballot, and for compelling a voter to vote according to this choice for certain propositions or questions.

Figure 13 is a view in transverse section of the ballot part shown in Figure 12, with the cover closed, the section being taken substantially on the line 13—13 of Figure 12.

Figure 14 is a fragmentary section taken substantially on the line 14—14 of Figure 12.

Figure 15 is a fragmentary section corresponding to Figure 14 but showing the control slide of the ballot part set for the voting of a mixed ticket.

Figure 16 is a view in side elevation of a portion of the control slide forming a part of the ballot part structure of Figure 12.

Figure 17 is a transverse section of the ballot part shown in Figure 12, with the cover closed, the section being taken substantially on the line 17—17 of Figure 12.

Figure 18 is a fragmentary detail showing that selector or indicator finger which is employed for the compulsory voting upon a particular question or proposition, in raised position for shifting.

Figure 19 is a view in perspective of the compulsory voting finger or selector shown in Figure 18.

In my pending application, previously referred to, there is described and claimed a voting machine structure in which are employed record receiving sheets in which the voting record is made through the medium of shiftable pin members which are actuated by certain fingers of the ballot part which have been selected and moved into operative position by the voter, when such ballot part is moved in a predetermined manner with respect to the perforating pins.

In Figure 1 there is illustrated just so much of such voting machine structure as to make understandable the manner in which the ballot part is employed for the recording of the ballot of a voter.

In Figure 1 there are shown two record receiving strips or sheets 10 which extend in spaced relation across an edge of a bar 11 which is provided along such edge with a series of openings 12, one only of which is here shown, to receive punching needles 13, one only of which is shown, which correspond in number with the openings. These punching needles are supported at their rearward ends for sliding movement through a bar 14 which, together with the bar 11, is carried for limited up and down movement by a frame 15, while at their front ends the needles are slidably supported in a plate 16. As shown, the needle 13 is in the form of an elongated loop at its front end and in the loop is engaged the retractor bar 17 by which the needles are pulled back away from the papers or strips 10 after a ballot has been recorded through the actuation of the ballot piece.

The ballot piece is here generally designated by the reference character B and is supported in the voting machine upon suitable tracks or guides, one of which is shown and indicated by the numeral 18, for movement with respect to the needle, under the action of a suitable shifter bar, one form of which bar is indicated at 19.

The ballot part B is an elongated box-like unit having a base or bottom 20, at each side of which is an upstanding wall 21 which extends entirely across the width of the base and projects slightly beyond the rear edge of the base. Pivotally attached to the rearwardly extending ends of the side walls 21 of the ballot piece, as at 22, is a top or cover 23 which has extending along its forward edge the forward wall forming flange 24 which, when the cover is in closed position, as shown in Figure 3, coacts with the side walls 21 and the bottom 20 to close the ballot part.

Within the ballot part and extending along the rear edge of the bottom 20 there is secured to the upper surface of the bottom of the bar 25 which is provided with a plurality of transverse slots or recesses 26 which correspond in number with the record perforating needles 13. The forward or inner edge of this bar 25 is slightly undercut, as indicated at 27, Figure 3, and in opposed relation with this undercut forward edge of the slotted bar 25, there is secured to the upper surface of the bottom 20 a lock bar 28 which has the rear edge, or edge confronting the bar 25, undercut, as indicated at 29.

The numeral 30 generally designates an office divider unit of which there are a number equalling the number of offices for which elections are to be made. Each of these office divider units comprises an elongated finger portion 31 which is of a thickness to fit into any one of the slots 26 of the bar 25 across which the finger is secured when the ballot part is made up. Extending downwardly from the lower edge of the finger 31 is the post 32 with which is integrally formed the flat plate-like portion or flag 33 which rests upon the top surface of the base 20. The post 32 is of less width than the flag 33 and fits snugly between the opposing edges of the bars 25 and 28, the forward and rear edges of the flag 33 engaging in the undercuts 27 and 29, as shown in Figure 3, whereby the finger portion 31 is secured firmly in position transversely of the bar 25 and in engagement in a slot 26.

The outer or rear end of the finger 31 carries the head 34 which is located slightly beyond the rear edge of the ballot part bottom 20, as shown in Figure 3, so that, as is shown in Figure 1, it may engage the near end of a needle 13 when the ballot part is placed in position in the voting machine and moved rearwardly toward the needles.

Each of the office divider units has an opening 35 formed transversely through the finger, preferably upon the vertical center of the post 32, and these openings of the several office deviders

are aligned to receive the pivot bar **36** which is introduced through a suitable opening **37** in one side wall **21**, to lie within the ballot part beneath the plane of the top edges of the walls **21**.

The numeral **38** designates the candidate indicator finger of which there are a number equal to the number of the aspirants to the various offices designated upon the ballot. Each of these candidate indicator fingers has an opening **39** through one end of which the pivot rod **36** passes, while at its other end it has a head **40** corresponding with the head **34** of the office divider unit, for engagement with a record sheet perforating needle. The fingers **38** are of a thickness to snugly engage in a groove **26** of the bar **25** when the finger is thrown over into candidate indicating or voting position. When not in such position the finger is extended forwardly, lying across the lock bar **28**. In either of these positions the top edges of the fingers and of the office divider unit fingers are in a common plane and may be engaged by the inner face or inner covering plate of the cover **23** when the latter is in closed position, to be held in candidate indicating or non-indicating position by the cover.

The ballot list comprises an integral part of the ballot part and this list is secured upon the inner side or face of the cover **23**, as indicated at **41**, and may be covered by a suitable transparent shield or covering **42**, as shown in Figure 3.

As will be readily apparent upon reference to Figure 2, after the ballot list has been secured in position against the inner side of the cover **23**, the office divider units are adjusted lengthwise of the ballot part so that each will designate an office, and they are then firmly secured in place by the lock bar **28**. Between each two office divider units will be a number of the slots or grooves **26** of the bar **25**, which are evenly spaced and there is one of these grooves corresponding with the name of each candidate for the office named opposite the upper office divider. There will be pivotally attached to the rod **36**, between two adjacent office divider units **30**, one or more candidate indicators **38**. If the office is one for which only one candidate is to be elected, then only one candidate indicator **38** will be inserted between the adjacent office dividers, but if more than one candidate is to be elected for the office designated opposite the upper office divider, then the number of candidate indicators **38** to be inserted will equal the number of candidates to be elected to the office named.

It will be observed that with this arrangement a voter will be limited to voting for the proper number of candidates for the office. He cannot vote for more candidates than he is entitled to vote for because there is no means available for him to vote wrongly. The candidate indicators cannot be slid past the office dividers on the pivot rod **36**, to another group of candidates. This provides an interlocking system by omission to prevent wrong voting.

When the voter arranges the candidate indicator fingers **38** across the bar **25** to designate his choice for the particular office indicated, the cover **23** is closed, as shown in Figure 3, and when in such position it holds the fingers securely in position. The headed ends of the indicator fingers **38** and of the office divider units **30** project slightly beyond the rear edge of the ballot part, as shown in Figure 1, and when the ballot part is then placed in position in the voting machine and moved rearwardly toward the punching needles **13** the candidate indicator fingers will each force a needle rearwardly and through the recording sheets and each of the office divider units will engage and force a needle rearwardly through the sheet. Thus each time a ballot is recorded the office divider units will actuate the punching pins or needles **13**, as a result of which the record sheet when removed from the machine will have parallel rows of punches therein dividing the records of votes made for the candidates of the different offices.

In addition to forming parallel rows of punches or holes in the record sheet whereby to set forth on the sheet the different office groups, the office dividers also function to effect even advancement of the record sheet under all circumstances. If reliance were placed solely upon the candidate indicators or the pins actuated thereby, for effecting advancement of the sheet or, in other words, if the office dividers were not employed, the record sheet might not be evenly advanced. A voter might vote a straight ticket, in the manner hereinafter set forth, or vote for only one or two candidates and thus the record sheet might be engaged by punch pins only adjacent one side of the sheet and, as a result, only the engaged side of the sheet would be advanced while the other side would drag or would not be positively pulled down. Since the office dividers function throughout the length of the ballot part to push the punch pins into the record sheet at points adjacent both sides of the sheet and at intermediate points, the record sheet will always be engaged entirely across its width by the office divider actuated pins, and thus an even and regular advancement of the record sheet will be obtained at all times since, as previously explained, and as set forth in my prior application hereinbefore referred to, the punch pins are moved down while still in engagement with the record sheet so as to effect the desired advance movement of the sheet one step.

In addition to the foregoing the office divider fingers at all times point to the names of the offices of the different groups on the ballot thereby making it particularly easy for the voter to read the ballot and to see at once what offices the different candidates are running for.

In Figure 6 the illustrated portion of the voting machine is altered slightly from the machine shown in Figure 1 and the second embodiment of the ballot part, illustrated in Figures 6 to 11 inclusive, is, of course, designed particularly to coact with this modified machine structure.

In the machine structure shown in Figure 6, the sheet perforating pin or needle is generally designated **13'** and extends farther toward the front of the machine, carrying intermediate its ends the parallel portion **43** which is slidably engaged in an aperture in the plate **16'**, while adjacent its forward end or that end which is engaged by the candidate selector fingers of the ballot part, is an upstanding stud **44** which, upon each operative or rearward movement of the needle, engages and actuates a wheel **45**, of a counter unit which is indicated generally by the numeral **46**.

One principal feature distinguishing the modified ballot part, indicated generally by the reference character B', from the ballot part B, is in the disposition of the candidate indicator fingers and the fingers of the office dividers, flush with the rear edge of the bottom of the ballot part instead of projecting beyond such edge like the fingers of the ballot part shown in Figure 2.

In this modified or second embodiment of the

ballot part B' there is the base or bottom 47 in which the top surface is formed along the rear edge to provide the bar 48 across the top of which are formed the channels or grooves 49. In spaced relation with the inner edge of the bar 48 is formed the shoulder 50 which extends lengthwise of the bottom and throughout the major portion of its length is provided with the notches 51 corresponding in number with the grooves 49 and each aligned transversely of the bottom with a groove.

Across each side of the bottom 47 is the upstanding side wall 52 which merges with the forward wall 53 which runs lengthwise of the bottom and thus forming a box-like unit the top of which is closed by a cover 54 which is hingedly attached, as at 55, to the bar 48, while the longitudinal edge opposite the hinges 55 carries the flange 56 which, when the cover is closed, is located inside the rear edge wall 53, as shown in Figure 8.

The numeral 57 generally designates the office divider unit which, like the unit 39, comprises a finger 58, a post 59 extending downwardly from the finger adjacent its inner end, and a plate 60 or flag with which the post is integrally connected. The flag in this particular unit is relatively long and is flat and pointed at the end remote from the post 59, as indicated 61. The flags 60 are of a length to fit snugly between the notched edge of the shoulder 50 and the adjacent edge of the bar 48, as shown in Figures 7 and 8, with the point 61 engaging in one of the notches 51 and the finger engaging in a groove 49. As shown, the fingers 58, forwardly of the post 59, are substantially triangular and have one edge directed downwardly to engage in the V-shaped channel or groove 49, and the length of the finger 58 is such that its free end will be flush with the rear edge of the bar 48, as shown in Figure 8, and is cut square across to form a contact face for engaging the adjacent end of a punch needle or pin 13'.

Like the units 39, the units 57 are placed to indicate the different offices which are to be filled, and after the units have been properly located there is extended through aligned openings 62, formed preferably through the posts 59, a pivot rod 63 which is inserted through an opening 64 in one side wall 52, as shown in Figure 7. The units 57 are maintained against unauthorized displacement by a plate 64' which rests upon the top of the shouldered portion 50 and upon the tops of the wings 60, as shown in Figure 8, and is secured to the bottom 47 by bolts 65 or other suitable securing means.

Pivotally supported upon the pivot rod 63 and disposed in the spaces between pairs of the office indicators 57 are the candidate indicators, each of which comprises a finger 66. The inner or attached end of the finger 66 is preferably rectangular in cross-section and has an opening 67 through which the pivot rod 63 extends, while the outer half of the finger 66 is of triangular cross-section, presenting a single lower edge for engagement in a V-shaped groove 49 and a flat top for engagement by the cover 54 when the latter is closed. The free end of the finger 66 is cut square across like the finger 58 and is of the same length as the finger 58 so that it will terminate in the plane of the rear edge of the bar 48.

As is clearly shown in Figures 7 and 8, the ballot sheet is secured to the inner face of the cover 54 to form a part of the ballot part and is covered by a suitable transparent plate which protects the ballot sheet and which rests upon the tops of the office divider fingers and candidate indicator fingers when the same are in a position parallel with the plane of the bottom 47. When the candidate indicator fingers are in the grooves 49 they will be held against displacement by the cover, and when they are thrown back into non-voting position, with the lower edges directed upwardly they will likewise be maintained against movement when the cover is closed.

It will be readily apparent upon reference to Figure 8, that when the ballot part is moved rearwardly toward the sheet perforating needles, the adjacent ends of the needles will enter those grooves 49 which are not occupied by fingers of either of the units and, consequently, such needles will not be forced forwardly to perforate the sheets. Those grooves which have candidate indicator fingers disposed therein or have the fingers of the office dividers therein will, of course, be blocked against the entrance of a needle and, consequently, the needle will be engaged by a finger and forced rearwardly to perforate the record sheet. At the same time that the engaged needle is moved rearwardly to perforate a record sheet, the stud 44 of the needle will actuate the counter mechanism 46 to register the number of the votes cast for the particular candidate whose name appears upon the ballot sheet in line with the shifted needle.

The ballot part illustrated in Figures 6 to 11 inclusive is modified as illustrated in Figures 12 to 19 for permitting either straight voting or irregular voting as desired. In this modification, the grooved bar here designated 48' is provided with a longitudinal channel 68 in which is slidably mounted the bar 69, the top edge of which has the V-notches 70 cut therein, as illustrated most clearly in Figure 16. By suitably arranging these notches 70 in the bar 69, when the bar is shifted toward the bottom end of the ballot part, certain of the grooves in the bar 48' at the head end of the ballot part will be partitioned, as indicated at 71 in Figure 15, and the other grooves of the bar 48' will be unobstructed so that the candidate selector fingers 66' can be thrown over to indicate the voter's selections for the different offices set forth upon the ballot.

If a straight ticket is to be voted, then the notched bar 69 is shifted toward the head end of the ballot part and the several notches at the upper or head end of the bar 69 will shift into registration with the adjacent grooves 49', as shown in Figure 14, adjacent which are indicated upon the ballot list names of the different parties, as shown in Figure 12, while all of the other grooves 49' opposite the names of various persons running for offices in the two parties noted, will be blocked off, as indicated at 72 in Figure 14. This will prevent the voter from placing indicator fingers in voting positions in these grooves and he will thus be permitted only to place an indicating finger in one of the grooves beside which a party name appears.

In order to prevent the obstructing portions of the bar 69 lying between the notches 70 from engaging the record sheet perforating pins or needles 13', such portions may be apertured, as indicated at 73, so that the ends of the perforating pins or needles will pass through the bar 69.

The head end of the bar 69 is here shown as having a laterally extending pin 74 secured therein and moving in a recess 75 formed through the inner side of the bar 48', by which pin the bar 69 may be conveniently shifted. Any suitable

means may be provided for securing the bar in either of its two operative positions.

Thus, it will be seen from the foregoing that the shiftable bar **69** has in effect two sets of notches **70**, the set of two or three notches at the head end of the bar being arranged so as to register with the adjacent grooves **49'** when a straight ballot is to be cast, at which time the notches of the other set would block the other grooves and, when the bar is shifted in the opposite direction, the notches at the head end of the bar or upper set would be in position to block the grooves for straight ballot voting against the entrance of the indicator fingers therein while the notches of the other or lower group would be in register with the adjacent grooves so as to permit the fingers to be placed therein for mixed voting.

In addition to the foregoing, provision is made for compelling a voter to vote one way or the other upon some particular question or proposition. This consists in providing a special indicator finger **76** having a tail piece **77** which only permits the oscillation of the finger to a sufficient degree to facilitate shifting the finger on the pivot bar **63'**. Consequently, the voter cannot throw this compulsory voting finger back to inoperative position but must place it in one or the other of certain ones of the grooves **49'** to vote for or against a certain proposition or question.

It will, of course, be readily apparent from a comparison of the structures shown in Figures 7 and 12 that all other features of the ballot part are the same in the two structures as, for example, the inner face of the cover **54'** has the ballot list secured thereto, as indicated at **41'**, which is covered by a transparent plate **42'**. The office indicator unit **57'** and the candidate indicators **66'** are of the same construction as those used in the unit shown in Figure 7 and are maintained in position in the same manner, by the use of a securing or clamping plate **64''**.

It will be readily apparent from the foregoing that the different modifications or embodiments of the ballot piece are all used or function in the same manner when placed in the voting machine. The ballot piece shown in Figure 2 has the office divider fingers and those candidate indicator fingers which are swung over into voting position, all disposed with their outer ends in a common plane extending from one side of the ballot piece to the other, and projecting beyond the rear edge thereof. However, the cover **23**, when in closed position, overlies the extended ends of the fingers and thus prevents anyone from determining how the voter is voting. In the structures shown in Figures 7 and 12 the outer ends of the office divider fingers and of the candidate indicator fingers also lie in a common plane and in the plane of the rear edge of the bar **48**, as shown in Figure 8. With this embodiment the ends of the punch needles **13'** are engaged by the ends of the fingers which are disposed in the grooves of the bars **48** or **48'** so that when the ballot part is moved rearwardly in the machine these needles will be forced through the record receiving paper or tape. Where the fingers of the candidate indicators have not been swung over into voting position the adjacent ends of the needles will merely enter the channels and will not be actuated.

It will be readily seen that there is an interlocking coaction between the ballot part and the voting machine proper in that the office divider fingers or units perform the double function of designating the different offices and of separating one office from the other and maintaining the indicator fingers which are to be employed for voting for candidates for particular offices in separated relation, and at the same time the office indicator units or fingers each effects the movement of a record sheet punching pin each time that the ballot piece is put into the machine and pushed forwardly for the registering of a vote or the recording of a ballot. Consequently, the office diivders function to create a continuous line of perforations in the record sheet between the groups of votes recorded for the different candidates.

After the ballot part has been placed in the voting machine and the vote or ballot recorded, the ballot can be readily destroyed by the attendant who picks up the ballot part by the cover so that the base or bottom portion will swing down or fall away, thus allowing the candidate indicator fingers to swing out of position across the grooved bar. In this way, the fingers will be thrown back and no one will be able to determine by then examining the part what persons were voted for and the fingers will be ready for reuse by the next voter.

To permit cumulative voting, that is, voting where a voter has a certain number of votes and is permitted to cast them for one candiate or divide them among the candidates, no modification of the ballot part primarily may be needed, but in preparing the ballot list and the ballot part previous to an election, the following arrangements or perforations will have to be made.

Suppose there are three to be elected and four candidates for the positions. On the ballot list each of the four candidates would have his name printed three times, all under the one title for the office. Thus, the interlock would include twelve names, that is, four names each repeated three times. Three candidate indicators or indicator fingers would be placed within the interlock or the space between the adjacent pair of office dividers. The voter may then place these indicators at any places according to his notion, thus voting all three for the same person or one for each, or otherwise dividing the votes as he wishes.

To permit fractional voting no fundamental change in the ballot part is needed. The arrangement of the ballot list and the location of the office dividers would accomplish the results by using a little arithmetic. Assuming the fractional value of a vote to be one-third and there are four candidates as in the previous illustration. One candidate to be elected. Use the same set-up as illustrated above. The voter would be using a third of a vote for each person to whom he pointed an indicator.

I claim,

1. A ballot part for use in a voting machine employing a series of shiftable marking elements, comprising a body adapted to be shiftably supported in the machine for the advancement and retraction of one edge relative to said marking elements, a series of fixed office divider fingers secured to the body in spaced parallel relation and extending perpendicular to said edge, each finger having an end adjacent to the edge and said ends being in a line paralleling said edge for contact with marking elements, and a candidate indicator finger shiftably supported between each two adjacent office dividers to be moved between the dividers to a selected candidate designating position, said indicator finger when in a selected

candidate indicating position having an end in the line of the ends of the divider fingers.

2. A ballot part for use in a voting machine employing a series of shiftable marking elements, comprising a body having an edge which is moved toward and away from said marking elements in the operation of recording a ballot, a ballot list carried by the body and including names of offices to be filled, a series of office divider fingers supported by the body and each having a fixed position with respect to an office noted upon the ballot list, each of said divider fingers being disposed perpendicular with respect to said body edge and having an end in a line common to the ends of the other fingers and paralleling said edge, and a candidate indicator finger attached at one end to the body between each two adjacent office dividers for movement along a path paralleling said edge to a selected candidate indicating position, and means for maintaining each candidate indicator finger in indicating position with one end in the line of the ends of the divider fingers.

3. A ballot part as set forth in claim 2, in which said means comprises a transversely notched bar carried by the body parallel with and adjacent to said edge, in the notches of which bar the office divider fingers and the candidate indicator fingers are engaged.

4. A ballot part as set forth in claim 2, including a movable cover pivotally attached to the body and adapted to have a closed position superposed with respect to the body and fingers carried thereon and an open position in which it is disposed at one side of said edge with the ballot list carried thereby having the office titles aligned transversely of said edge with the office divider fingers.

5. A ballot part for use in a voting machine employing a series of shiftable marking elements, comprising a flat body adapted to be moved on the machine for the advancement and retraction of one edge relative to said marking elements, a transversely grooved bar secured to the body adjacent to and parallel with said edge, means for attaching a ballot list to the body in position for listing office titles and candidate names parallel with said bar, each office title and candidate name being aligned transversely of the bar with a groove thereof, a series of office divider fingers secured to the body and each extending transversely of the bar and lying in a groove and terminating at one end adjacent to said edge, each finger being aligned with an office title, and candidate indicator fingers each pivotally attached at one end to the body between two adjacent office dividers for movement longitudinally of the bar for selective engagement in grooves of the bar lying between the pair of dividers and for swinging movement in a plane extending transversely of the bar whereby the candidate indicator fingers may be disposed to point across the bar in the same direction as the divider fingers or in the opposite direction.

6. A ballot part as set forth in claim 5, in which the ballot list carrying means comprises a cover pivotally attached to the body and having a closed position in which the ballot list carried thereby is faced down in opposed relation with the fingers and in which the said fingers are maintained against movement by the cover.

7. A ballot part as set forth in claim 5, including shiftable means cooperating with said grooved bar for selectively blocking certain of the grooves of the bar against the placement of candidate indicator fingers therein.

8. A ballot part as set forth in claim 5, with means for controlling the disposition of the candidate indicator fingers in the grooves of said bar for effecting compulsory voting of a straight ballot or a mixed ballot.

9. A ballot part for use in a voting machine employing a series of shiftable marking elements, comprising an elongated flat body adapted to be shiftably supported in the machine for movement to effect advancement and retraction of one longitudinal edge relative to said marking elements, a bar extending along said one edge and having a plurality of grooves formed transversely of the top surface thereof, a ballot list supported by the body and secured in a position to have the office titles and names of candidates arranged in a column extending lengthwise of said grooved bar with said office titles and candidate names each being aligned transversely of the bar with a groove, a plurality of office dividers each including an elongated finger and a flat plate connected with one end of the finger, each of said divider fingers being disposed in a groove in alignment with an office title and having the plate positioned upon the body, a rod extending longitudinally of the body and passing through the office dividers, detachable means secured to the body and overlying said plates to maintain the same in fixed position, and a plurality of candidate indicator fingers each pivotally and slidably mounted upon said rod between two adjacent office dividers and adapted for adjustment longitudinally of the rod for selective engagement in grooves opposite candidate names and swingable on the rod for movement into or out of connection with the grooved bar, said office divider fingers and said candidate indicator fingers when disposed in grooves of the bar having ends arranged in a line paralleling said edge of the body for engagement with the shiftable marking elements of the machine.

10. A ballot part as set forth in claim 9, with an adjustable means associated with said grooved bar for blocking out certain of the grooves thereof against the reception of adjacent candidate indicator fingers.

11. A ballot part as set forth in claim 9, in which said grooved bar has a channel extending longitudinally therein transversely of the grooves, and a shiftable bar disposed in said channel for limited longitudinal movement and having an edge provided with notches segregated into two groups and arranged whereby the notches of one group will register with certain of the grooves when the bar is in one position to position the portions of the shiftable bar between the notches of the other group in a position to block adjacent grooves against the disposition of indicator fingers therein.

12. A ballot element of the character stated comprising a flat body portion, means forming a pivot bar mounted upon said body portion to extend across one side face thereof, a plurality of fingers pivotally mounted upon said bar to be moved into either of two positions extending perpendicularly to the bar and in parallel relation with the side face of the body, means upon one side of the bar for holding certain of the fingers against movement longitudinally of the bar, others of said fingers being fixed to extend across said means to provide fixed spaces in which certain of the movable fingers are disposed, the fingers when in engagement with the said holding

means being extended beyond the adjacent edge of the body member, and a cover pivotally attached to the body member and adapted to be positioned over the face adjacent which the fingers are located to maintain said fingers against movement.

13. A ballot element as set forth in claim 12, in which said cover is of a width to extend over the said edge of the body member, when the cover is in closed position, to completely cover the fingers.

14. A ballot part for use in a voting machine employing a series of shiftable marking elements, comprising a body adapted to be supported in the machine for movement relative to the elements for the actuation of the latter, a ballot list carried by said ballot part and divided into office groups each group including an office title and candidates for the office, a plurality of office dividers carried by the ballot part and each fixed opposite an office title, each office divider being arranged to engage and actuate a marking element upon movement of the body relative to the elements, a plurality of candidate indicators, each adjacent pair of office dividers having one or more indicators disposed therebetween, means supporting the candidate indicators for sliding movement between the adjacent pair of dividers and for pivoted movement between operative and inoperative positions, said office dividers being set to limit the movement of the candidate indicators to positions opposite the names of candidates for each office group, each office group being provided with the proper number of candidate indicators to limit the voter to correct voting, and means for maintaining the candidate indicators in operative position for engagement with the marking elements upon movement of the body relative thereto.

15. A ballot part for use in a voting machine employing a series of shiftable marking elements, comprising a body adapted to be shiftably supported in the machine for advancement relative to said marking elements, a full ballot list carried by the body, a plurality of office dividers supported in spaced relation and in a row extending lengthwise of the ballot list and each designating an office of the list, each of said office dividers being arranged to engage and actuate a marking element upon each advancement of the body relative to the elements, and a plurality of candidate indicators supported in the row with the office dividers for pivoted movement between an operative and an inoperative position, said candidate indicators further being movable lengthwise of said row and being limited in such lengthwise movement by the office dividers between which they are located, the movement of the candidate indicators along said row being for the purpose of positioning each indicator opposite a candidate name upon the ballot list, said candidate indicators when in operative position being adapted for engagement with a marking element upon advancement of the ballot part body toward said elements.

GEORGE D. RATHBUN.