

721—26.2(49) Counting votes on election day.

26.2(1) *Optical scan—precinct count.* Ballots shall be counted at the polling place on election day using the equipment provided. The precinct election officials shall not examine ballots accepted and counted by the tabulating device. After the polls close, the precinct election officials shall:

- a. Remove any ballots from the emergency ballot box and insert them into the tabulating device.
- b. Examine ballots sorted by the tabulating device because they contain write-in votes and count the write-in votes following the standards in rule 26.20(49).
- c. Examine ballots rejected by the tabulating device and abandoned by the voter only if the tabulating device has no override device that permits the officials to reset the tabulating device to accept blank or overvoted ballots. The officials shall follow the standards in rules 26.12(50) through 26.21(49).

26.2(2) *Optical scan—absentee and special voters precinct.* The ballots shall be counted at a single location on election day as required by Iowa Code section 53.23. When it is necessary to duplicate or enhance a ballot because it is read as blank, the officials shall follow the standards in rules 26.12(50) through 26.21(49).

26.2(3) *Paper ballots.* Ballots shall be counted at the polling place on election day as provided in Iowa Code chapter 50 or 51, as applicable, according to the standards in Part III.

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