49.31 Arrangement of names on ballot restrictions.

1. All ballots shall be arranged with the names of candidates for each office listed below the office title. For partisan elections the name of the political party or organization which nominated each candidate shall be listed after or below each candidate's name.

The commissioner shall determine the order of political parties and nonparty political organizations on the ballot. The sequence shall be the same for each office on the ballot and for each precinct in the county voting in the election.

2. The commissioner shall prepare a list of the election precincts of the county, by arranging the various townships and cities in the county in alphabetical order, and the wards or precincts in each city or township in numerical order under the name of such city or township. The commissioner shall then arrange the surnames of each political party's candidates for each office to which two or more persons are to be elected at large alphabetically for the respective offices for the first precinct on the list; thereafter, for each political party and for each succeeding precinct, the names appearing first for the respective offices in the last preceding precinct shall be placed last, so that the names that were second before the change shall be first after the change. The commissioner may also rotate the names of candidates of a political party in the reverse order of that provided in this subsection or alternate the rotation so that the candidates of different parties shall not be paired as they proceed through the rotation. The procedure for arrangement of names on ballots provided in this section shall likewise be substantially followed in elections in political subdivisions of less than a county.

On the general election ballot the names of candidates for the nonpartisan offices listed in section 39.21 shall be arranged by drawing lots for position. The board of supervisors shall hold the drawing at its first meeting following the deadline for receipt of objections and withdrawals by candidates for the general election.

3. The ballots for any city elections, school elections, special election, or any other election at which any office is to be filled on a nonpartisan basis and the statutes governing the office to be filled are silent as to the arrangement of names on the ballot, shall contain the names of all nominees or candidates arranged in alphabetical order by surname under the heading of the office to be filled. When a city election, school election, special election, or any other election at which an office is to be filled on a nonpartisan basis, is held in more than one precinct, the candidates' names shall be rotated on the ballot from precinct to precinct in the manner prescribed by subsection 2 unless there are no more candidates for an office than the number of persons to be elected to that office.

4. The heading for each office on the ballot shall be immediately followed by a notation stating, "Vote for no more than ......, and indicating the maximum number of nominees or candidates for that office for whom each elector may vote.

5. At the end of the list of candidates for each office listed on the ballot one or more blank lines and voting positions shall be printed to allow the elector to write in the name of any person for whom the elector desires to vote for any office or nomination on the ballot. The number of write-in lines shall equal the number of votes that can be cast for that office.

6. The name of a candidate printed on the ballot shall not include parentheses, quotation marks, or any personal or professional title.

7. For the purpose of ballot rotation the absentee ballot and special voters precinct may be considered a separate precinct.

[C97, § 1106; S13, § 1106, 2754; C24, 27, § 749, 4203; C31, 35, § 749, 4216-c8; C39, § **749, 4216.08;** C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, § 49.31, 277.8; C75, 77, 79, 81, § 49.31]

86 Acts, ch 1224, § 11, 12; 87 Acts, ch 221, § 13, 14; 89 Acts, ch 136, §36; 90 Acts, ch 1238, § 18; 91 Acts, ch 129, §12; 97 Acts, ch 170, § 3032; 2002 Acts, ch 1134, §32, 115