4. Ballots

In Chapter 3 we should have made clear our preference for the grid format ballot, which is particularly well suited to small elections. With grid ballots the only thing required to indicate preference is "blacking in" a square, so a voter's handwriting ordinarily does not become an is sue. Grid ballots also allow for instant detection of duplicate rankings. One drawback of grid ballots is they provide an opportunity for voters to accidentally give one candidate more than one rank. Fortunately, a candidate given more than one rank is meaningless in STV, so the easy solution is to accept the highest rank only.

In spite of the apparent simplicity of grid ballots, they are certainly not going to be under stood immediately by everyone. In fact, at first glance some may view large grid ballots as be wilderingly complex. To clear up any such confusion, a set of instructions should be composed to accompany the grid layout, such as: "Only one vote for each candidate. Only one vote for each column." Still some voters will inevitably write numbers into the squares, and will want to know if they are suppposed to fill in the squares, or mark them with checks, and so on. A visual aid, such as a didactic panel featuring an oversized grid ballot, can be very helpful in getting the message across. For easier reading, on the ballot itself you may try adding a space every four or five rows or so.

A sample grid ballot from the 2004 KPFK Local Station Board Listener-Sponsor election is included at the end of this chapter, and there are sheets of sample ballots for the mock election provided in Chapter 6 on pages 30-43.

Alternate formats are certainly possible, and may be suited to particular elections. The most common alternative to grid format is a simple column of all candidates with spaces for voter rankings next to each. Here is an example of such a ballot, though it does contain one design

LSB to PNB Directors

Do not rank more than one candidate per rank.

_____ Candidate A

_____ Candidate B

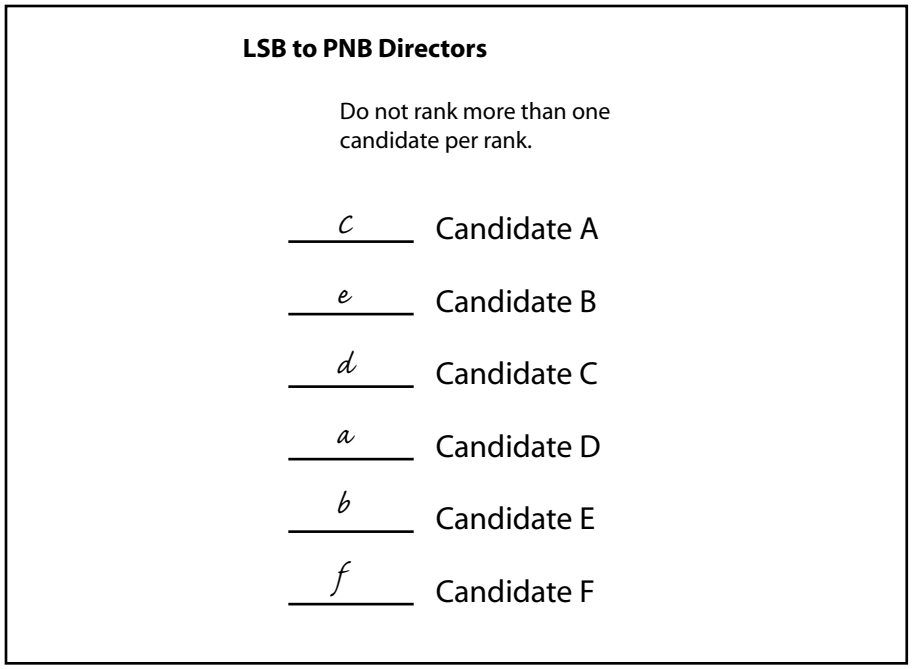
_____ Candidate C

_____ Candidate D

_____ Candidate E

_____ Candidate F

flaw. In order to accommodate last minute nominations, this ballot has assigned letters to the candidates, in lieu of their actual names. What happens if some voter decides to mark the spaces with alphabetical letters instead of numerals? How will such a ballot be interpreted?



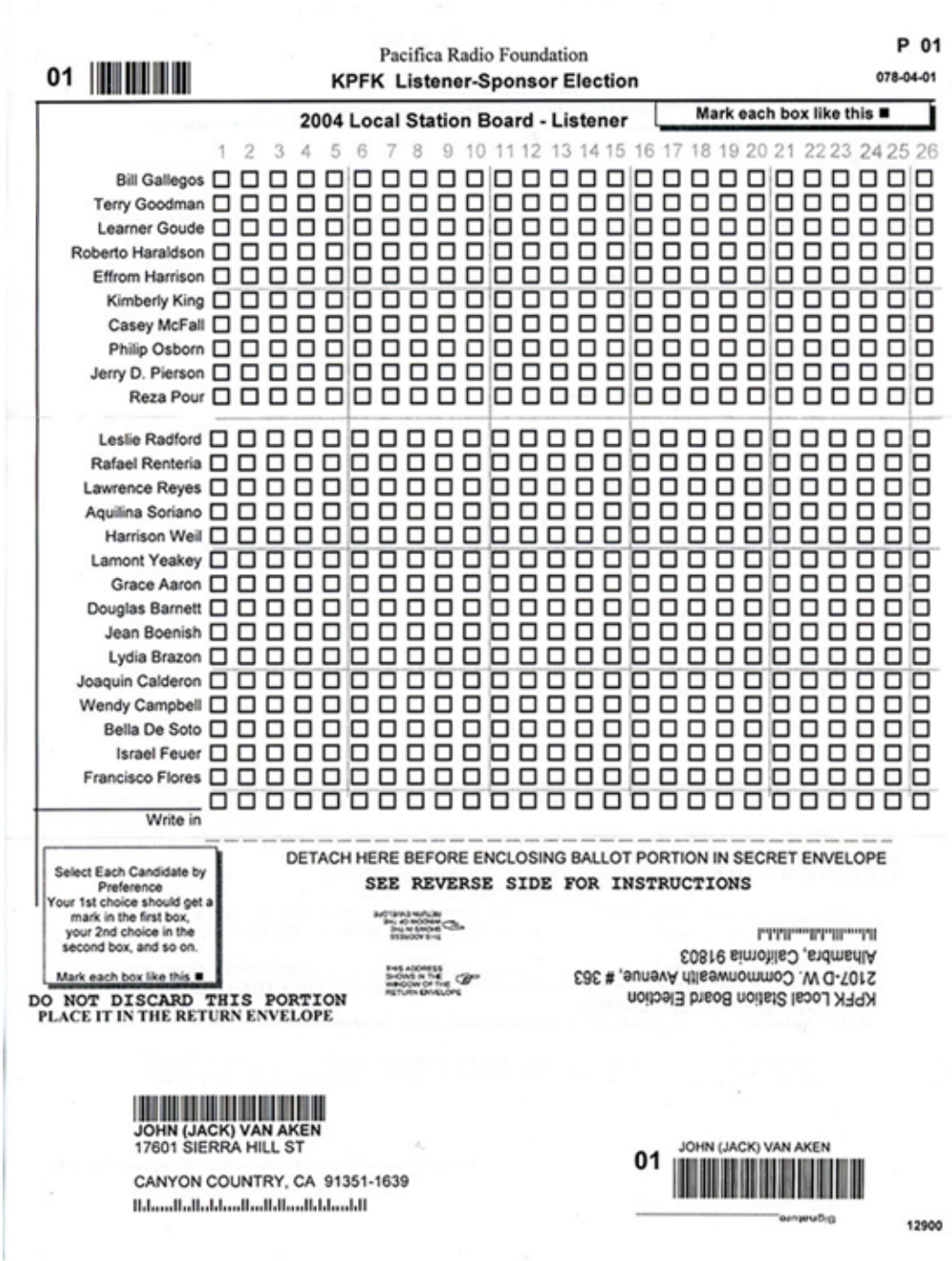
You can see in the ballot above that it could be reasonably decided the voter intended the letters to represent numeric values, in which case Candidate D would have been ranked as first choice, Candidate E as second choice and so on. But how can you be sure the voter did not intend to list the candidates by initial in descending order? In this case Candidate C would be ranked first, Candidate E ranked second. It would probably have been better to leave the names at the right blank, taking the time to fill them in at the last minute to avoid this potential for confusion.

Whatever format is ultimately chosen, it is preferable for small hand tallied elections to have small ballots printed on card stock. These are easiest to handle, and can be color coded for mul tiple elections. Always be sure to prepare extra ballots so that voters may request replacement ballots should they make an error of some sort.

It generally makes sense to provide a space for write in candidacies on the ballot, even though there is little real justification for a write-in candidacy in a small election. But, seeing as there always may be some confusion regarding rules of nomination, it makes sense to be prepared for the off chance that write-ins might occur anyway. The board officers likely will be aware of any serious attempts at launching a write-in candidacy, so good communication with the officers is vital here. When appropriate, the chair should announce prior to voting that write ins will or will not be counted.

It should go without saying that it is good to be prepared for seemingly inevitable duplicate rankings (more than one candidate given the same rank) that turn up on returned ballots. Pa

cifica has a recent tradition of accepting duplicate rankings, so it may be difficult to achieve an absolute ban on them. However it is within the purview of the election team to advise voters during preliminary, instructional remarks that to vote more than one candidate at the same rank is not in their best interest as voters, and that it complicates the tallying process as well. You may also add that it tends to generate a disproportionate number of ties. Most Delegates won't want all of their officers, directors etc. selected by the toss of a coin.



01

Pacifica Radio Foundation

KPFK Listener-Sponsor Election

P 01

078-04-01

2004 Local Station Board - Listener

Mark each box like this ■

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

Bill Gallegos
Terry Goodman
Learner Goude
Roberto Haraldson
Effrom Harrison
Kimberly King
Casey McFall
Philip Osborn
Jerry D. Pierson
Reza Pour

Leslie Radford
Rafael Renteria
Lawrence Reyes
Aquilina Soriano
Harrison Weil
Lamont Yeakey
Grace Aaron
Douglas Barnett
Jean Boenish
Lydia Brazon
Joaquin Calderon
Wendy Campbell
Bella De Soto
Israel Feuer
Francisco Flores

Write in

Select Each Candidate by Preference
Your 1st choice should get a mark in the first box, your 2nd choice in the second box, and so on.
Mark each box like this ■

DETACH HERE BEFORE ENCLOSING BALLOT PORTION IN SECRET ENVELOPE

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR INSTRUCTIONS

DO NOT DISCARD THIS PORTION
PLACE IT IN THE RETURN ENVELOPE

KPFK Local Station Board Election
2107-D W. Commonwealth Avenue, # 363
Alhambra, California 91803

JOHN (JACK) VAN AKEN
17601 SIERRA HILL ST

CANYON COUNTRY, CA 91351-1639

01 JOHN (JACK) VAN AKEN

12900

Local Station Board members to Pacifica National Board committees

PNB AFFILIATES COMMITTEE

Fill in no more than one square per rank.

RANKING

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Grace Aaron	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sara Amir	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Rodrigo Argueta	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Maria Armoudian	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Marie Dearie	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Israel Feuer	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Bill Gallegos	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sherna Gluck	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Jan Goodman	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Terry Goodman	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Kimberly King	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sonali Kolhatkar	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Arturo Lemus	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ed Pearl	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Reza Pour	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Margaret Prescod	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Julie Rodriguez	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Madeleine Schwab	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Fernando Velazquez	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Harrison Weil	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Lamont Yeakey	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Grid ballot with spaces every 3 rows