

## Jefferson County Voting Guide

Greetings, Citizens of Jefferson County! Election season is here and the following tips will help make your voting experience a pleasant one!

### ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

Make sure that you are registered and know with which political party you are affiliated. The deadline to register to vote or to change your party preference is April 22, 2008.

### OPEN PRIMARY BALLOT FOR INDEPENDENT VOTERS

Registered Independents or Non-Partisans who would like to vote a Republican or Democrat ballot must personally request their ballot of choice when checking in at the polls. **By law, poll workers may not offer a choice of ballots to the voter.**

### KNOW WHO YOU ARE VOTING FOR

Get ahead of the game. The primary ballot is pretty extensive and making educated choices are better than haphazard guesses – jump on line to: [Jeffersoncountyclerk.wv.com](http://Jeffersoncountyclerk.wv.com) and click on the 2008 Elections link to view candidates profiles, platforms, financial statements and required filings. Many candidates have a website that you can access through the elections page.

### GET TO YOUR POLLING PLACE

Find out where your polling place is before Election Day on May 13th. If you are unsure, then call the clerk's office at 304-728-3386. We have a full color precinct map online at [Jeffersoncountyclerk.wv.com](http://Jeffersoncountyclerk.wv.com) under the elections page.

### NO EXCUSE EARLY VOTING

If you are not going to be available to vote on Election Day, you can vote early at the Jefferson County Courthouse at 100 East Washington Street  
April 23<sup>rd</sup> through May 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am – 5:00pm Monday – Friday OR Saturday May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am – 5:00pm

### FILL IN THE OVALS

Our county uses an optical scan paper ballot. Ovals must be shaded in for the selections made. Please DO NOT circle, check mark or underline your choices as the ballot cannot be read by our tabulating machines. If you foresee difficulty in shading the ovals, please use our **AutoMARK Voter Assist Machine** that will not only mark the ballot for you, but has the ability to enlarge the text, read the ballot via headphones or change the contrast.

### REMAIN AT THE BALLOT BOX

All precincts in our county will be equipped with a “smart ballot box” called the M-100. Once you have finished voting and have placed your optical scan ballot into a secrecy sleeve, you will hand your ballot to the poll worker who will insert your ballot into the M-100. If your ballot choices were properly marked, the poll worker will let you know that your ballot has been accepted and you are free to leave.

### IF YOU HEAR A BEEPING NOISE FROM THE M-100 BALLOT BOX

That means that the ballot has been over-voted, under-voted or perhaps left blank. Within seconds, the M100 will indicate which contest may need to be reviewed by the voter on the LCD display screen. At that time, THE VOTER MUST DECIDE AND SELECT FROM TWO OPTIONS:

**Options #1 – ACCEPT** – by choosing this option, the ballot will go into the ballot box regardless of how the ballot was cast.

**Option #2 – RETURN** – by choosing this option, the ballot will be returned to the voter who can decide to go back to the voting booth and finish voting if they have under voted OR if the ballot has been over-voted, may ask to have their ballot spoiled and be issued a new ballot.

### QUICK ELECTION FACTS

- There are approximately 32,600 registered voters in Jefferson County
- Only about 12,000 citizens exercise their right to vote.
- It cost nearly \$ 170,000 of local tax- payer dollars to conduct just one election.
- Please be a champion citizen and VOTE!