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## Presidential Election - 2024 Procedure to vote

Since more than 03 candidates are contesting the upcoming presidential election scheduled for September 21, 2024, voters will have the opportunity to mark their first preference for one candidate and indicate their second and third preferences for two additional candidates. However, voters also have the option to mark only their first preference if they choose.

To cast a vote, the voter should place the number **1** in the box next to the name and symbol of their preferred candidate. The voter may then mark **2** and **3** for their second and third preferences, respectively. A ballot will still be considered valid if it contains a properly marked vote for one candidate, even if the second and third preferences are not marked. Accordingly, the following images show the manner in which the vote and preferences are legally marked.

ABC	<input type="checkbox"/>	
XYZ	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1
IOU	<input type="checkbox"/>	
PQR	<input type="checkbox"/>	
LMN	<input type="checkbox"/>	

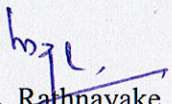
ABC	<input type="checkbox"/>	
XYZ	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1
IOU	<input type="checkbox"/>	
PQR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2
LMN	<input type="checkbox"/>	

ABC	<input type="checkbox"/>	
XYZ	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1
IOU	<input type="checkbox"/>	
PQR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2
LMN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3

If a voter makes any mark on the ballot that clearly indicates their intention (e.g., marking an **X**), it will still be counted as a vote for the candidate selected.

Any ballot with any writing or mark, that could identify the voter and any other ballot marked as follows will be rejected in the counting process:

- No vote marked for any candidate;
- A vote marked for more than one candidate;
- Marking **1** for one candidate and **X** for another;
- Only the second or third preference marked without a first preference;
- Any writing or marks that could identify the voter;
- Preferences marked with **2** and **3** using a mark other than **1**;
- More votes and preferences marked than **1, 2, 3**;

  
**R.M.A.L. Rathnayake,**  
 Chairman, Election Commission  
 (For the Election Commission)