

## §717.10

(d) *Challenged ballots.* The community referendum committee or any member thereof shall challenge the eligibility of any person to vote in the referendum where (1) the community referendum committee or any member thereof is unable to determine that the person is eligible to vote in the referendum in the community, or (2) the community referendum committee or any member thereof has reason to believe that such person has previously voted in the referendum in another community in the same or another county in person or by mail, or (3) the person's name and address have not been entered on the register of eligible voters, prior to its delivery to the referendum committee, unless the referendum committee is satisfied that the person is eligible to vote. In every case where the eligibility of the voter is challenged, his ballot form, after being marked by the challenged person so as to show how he votes, but in such manner that no one else sees how he votes, shall be folded and placed by him (or by a member of the committee if he refuses) in an envelope, which shall then be sealed and placed in another envelope, identified with his name and address, the word "Challenged" and a statement of the reason for the challenge, and shall then be placed in the ballot box. The county committee shall make an investigation in each case of controversy or dispute regarding the eligibility of a voter to vote in the referendum. In each case of a challenged ballot the eligibility of the person to vote in the referendum shall be determined by the county committee as soon as may be possible after the polls are closed and before the time for forwarding to the State committee the county summary of ballots. If it is determined that the person whose vote was challenged is eligible to vote, the sealed envelope containing the ballot shall be placed with the challenged ballot of every other person found to be eligible to vote until all challenged ballots have been passed upon by the county committee. If it is determined that the person whose vote was challenged is not eligible, the sealed envelope shall be marked "Not eligible" and signed by a member of the county committee and shall not be opened. When all of the challenged ballots have

## 7 CFR Ch. VII (1-1-02 Edition)

been passed upon by the county committee, the challenged ballots which were cast by eligible voters shall be opened and tabulated on the county summary of ballots, but no disclosure shall be made as to how any particular person voted.

(e) *Ballot box.* Each polling place shall be furnished with a suitable ballot box. Any container of sufficient size so arranged that no ballot can be read or removed without breaking seals on the container will be suitable. When strip adhesive paper or corresponding seals are used on the ballot box, such seals shall be signed or initialed by the chairman or a member of the community referendum committee so that breaking or replacing the seal will so destroy or affect the identifying marks as to show that the seal has been tampered with.

[33 FR 18345, Dec. 11, 1968, as amended by Amdt. 1, 34 FR 12940, Aug. 9, 1969]

### §717.10 Local arrangements for holding the referendum.

The county committee shall make all arrangements for the proper holding of the referendum in accordance with this part prior to the date of the referendum. The county committee shall instruct each community referendum committee concerning its duties so that each member of the committee understands his duties and the duties of the committee in all respects, with particular emphasis as to (a) issuing ballot forms, (b) challenged ballots, (c) recording votes, (d) tabulating ballots, and (e) certifying results of the referendum in the referendum community. The county executive director shall furnish each community referendum committee an adequate supply of forms prior to the time the polls in the county are opened for the acceptance of ballots, by delivering the ballot forms and the forms for the community summary of ballots to each chairman of the several community referendum committees.

### §717.11 Issuing ballots.

The community referendum committee shall open the polling place for the issuance of ballot forms and the casting of ballots at the time designated and shall thereafter until the

## Farm Service Agency, USDA

## § 717.13

time when the polls are required to be closed and the casting of ballots discontinued issue a ballot to each person who is eligible to vote and applies for a ballot and to each person who claims to be eligible to vote and insists upon voting even though his eligibility to vote is challenged by a member of the committee. The community referendum committeeman who issued the ballot form shall immediately enter on the register of voters opposite the name and address of the person voting, a record of the issuance of the ballot, the casting of the ballot, and any challenge of the eligibility of the person casting the ballot. Ballot forms shall be issued and ballots placed in the ballot box while at least two members serving on the community referendum committee are physically present in the polling place and in position to see each ballot form as it is issued and each ballot as it is placed in the ballot box.

### § 717.12 Community referendum committee's canvass of ballots.

Immediately after the polls are closed, the community referendum committee shall open the ballot box and canvass the ballots cast. The canvass of the ballots shall be kept open to the public. A ballot shall be considered as a spoiled ballot if it is mutilated or marked in such a way that it is not possible to determine with certainty how the ballot was intended to be counted on a particular question. The envelope containing the challenged ballots shall not be opened. The total number of ballots issued as shown on the register of voters shall be determined and the total number of ballots cast, including the spoiled and challenged ballots, shall be determined. The number of ballots cast in favor of and the number of ballots cast in opposition to the question on which the referendum was held shall be determined. The spoiled ballots and challenged ballots shall not be considered in favor of or against the question. If any member of the community referendum committee should see or learn how any person besides himself voted, whether or not the ballot was challenged, spoiled, or otherwise, he shall not disclose such

knowledge to a fellow committeeman or any other person except in an investigation conducted under this part.

### § 717.13 Community committee's reporting and record of results of referendum.

The community referendum committee shall notify the county committee by telephone, telegraph, messenger, or in person of the preliminary count of the votes on each question and of the number of spoiled and challenged ballots, as soon as may be possible. All the spoiled ballots shall be placed in an envelope and sealed and marked with the initials of the chairman (or vice chairman) of the community referendum committee and the designation "Spoiled Ballots" followed by the number of spoiled ballots and the names of the community, the county and the State. The community referendum committee shall execute the certification as to the accuracy of the register of eligible voters and ballots cast. The community referendum committee shall then prepare and execute the community summary of ballots and post one copy thereof, as soon as it is executed, in a conspicuous place at the polling place, so that it will remain posted and accessible to the public for at least 3 calendar days after the holding of the referendum. The community referendum committee shall seal the voted ballots, including those challenged and spoiled, the register of eligible voters and ballots cast, and the community summary of ballots, in one or more envelopes appropriately identified by the names of the community, the county, and the State, and the nature of the referendum and the date on which it was held, and deliver them to the county committee not later than 9 a.m., local time, on the second calendar day after the date of the referendum, together with the unused ballot and other forms. The chairman (or vice chairman) of the community referendum committee shall be responsible for the safe delivery of such reports, ballots, and forms to the county committee.