

Controlling Contest

Ballot content structured as a contest that affects other contests under its control. The purpose of a controlling contest varies but includes the activation or deactivation of parts of the ballot based on the voter's selection.

Controlled Contest

A contest on a ballot whose state is dependent on the selections made in a separate controlling contest.

Activation Contest (formerly Non-Party Activation Contest)

A controlling contest containing an activation option that when selected activates one or more controlled contests.

Activated Contest

A controlled contest that has been activated by the selection of an activation option in an activation contest, and thus eligible to be voted on.

Activation Option

A contest option appearing under an activation contest that when selected, causes the controlled contests to change state to selectable/activated/eligible.

Open Primary Party Preference Contest (Was Party Activation Contest)

A contest that may appear on an open primary ballot that allows the voter to select which political party's primary they wish to vote. A valid selection in this contest protects the voter from voiding the partisan selection of the ballot by making option selections in more than one party's contest.

Contest Eligibility

The ability to select options in a particular contest. All contests of a given ballot style are eligible to be voted on, subject to one or more activation contests.

Straight Party Contest

A controlling contest that allows voters to select multiple candidates of the same political party appearing in multiple contests through a single selection of a political party.

Indirect Selection

The condition in which a selection for a specific contest option caused selections in other linked contest options. An example is a straight party selection that causes indirect selections for all contest options of the identified party in contests linked to the straight party contest,

Direct Selection

A contest selection explicitly made by the voter.

Straight Party Override**

Explicit voter selection that overrides or supplements the vote selections made by a straight party voting option. Straight party overrides may be subject to state election rules for how they work or whether they are allowed.

**currently in NIST Glossary