

**DE 76-32 - October 18, 1976**

**Presidential Write-Ins, Electors  
Chapters 97, 101, Florida Statutes**

*To: Supervisors of Elections, State of Florida*

*Prepared by: Division of Elections*

This office has been asked whether the names of all seventeen electors for a given presidential write-in candidate must in fact be written in by a voter in order for a ballot to be counted for that write-in presidential candidate.

The question is answered in the affirmative.

Sections 97.031 and 101.191, F.S., require each ballot to present a sufficient number of spaces to accommodate the number of electors "seventeen" for write-in presidential candidates. Indeed, the statute is explicit in its declaration that such ballots are and constitute "votes for electors."

Florida Statutes additionally indicates that with respect to majority and minority party candidates for president, although said candidates' names shall appear on the ballot, ballots are cast by the voters by electors. Section 103.011, F.S.

Accordingly, consistent with past practice and the statutory commandment, a vote for a presidential write-in candidate shall not be counted as such unless there appears on the ballot the names of that candidates' seventeen electors in a substantially recognizable form.