

By the Committee on Ethics and Elections; and Senator Bennett

582-02698-09

2009240c1

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to specifications for ballots;
3 amending s. 101.151, F.S.; requiring that each ballot
4 include a selection allowing the voter to indicate
5 that he or she chooses not to vote for any candidate;
6 specifying the effect of such a selection; providing
7 an effective date.

8

9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

10

11 Section 1. Present subsection (8) of section 101.151,
12 Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (9), and a new
13 subsection (8) is added to that section, to read:

14 101.151 Specifications for ballots.—

15 (8) For each office on the ballot, in addition to the names
16 of candidates or a blank space for a write-in candidate, the
17 ballot must include a selection stating "I choose not to vote."
18 For purposes of certifying the candidate who won an election or
19 ordering a recount, a vote for the "I choose not to vote"
20 selection in the particular race under consideration shall be
21 treated as if the voter did not designate any selection in the
22 race.

23 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.