COUNT REQUIREMENTS AND COMMENTARY ON COUNT RULES

UPDATE NO. 2 DATED 9 APRIL, 2001

(A) FILLING OF LAST SEAT(S) SHORTCUTS

Section 11 of the Count Tender Specification outlines a number of shortcuts for finishing an election. In cases where there is one more continuing candidate (CC) than seats remaining (SR) and the conditions for a shortcut apply, more than one shortcut can be used to finish a count. This note indicates which is the preferred shortcut in such cases, viz. where there is no surplus available, the lowest continuing candidate (LCC) should be excluded and the candidates then continuing deemed elected. Where there is a surplus(es) available, the option which does not involve exclusion of the LCC should be used.

Examples follow of particular cases where there is a choice of shortcut finish.

1.   One seat remaining, two continuing candidates and no surplus available

In these cases where there is one SR, two CC and no surplus available (e.g. attached screen dump of S/P after count 6 of Mountmellick LEA 99), all the shortcuts could apply:

❑   Exclude the LCC and then CC=SR; or

❑   CC>SR by 1 or One SR [these two shortcuts are effectively identical in this situation].

In such cases the preferred shortcut is the first, viz. "Exclude LCC and then CC=SR". The text of the Next Step section of the Statement screen is as set out on pages 121/2 (section 25) of the Count Tender Specification.

2.   One seat remaining, two continuing candidates and surpluses available

In this case (e.g. attached screen dump of S/P after count 9 of Bruff LEA 99), either the "CC>SR by 1" or the "One SR" shortcut could apply - these two shortcuts are effectively identical in this situation.

In this case, the "One SR" shortcut is the preferred option. The text of the Next Step section of the Statement screen is as set out on page 124 (section 25) of the Count Tender Specification.

3. **Number of continuing candidates exceeds by one the number of seats remaining and <u>no</u> surplus available**

In this case (e.g. attached screen dump of S/P after count 9 of Bailieborough LEA 1999), both the "Exclude the LCC and then CC=SR" or the "CC>SR by 1" shortcut could apply.

The preferred option is the first, viz. the "Exclude the LCC and then CC=SR" shortcut. The text of the Next Step section of the Statement screen is as set out on pages 121/2 (section 25) of the Count Tender Specification.

4. **Number of continuing candidates exceeds by one the number of seats remaining and a surplus(es) available**

In this case (e.g. attached screen dump of S/P after count 12 of Tullamore LEA 1999), both the "Exclude the LCC and then CC=SR" and the "CC>SR by 1" shortcut could apply simultaneously. The preferred option is the second, viz. the "CC>SR by 1" shortcut. The text of the Next Step section of the Statement screen is as set out on page 123 (section 25) of the Count Tender Specification.

<center>(B) E<small>XCLUDING CANDIDATE(S) WITH ZERO VOTES</small></center>

Section 24 (page 112) of the Count Tender Specification provides that candidate(s) with zero votes should never be excluded on his/her/their own. Section 9 (page 30) provides that all candidates with zero votes must be excluded in one operation, together with the lowest candidate(s) who have any votes.

In cases where the <u>single</u> lowest candidate with any votes is excluded in one operation with any/all candidate(s) with zero votes, the Next Step section of the Statement screen should <u>not</u> outline "multiple exclusion" reasons for the operation as it is not a true multiple exclusion. Instead the entry in the Next Step section should read as follows:

" The following candidate(s) with zero votes will now be excluded :

<First Name(s)> or <Initial(s)> <Surname>, <Party Abbrev. or "Non-P" or "blank"
[etc.]"

[The candidates should be listed in ballot paper order, with the candidate listed first on the ballot paper listed first]

"In addition, <First Name(s)> or <Initial(s)>, <Surname>, <Party Abbrev. or "Non-P" or "blank"> will also be excluded because he/she is the lowest ["*" see Section 24(3) of the count Tender Specification in cases where two or more lowest candidates have equal votes] candidate with any votes."

In cases where two or more candidates with any votes are excluded in one operation along with any/all candidate(s) with zero votes, the Next Step section of the Statement screen should outline "multiple exclusion" reasons for the operation. However any reference in these reasons to the "second lowest candidate" should be amended to refer to the "second lowest candidate with any votes".

(C) REPORT WRITING

Section 1 (page 4) of the Count Tender Specification states that it should be possible for users to generate ad-hoc reports from the system. This is particularly relevant for post-count election statistics (section 38) where a wide variety of data may be required. Data will be required for each constituency and at national level. In the case of the latter, national data will be required for elections which are conducted at a constituency level, notably general elections. In such cases it will be necessary to load all the general election data files on a central PC and interrogate them to retrieve certain national data.

Section 38 of the Count Tender Specification outlines certain post-count Election Statistics that the system will be required to generate. Examples of other types of data which will be required at both constituency and national levels are as follows:

❑ The number of counts;

- ❏ The total numbers of men and women who stood and were elected – in numbers and expressed as a percentage of the total number of people who stood and were elected. The names and constituencies of the people concerned should be listed in each case. This information should also be given in relation to each party;

- ❏ Based on the number of first preference votes and also in terms of the multiple of the quota secured on the first count,

    who received the top ten votes nationally

    the top two in each constituency

    The names, constituencies and relevant statistics of the persons concerned should be listed. The information be made available on a national basis in relation to each party;

- ❏ How many candidates were elected on the first count – the names and constituencies (the latter in the case of national figures) of the persons concerned should be listed;

- ❏ How many candidates were elected without reaching the quota? – the names, constituencies and quotas (the last two in the case of national figures) should be listed;

- ❏ How many candidates lost their deposit overall and by party – list total numbers and names of the persons and constituencies concerned.

❑

Election Count Database System - [State Of The Poll]

Option

Count 6

State of Poll - Mountmellick LEA, Laois County Council

No. of Candidates	7	
Number of Seats	4	
Seats Filled	3	

Invalid Ballot Papers	66	
Valid Poll	4,080	
Total Poll	4,146	

Quota	817	
To Save Deposit	205	

Name	Party	Votes This Count	Total Votes	Status	Available Surpluses	To Reach Quota	To Save Deposit
Moloney, John Anthony	F.F.	-	817	Elected	-	-	-
McDonald, Seamus	F.F.	-53	817	Elected	-	-	-
Goodwin, David	F.G.	-	817	Elected	-	-	-
Conroy, David	F.G.	40	758		-	59	-
Digan, Joseph	F.F.	13	756		-	61	-
Feighery, Denis	F.G.	-	-	Excluded	-	-	-
Bowe, Patrick	Non-P	-	-	Excluded	-	-	-

Non-Transferable Not Effective		0	115	All Records Are Shown
Totals			4,080	0

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Election Count Database System - [State Of The Poll]

Option

Count 9

State of Poll - Bruff LEA, Limerick County Council

No. of Candidates	13	Invalid Ballot Papers	112	Quota	1,285
Number of Seats	7	Valid Poll	10,278	To Save Deposit	322
Seats Filled	6	Total Poll	10,390		

Name	Party	Votes This Count	Total Votes	Status	Available Surpluses	To Reach Quota	To Save Deposit
Brennan, Michael	F.F.	-	1285	Elected	-	-	-
O'Malley, Tim	P.D.	-	1285	Elected	-	-	-
Hurley, Cormac	F.G.	-	1285	Elected	-	-	-
Clifford, John	F.F.	-	1285	Elected	-	-	-
Butler, Richard	F.G.	182	1415	Elected	130	-	-
Enright, Leonard	F.F.	55	1316	Elected	31	-	-
Marsh, Sandra	F.F.	123	1133		-	152	-
Costello, Edmond	F.G.	63	759		-	526	-
Keyes-Bevan, Trisha	Lab.	-634	-	Excluded	-	-	-
Fitzgerald, Patrick C.	F.F.	-	-	Excluded	-	-	-
Hennessy, Pat	P.D.	-	-	Excluded	-	-	-
Elder, David Peter Paul	G.P.	-	-	Excluded	-	-	-
Riordan, Denis	Non-P	-	-	Excluded	-	-	-

Non-Transferable Not Effective	211	515		All Records Are Shown
Totals		10,278	161	

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Election Count Database System - [State Of The Poll]

Option

Count 9

State of Poll - Bailieborough LEA, Cavan County Council

No. of Candidates	12	Invalid Ballot Papers	108	Quota	1,000
Number of Seats	7	Valid Poll	7,996	To Save Deposit	251
Seats Filled	5	Total Poll	8,104		

Name	Party	Votes This Count	Total Votes	Status	Available Surpluses	To Reach Quota	To Save Deposit
O'Reilly, Joe	F.G.	-	1000	Elected	-	-	-
Boyle, Aiden	F.G.	-	1000	Elected	-	-	-
Kelly, Clifford	F.F.	-	1000	Elected	-	-	-
Turner, Winston	Non-P	-	1000	Elected	-	-	-
Giles, Michael	F.F.	-79	1000	Elected	-	-	-
Smith, Turlough	F.F.	16	912		-	88	-
McDermott, Francis	F.F.	18	870		-	130	-
McDonald, Paddy	S.F.	6	804		-	196	-
Kettyle, Freddie	Non-P	-	-	Excluded	-	-	-
Keenan, Philomena	F.F.	-	-	Excluded	-	-	-
Sherlock, Johnny	F.G.	-	-	Excluded	-	-	-
Kivlehan, Damien	C.S.P.	-	-	Excluded	-	-	-

Non-Transferable Not Effective	39	410		All Records Are
Totals		7,996	0	Shown

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Election Count Database System - [State Of The Poll]

Option

Count 12

State of Poll - Tullamore LEA, Offaly County Council

No. of Candidates	16	Invalid Ballot Papers	159		Quota		1,191	
Number of Seats	7	Valid Poll	9,526		To Save Deposit		298	
Seats Filled	4	Total Poll	9,685					

Name	Party	Votes This Count	Total Votes	Status	Available Surpluses	To Reach Quota	To Save Deposit
Gallagher, Pat	Lab.	-	1191	Elected	-	-	-
Cowen, Barry	F.F.	-	1191	Elected	-	-	-
Flanagan, John	F.F.	-330	1191	Elected	-	-	-
McKeigue, Tommy	F.G.	-	1224	Elected	33	-	-
Dolan, Thomas C.	Non-P	19	1071		-	120	-
Buckley, Molly	Non-P	37	986		-	205	-
Fox, Michael	F.G.	35	944		-	247	-
Butterfield, John	Non-P	37	864		-	327	-
O'Callaghan, Miriam	F.F.	-	-	Excluded	-	-	-
Feery, Frank	Non-P	-	-	Excluded	-	-	-
Mahon, Michael	F.F.	-	-	Excluded	-	-	-
O'Connor, Oliver	S.F.	-	-	Excluded	-	-	-
O'Brien, Seán	Lab.	-	-	Excluded	-	-	-
Bermingham, Vincent	F.F.	-	-	Excluded	-	-	-

	Votes This Count	Total Votes		Available Surpluses	
Non-Transferable Not Effective	202	864			Use Scrollbar To
Totals		9,526		33	View Other Records

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