

**Opinion No. 508****Elections—Road District Elections  
—Ballots—Voting, Manner of.**

HELD: The statutes of this state require the use of an "X" in preparing a legal ballot in the election of special road district directors.

April 11, 1934.

We acknowledge receipt of yours of the 23rd of March requesting an opinion by this office on the question as to whether, in an election of special road district directors, it is necessary for electors in preparing their ballots to place a cross opposite the name of the party they desire to vote for.

Sections 1654, and 1664, R. C., M. 1921 provides that such elections shall be held at the next general election.

Section 677, R. C. M., 1921, provides that "all ballots cast in elections for public officers within the State (except school district officers) must be printed \* \* \* as provided in this chapter." Section 678 requires the County Clerk to have the ballots prepared and printed, and "ballots other than those printed \* \* \* according to the provisions of this chapter must not be cast or counted in any election." The elector may write or paste the name of any person for whom he desires to vote on his ballot and must mark it as provided by Section 696. Section 696 requires the use of "X" by the elector before the name of the person for whom the elector desires to cast his vote.

We think the statutes quoted and others in the same Chapters require the use of an "X" in preparing a legal ballot in the election of special road district directors. There is not much room for doubt in the matter.