Election: 'We want to make sure everyone is aware of the options'

"We generally encourage write-in candidates to notify us they are going to run a write-in campaign because then we'll notify the clerks to specifically count them," said Massachusetts Secretary of the Commonwealth William Galvin. "If people randomly choose to write in a name, it'll be counted, but it could be counted as 'other.'"

One added hiccup this election could be voters who write in the name of Trump's GOP running mate, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence. U.S. Sen. Kelly Ayotte, the New Hampshire Republican locked in a tight re-election fight with Democratic Gov. Maggie Hassan, has said she'll do that.

Galvin said write-in votes for Pence in Massachusetts won't be counted for Trump. He's also concerned some voters might simply cross out Trump's name in an attempt to vote for Pence instead.

Another wild card this election is the candidacy of former CIA agent Evan McMullin, who has positioned himself as a conservative alternative to Trump and Clinton and whose campaign appears to be catching on in Utah.

The 40-year-old is on the ballot in 11 states. In other states, supporters have filed papers to have write-in ballots for McMullin tallied.

Flurry of hopefuls

Some states are hearing from a flurry of would-be White House hopefuls.

In Connecticut, 20 write-in candidates have registered with the secretary of the state to have their votes counted. The names won't appear on the ballot, but voting machines are programmed to accept votes for write-ins who have registered.

"Democracy is about choices," said Connecticut Secretary of the State Denise Merrill. "We want to make sure everyone is aware of the options available to them on Election Day."
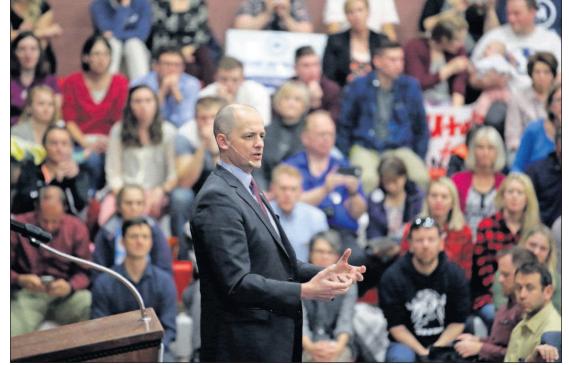
Ohio also won't individually tally the votes of write-in candidates, except for those who fill out paperwork. The Ohio secretary of state's office says 18 presidential hopefuls successfully submitted their write-in documents by an August deadline.

West Virginia also requires anyone seeking election to an office by write-in votes to complete a certificate. The West Virginia secretary of state's list shows a whopping 41 presidential candidates whose write-in votes

will be tallied.

In Oregon

Oregon is typical for the way some states handle write-in ballots.

The write-in votes will be tallied together, unless the total number of write-in votes equals or exceeds the largest number of votes cast for a candidate printed on the ballot for the same office.

In that case, the state will tally the number of votes for each write-in candidate.

Independent presidential candidate Evan McMullin speaks during a rally, in Draper, Utah, in October. Two months after he jumped into the presidential race as a political unknown, McMullin is surging in Utah polls and drawing large crowds of Republican-leaning voters fed up with Donald Trump's crudeness and antics. The 40-year-old is on the ballot in 11 states.

AP Photo
Rick Bowmer

Thousands of students statewide use Oregon Promise

Associated Press

PORTLAND — Thousands of Oregon students are taking advantage of a new state grant that waives community college tuition for low-income students.

The Oregonian that according to preliminary enrollment figures from state education officials, about 6,000 students statewide are taking community college classes through Oregon Promise.

Officials say that figure is about what was expected for the first-year program.

The Oregon Promise program subsidizes community college tuition for students who graduated from an Oregon high school in the spring or summer with at least a 2.5 cumulative GPA, or have completed their GED this year.

The largest number of Oregon Promise students attend Portland Community College, the state's largest post-secondary institution. Chemeketa Community College in Salem had the second most enrollees.