

Media Release - November 4 General Election

Possible Recount Information

Purpose

A recount is defined as the process of retabulating the votes for a specific office or issue on all valid ballots cast in the election. It is not a canvass of individual ballots; all questions of voter registration, voter qualification, and voter intent previously considered during the original count shall not be reconsidered during a recount of the original ballots.

Recount Threshold

Mandatory (machine) recounts are triggered if the difference between the candidates is **less than one half of one percent (.005) and also less than 2,000 votes**, a recount is required.

Manual (Hand Count) Recount

Manual recounts are triggered if in a statewide race, the difference between the candidates is less than **one quarter of one percent (.0025)** and also **less than 1,000 votes** or for all other offices, the difference between the candidates is **less than 150 votes and one quarter of one percent (.0025)**.

Recounts Occur After Election Certification

The General Election will be certified by the Pierce County Canvassing Board on November 25. The Office of the Secretary of State will certify the results on December 4. The need for a recount will be based upon these final results.

- The State orders recounts for state offices, state measures and multi-county legislative, congressional and judicial offices.
- The County Canvassing Board orders recounts for local offices and single jurisdictions.

Requested recounts must be made within 2 business days of the certification of the election.

- For offices, a candidate or officer of a political party for whom votes were cast may request a recount.
- For issues or measures, a group of five or more registered voters may request a recount.

Tentative Recount Dates

Should a recount be required for races from this General Election, recounts would tentatively begin:

- December 1 for a county race.
- December 8 for a state race.

Cost Estimates for a Requested Recount

In the case of a requested recount, the individual or group who makes the request pays for the recount unless the outcome is reversed, and then the county pays.

All requested recounts must be submitted no later than two business days after the certification of the election. A deposit equal to \$.15 (machine recount) or \$.25 (manual recount) per ballot by certified check or cash is required. Final cost of the recount will be determined by the canvassing board and may be more than the deposit.