STATE OF MICHIGAN
BUREAU OF ELECTIONS
LANSING

# Chronology of Recount Process: November 4, 2014 General Election

## Certification of Results

- County Canvassing Boards convene at 1:00 p.m. on November 5, 2014 to initiate canvass of the general election.

- County Canvassing Boards complete canvass of general election no later than November 18, 2014. Results for county and local offices are certified as official. Results for state-level offices are forwarded to Secretary of State within 24 hours.

- Board of State Canvassers certifies state-level offices no later than November 24, 2014. Board authorizes staff to act on its behalf if recounts are requested.

## Petitioning Process

- A candidate who seeks election to a county office, township office, the office of Probate Judge (Probate District and other judicial offices file with Secretary of State, see below) or any other local office on the general election ballot who wishes to obtain a recount must submit a "recount petition" to the county clerk within six days after the Board of County Canvassers certified the results for the office involved.

  A candidate who seeks election to the office of U.S. Representative in Congress, State Senator, State Representative, or a judicial office (except Probate Judge which is filed with county clerk) who wishes to obtain a recount must submit a "recount petition" to the Secretary of State within 48 hours after the Board of State Canvassers certified the results for the office involved.

  - Petition must be notarized.

  - Petition must claim "fraud or mistake" in the canvass of votes.

  - Petition must specify precincts to be recounted. (Can request a "full" recount or "partial" recount.)

  - A $10.00 deposit per precinct must be included with petition. (Deposit returned if election is reversed.)

  - If the office of State Representative is involved, a copy of the petition must be filed with the clerk of the State House of Representatives. If the office of State Senator is involved, a copy of the petition must be filed with the Secretary of the Senate.

- Official receiving recount petition immediately notifies all opponents that recount petition has been filed.

- Opponents can "counter petition" if a partial recount. If original recount petition was submitted on the county level, counter petition must be filed within 48 hours after the submission of original petition. If original recount petition was filed with the Secretary of State, counter petition must be filed by 4:00 p.m. on the seventh calendar day after the submission of original petition. Opponents can also file objections by 4:00 p.m. on the seventh calendar day after submission of original petition. If objections are filed, the canvassing board responsible for conducting the recount holds a hearing to consider the objections.

**Coordination of State-Level Recounts; Conduct of Local Recounts**

- As soon as the state-level recount deadline elapses, Secretary of State contacts the clerks of the counties where recounts are requested to initiate coordination of recount. Considerations:

  - Date, time and place.

  - Coordination of an orientation/training session with Board of County Canvassers, candidates, and representatives of candidates. (Usually held immediately prior to conduct of recount.)

  - Rules and procedures.

- Counties where recounts will not be conducted under the authority of the Board of State Canvassers are advised to proceed with any local recounts which must be conducted under the authority of Board of County Canvassers.

**Conduct of State-Level Recounts**

- As soon as arrangements for any requested state-level recounts are complete, a packet of information is forwarded to each candidate giving full details on the coordination of the recount. The counties post recount notices provided by the Bureau.

- At the appointed time and place, the recount is convened and is conducted under the direction of the Board of State Canvassers' representative.

- The recount process takes place at "work tables."

  - The number of work tables set up in any given county depends on the number of ballots to be counted. Two to three workers are assigned to each work table.

  - The county is responsible for hiring the personnel needed to staff the work tables.

  - Each candidate can have up to two "challengers" at each work table.

- The ballots are counted under the state laws, rules and policies which govern the process.

  - All ballots are recounted by hand.

- Michigan is not a voter intent state: the voter must follow instructions and cast vote by marking "target area." Any markings outside of "target area" cannot be considered.

- If there is a dispute over how a ballot is counted, the ballot is placed in an "exhibit envelope."
  - Ballot is inspected by Board of County Canvassers who can overrule or uphold how ballot was counted at "work table." Board votes on each challenged ballot; if a deadlock, manner in which ballot was counted at work table stands.
  - Board's decision can be appealed to Board of State Canvassers' representative who can overrule or uphold decision made by Board of County Canvassers.
  - Any decisions made by Board of State Canvassers' representative can be appealed to Board of State Canvassers when it next convenes.
- Recount must be completed no later than the 20th calendar day after the deadline for submitting a "counter petition." Recount is halted if original petitioner withdraws.
- If recount is completed, the Board of State Canvassers convenes to hear any challenges which the candidates wish to present. After ruling on any presented challenges, the Board certifies the result of the recount.

If disputes remain, the aggrieved party must proceed to court.