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CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

ARTICLE II

Section 1, Clause 2. Presidential Electors

Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress: but no Senator or Representative, or Person holding an Office of Trust or Profit under the United States, shall be appointed an Elector.

UNITED STATES CODE

3 U.S.C. § 1 Time of Appointing Electors

The electors of President and Vice President shall be appointed, in each State, on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November, in every fourth year succeeding every election of a President and Vice President.

3 U.S.C. § 2 Failure to Make Choice on Prescribed Day

Whenever any State has held an election for the purpose of choosing electors, and has failed to make a choice on the day prescribed by law, the electors may be appointed on a subsequent day in such a manner as the legislature of such State may direct.

3. U.S.C. § 5 Determination of Controversy as to Appointment of Electors

If any State shall have provided, by laws enacted prior to the day fixed for the appointment of the electors, for its final determination of any controversy or contest concerning the appointment of all or any of the electors of such State, by judicial or other methods or procedures, and such determination shall have been made at least six days before the time fixed for the meeting of the electors, such determination made pursuant to such law so existing on said day, and made at least six days prior to said time of meeting of the electors, shall be conclusive, and shall govern in the counting of the electoral votes as provided in the Constitution, and as hereinafter regulated, so far as the ascertainment of the electors appointed by such State is concerned.

3 U.S.C. § 15 Counting electoral votes in Congress

Congress shall be in session on the sixth day of January

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succeeding every meeting of the electors. The Senate and House of Representatives shall meet in the Hall of the House of Representatives at the hour of 1 o'clock in the afternoon on that day, and the President of the Senate shall be their presiding officer. Two tellers shall be previously appointed on the part of the Senate and two on the part of the House of Representatives, to whom shall be handed, as they are opened by the President of the Senate, all the certificates and papers purporting to be certificates of the electoral votes, which certificates and papers shall be opened, presented, and acted upon in the alphabetical order of the States, beginning with the letter A; and said tellers, having then read the same in the presence and hearing of the two Houses, shall make a list of the votes as they shall appear from the said certificates; and the votes having been ascertained and counted according to the rules in this subchapter provided, the result of the same shall be delivered to the President of the Senate, who shall thereupon announce the state of the vote, which announcement shall be deemed a sufficient declaration of the persons, if any, elected President and Vice President of the United States, and, together with a list of the votes, be entered on the Journals of the two Houses. Upon such reading of any such certificate or paper, the President of the Senate shall call for objections, if any. Every objection shall be made in writing, and shall state clearly and concisely, and without argument, the ground thereof, and shall be signed by at least one Senator and one Member of the House of Representatives before the same shall be received. When all objections so made to any vote or paper from a State shall have been received and read, the Senate shall thereupon withdraw, and such objections shall be submitted to the Senate for its decision; and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall, in like manner, submit such objections to the House of Representatives for its decision; and no electoral vote or votes from any State which shall have been regularly given by electors whose appointment has been lawfully certified to according to section 6 of this title from which but one return has been received shall be rejected, but the two Houses concurrently may reject the vote or votes when they agree that

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such vote or votes have not been so regularly given by electors whose appointment has been so certified. If more than one return or paper purporting to be a return from a State shall have been received by the President of the Senate, those votes, and those only, shall be counted which shall have been regularly given by the electors who are shown by the determination mentioned in section 5 of this title to have been appointed, if the determination in said section provided for shall have been made, or by such successors or substitutes, in case of a vacancy in the board of electors so ascertained, as have been appointed to fill such vacancy in the mode provided by the laws of the State; but in case there shall arise the question which of two or more of such State authorities determining what electors have been appointed, as mentioned in section 5 of this title, is the lawful tribunal of such State, the votes regularly given of those electors, and those only, of such State shall be counted whose title as electors the two Houses, acting separately, shall concurrently decide is supported by the decision of such State so authorized by its law; and in such case of more than one return or paper purporting to be a return from a State, if there shall have been no such determination of the question in the State aforesaid, then those votes, and those only, shall be counted which the two Houses shall concurrently decide were cast by lawful electors appointed in accordance with the laws of the State, unless the two Houses, acting separately, shall concurrently decide such votes not to be the lawful votes of the legally appointed electors of such State. But if the two Houses shall disagree in respect of the counting of such votes, then, and in that case, the votes of the electors whose appointment shall have been certified by the executive of the State, under the seal thereof, shall be counted. When the two Houses have voted, they shall immediately again meet, and the presiding officer shall then announce the decision of the questions submitted. No votes or papers from any other State shall be acted upon until the objections previously made to the votes or papers from any State shall have been finally disposed of.

FLORIDA CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

FLORIDA CONSTITUTION -- ARTICLE III, Legislature

§ 1. Composition

The legislative power of the state shall be vested in a legislature of the State of Florida, consisting of a senate composed of one senator elected from each senatorial district and a house of representatives composed of one member elected from each representative district.

ARTICLE V

Judiciary

§ 3. Supreme court

(a) Organization.--The supreme court shall consist of seven justices. Of the seven justices, each appellate district shall have at least one justice elected or appointed from the district to the supreme court who is a resident of the district at the time of the original appointment or election. Five justices shall constitute a quorum. The concurrence of four justices shall be necessary to a decision. When recusals for cause would prohibit the court from convening because of the requirements of this section, judges assigned to temporary duty may be substituted for justices.

(b) Jurisdiction.--The supreme court:

(1) Shall hear appeals from final judgments of trial courts imposing the death penalty and from decisions of district courts of appeal declaring invalid a state statute or a provision of the state constitution.

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(2) When provided by general law, shall hear appeals from final judgments entered in proceedings for the validation of bonds or certificates of indebtedness and shall review action of statewide agencies relating to rates or service of utilities providing electric, gas, or telephone service.

(3) May review any decision of a district court of appeal that expressly declares valid a state statute, or that expressly construes a provision of the state or federal constitution, or that expressly affects a class of constitutional or state officers, or that expressly and directly conflicts with a decision of another district court of appeal or of the supreme court on the same question of law.

(4) May review any decision of a district court of appeal that passes upon a question certified by it to be of great public importance, or that is certified by it to be in direct conflict with a decision of another district court of appeal.

(5) May review any order or judgment of a trial court certified by the district court of appeal in which an appeal is pending to be of great public importance, or to have a great effect on the proper administration of justice throughout the state, and certified to require immediate resolution by the supreme court.

(6) May review a question of law certified by the Supreme Court of the United States or a United States Court of Appeals which is determinative of the cause and for which there is no controlling precedent of the supreme court of Florida.

(7) May issue writs of prohibition to courts and all writs necessary to the complete exercise of its jurisdiction.

(8) May issue writs of mandamus and quo warranto to state officers and state agencies.

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(9) May, or any justice may, issue writs of habeas corpus returnable before the supreme court or any justice, a district court of appeal or any judge thereof, or any circuit judge.

(10) Shall, when requested by the attorney general pursuant to the provisions of Section 10 of Article IV, render an advisory opinion of the justices, addressing issues as provided by general law.

(c) Clerk and marshal.--The supreme court shall appoint a clerk and a marshal who shall hold office during the pleasure of the court and perform such duties as the court directs. Their compensation shall be fixed by general law. The marshal shall have the power to execute the process of the court throughout the state, and in any county may deputize the sheriff or a deputy sheriff for such purpose.

ARTICLE XI Amendments

§ 1. Proposal by legislature

Amendment of a section or revision of one or more articles, or the whole, of this constitution may be proposed by joint resolution agreed to by three-fifths of the membership of each house of the legislature. The full text of the joint resolution and the vote of each member voting shall be entered on the journal of each house.

FLORIDA STATUTES

Fla. Stat. Ann § 101.5614 Canvass of returns

(1)(a) In precincts in which an electronic or electromechanical voting system is used, as soon as the polls are closed, the election board shall secure the voting devices against further voting. The election board shall thereafter open the ballot box in the presence of members of the public desiring to witness the proceedings and count the number of voted ballots, unused ballots, and spoiled ballots to ascertain whether such number corresponds with the number of ballots issued by the supervisor. If there is a difference, this fact shall be reported in writing to the county canvassing board with the reasons therefor if known. The total number of voted ballots shall be entered on the forms provided. The proceedings of the election board at the precinct after the polls have closed shall be open to the public; however, no person except a member of the election board shall touch any ballot or ballot container or interfere with or obstruct the orderly count of the ballots.

(b) In lieu of opening the ballot box at the precinct, the supervisor may direct the election board to keep the ballot box sealed and deliver it to a central or regional counting location. In this case, the election board shall count the stubs removed from the ballots to determine the number of voted ballots.

(2)(a) If the ballots are to be tallied at a central location or at no more than three regional locations, the election board shall place all ballots that have been cast and the unused, void, and defective ballots in the container or containers provided for this purpose, which shall be sealed and delivered forthwith to the central or regional counting location or other designated location by two inspectors who shall not, whenever possible, be of the same political party. The election board shall certify that the ballots were placed in such container or containers and each container was sealed in its presence and under its supervision,

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and it shall further certify to the number of ballots of each type placed in the container or containers.

(b) If ballots are to be counted at the precincts, such ballots shall be counted pursuant to rules adopted by the Department of State, which rules shall provide safeguards which conform as nearly as practicable to the safeguards provided in the procedures for the counting of votes at a central location.

(3)(a) All proceedings at the central or regional counting location or other designated location shall be under the direction of the county canvassing board and shall be open to the public, but no person except a person employed and authorized for the purpose shall touch any ballot or ballot container, any item of automatic tabulating equipment, or any return prior to its release. If the ballots are tabulated at regional locations, one member of the canvassing board or a person designated by the board to represent it shall be present at each location during the testing of the counting equipment and the tabulation of the ballots.

(b) If ballots are tabulated at regional locations, the results of such election may be transmitted via dedicated teleprocessing lines to the main computer system for the purpose of compilation of complete returns. The security guidelines for transmission of returns by dedicated teleprocessing lines shall conform to rules adopted by the Department of State pursuant to s. 101.015.

(4) If ballot cards are used, and separate write-in ballots or envelopes for casting write-in votes are used, write-in ballots or the envelopes on which write-in ballots have been cast shall be serially numbered, starting with the number one, and the same number shall be placed on the ballot card of the voter. This process may be completed at either the precinct by the election board or at the central counting location. For each ballot or ballot and ballot envelope on which write-in votes have been cast, the canvassing board shall compare the write-in votes with

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the votes cast on the ballot card; if the total number of votes for any office exceeds the number allowed by law, a notation to that effect, specifying the office involved, shall be entered on the back of the ballot card or in a margin if voting areas are printed on both sides of the ballot card. Such votes shall not be counted. All valid votes shall be tallied by the canvassing board.

(5) If any ballot card of the type for which the offices and measures are not printed directly on the card is damaged or defective so that it cannot properly be counted by the automatic tabulating equipment, a true duplicate copy shall be made of the damaged ballot card in the presence of witnesses and substituted for the damaged ballot. Likewise, a duplicate ballot card shall be made of a defective ballot which shall not include the invalid votes. All duplicate ballot cards shall be clearly labeled "duplicate," bear a serial number which shall be recorded on the damaged or defective ballot card, and be counted in lieu of the damaged or defective ballot. If any ballot card of the type for which offices and measures are printed directly on the card is damaged or defective so that it cannot properly be counted by the automatic tabulating equipment, a true duplicate copy may be made of the damaged ballot card in the presence of witnesses and in the manner set forth above, or the valid votes on the damaged ballot card may be manually counted at the counting center by the canvassing board, whichever procedure is best suited to the system used. If any paper ballot is damaged or defective so that it cannot be counted properly by the automatic tabulating equipment, the ballot shall be counted manually at the counting center by the canvassing board. The totals for all such ballots or ballot cards counted manually shall be added to the totals for the several precincts or election districts. No vote shall be declared invalid or void if there is a clear indication of the intent of the voter as determined by the canvassing board. After duplicating a ballot, the defective ballot shall be placed in an envelope provided for that purpose, and the duplicate ballot shall be tallied with the other ballots for that precinct.

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(6) If an elector marks more names than there are persons to be elected to an office or if it is impossible to determine the elector's choice, the elector's ballot shall not be counted for that office, but the ballot shall not be invalidated as to those names which are properly marked.

(7) Absentee ballots may be counted by automatic tabulating equipment if they have been punched or marked in a manner which will enable them to be properly counted by such equipment.

(8) The return printed by the automatic tabulating equipment, to which has been added the return of write-in, absentee, and manually counted votes, shall constitute the official return of the election. Upon completion of the count, the returns shall be open to the public. A copy of the returns may be posted at the central counting place or at the office of the supervisor of elections in lieu of the posting of returns at individual precincts.

Fla. Stat. Ann. § 102.166 Protest of Election Returns; Procedure

(1) Any candidate for nomination or election, or any elector qualified to vote in the election related to such candidacy, shall have the right to protest the returns of the election as being erroneous by filing with the appropriate canvassing board a sworn, written protest.

(2) Such protest shall be filed with the canvassing board prior to the time the canvassing board certifies the results for the office being protested or within 5 days after midnight of the date the election is held, whichever occurs later.

(3) Before canvassing the returns of the election, the canvassing board shall:

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(a) When paper ballots are used, examine the tabulation of the paper ballots cast.

(b) When voting machines are used, examine the counters on the machines of nonprinter machines or the printer-pac on printer machines. If there is a discrepancy between the returns and the counters of the machines or the printer-pac, the counters of such machines or the printer-pac shall be presumed correct.

(c) When electronic or electromechanical equipment is used, the canvassing board shall examine precinct records and election returns. If there is a clerical error, such error shall be corrected by the county canvassing board. If there is a discrepancy which could affect the outcome of an election, the canvassing board may recount the ballots on the automatic tabulating equipment.

(4) (a) Any candidate whose name appeared on the ballot, any political committee that supports or opposes an issue which appeared on the ballot, or any political party whose candidates' names appeared on the ballot may file a written request with the county canvassing board for a manual recount. The written request shall contain a statement of the reason the manual recount is being requested.

(b) Such request must be filed with the canvassing board prior to the time the canvassing board certifies the results for the office being protested or within 72 hours after midnight of the date the election was held, whichever occurs later.

(c) The county canvassing board may authorize a manual recount. If a manual recount is authorized, the county canvassing board shall make a reasonable effort to notify each candidate whose race is being recounted of the time and place of such recount.

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(d) The manual recount must include at least three precincts and at least 1 percent of the total votes cast for such candidate or issue. In the event there are less than three precincts involved in the election, all precincts shall be counted. The person who requested the recount shall choose three precincts to be recounted, and, if other precincts are recounted, the county canvassing board shall select the additional precincts.

(5) If the manual recount indicates an error in the vote tabulation which could affect the outcome of the election, the county canvassing board shall:

(a) Correct the error and recount the remaining precincts with the vote tabulation system;

(b) Request the Department of State to verify the tabulation software; or

(c) Manually recount all ballots.

(6) Any manual recount shall be open to the public.

(7) Procedures for a manual recount are as follows:

(a) The county canvassing board shall appoint as many counting teams of at least two electors as is necessary to manually recount the ballots. A counting team must have, when possible, members of at least two political parties. A candidate involved in the race shall not be a member of the counting team.

(b) If a counting team is unable to determine a voter's intent in casting a ballot, the ballot shall be presented to the county canvassing board for it to determine the voter's intent.

(8) If the county canvassing board determines the need to verify the tabulation software, the county canvassing board shall request in writing that the Department of State verify the

software.

(9) When the Department of State verifies such software, the department shall:

(a) Compare the software used to tabulate the votes with the software filed with the Department of State pursuant to s. 101.5607; and

(b) Check the election parameters.

(10) The Department of State shall respond to the county canvassing board within 3 working days.

Fla. Stat. Ann § 102.168 Contest of election

(1) Except as provided in s. 102.171, the certification of election or nomination of any person to office, or of the result on any question submitted by referendum, may be contested in the circuit court by any unsuccessful candidate for such office or nomination thereto or by any elector qualified to vote in the election related to such candidacy, or by any taxpayer, respectively.

(2) Such contestant shall file a complaint, together with the fees prescribed in chapter 28, with the clerk of the circuit court within 10 days after midnight of the date the last county canvassing board empowered to canvass the returns certifies the results of the election being contested or within 5 days after midnight of the date the last county canvassing board empowered to canvass the returns certifies the results of that particular election following a protest pursuant to s. 102.166(1), whichever occurs later.

(3) The complaint shall set forth the grounds on which the contestant intends to establish his or her right to such office or set aside the result of the election on a submitted referendum.

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The grounds for contesting an election under this section are:

(a) Misconduct, fraud, or corruption on the part of any election official or any member of the canvassing board sufficient to change or place in doubt the result of the election.

(b) Ineligibility of the successful candidate for the nomination or office in dispute.

(c) Receipt of a number of illegal votes or rejection of a number of legal votes sufficient to change or place in doubt the result of the election.

(d) Proof that any elector, election official, or canvassing board member was given or offered a bribe or reward in money, property, or any other thing of value for the purpose of procuring the successful candidate's nomination or election or determining the result on any question submitted by referendum.

(e) Any other cause or allegation which, if sustained, would show that a person other than the successful candidate was the person duly nominated or elected to the office in question or that the outcome of the election on a question submitted by referendum was contrary to the result declared by the canvassing board or election board.

(4) The canvassing board or election board shall be the proper party defendant, and the successful candidate shall be an indispensable party to any action brought to contest the election or nomination of a candidate.

(5) A statement of the grounds of contest may not be rejected, nor the proceedings dismissed, by the court for any want of form if the grounds of contest provided in the statement are sufficient to clearly inform the defendant of the particular proceeding or cause for which the nomination or election is contested.

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(6) A copy of the complaint shall be served upon the defendant and any other person named therein in the same manner as in other civil cases under the laws of this state. Within 10 days after the complaint has been served, the defendant must file an answer admitting or denying the allegations on which the contestant relies or stating that the defendant has no knowledge or information concerning the allegations, which shall be deemed a denial of the allegations, and must state any other defenses, in law or fact, on which the defendant relies. If an answer is not filed within the time prescribed, the defendant may not be granted a hearing in court to assert any claim or objection that is required by this subsection to be stated in an answer.

(7) Any candidate, qualified elector, or taxpayer presenting such a contest to a circuit judge is entitled to an immediate hearing. However, the court in its discretion may limit the time to be consumed in taking testimony, with a view therein to the circumstances of the matter and to the proximity of any succeeding primary or other election.

(8) The circuit judge to whom the contest is presented may fashion such orders as he or she deems necessary to ensure that each allegation in the complaint is investigated, examined, or checked, to prevent or correct any alleged wrong, and to provide any relief appropriate under such circumstances.

**CALIFORNIA STATUTES
ELECTIONS CODE DIVISION 15.
SEMIFINAL OFFICIAL CANVASS, OFFICIAL
CANVASS, RECOUNT, AND TIE VOTE PROCEDURES
CHAPTER 9. RECOUNT
ARTICLE 3. VOTER-REQUESTED RECOUNTS**

§ 15627. Method of recount

If in the election which is to be recounted the votes were recorded by means of a punchcard voting system or by electronic

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or electromechanical vote tabulating devices, the voter who files the declaration requesting the recount may select whether the recount shall be conducted manually or by means of the voting system used originally, or both.

COLORADO

§ 1-10.5-102. Recounts for congressional, state, and district offices, state ballot questions, and state ballot issues

(1) If the secretary of state determines that a recount is required for the office of United States senator, representative in congress, any state office or district office of state concern, any state ballot question, or any state ballot issue certified for the ballot by the secretary of state, the secretary of state shall order a complete recount of all the votes cast for that office, state ballot question, or state ballot issue no later than the fourteenth day after the election.

(2) The secretary of state shall notify the county clerk and recorder of each county involved by registered mail and facsimile transmission of a public recount to be conducted in the county at a place prescribed by the secretary of state. The recount shall be completed by no later than the twenty-first day after any election. The secretary of state shall promulgate and provide each county clerk and recorder with the necessary rules and regulations to conduct the recount in a fair, impartial, and uniform manner, including provisions for watchers during the recount. Any rule or regulation concerning the conduct of a recount shall take into account the type of voting system and equipment used by the county in which the recount is to be conducted.

(3) Prior to any recount, the canvass board shall choose a precinct at random and a test number of ballots on which to conduct a machine count and hand count of ballots. The precinct chosen shall have at least fifty ballots for the count. If the results of the machine count and the hand count are identical, then the recount shall be conducted in the same manner as the original ballot count.

ILLINOIS STATUTES
CHAPTER 10. ELECTIONS
ACT 5. ELECTION CODE
ARTICLE 24A. ELECTRONIC, MECHANICAL OR
ELECTRIC VOTING SYSTEMS

5/24A-15.1. Discovery, recounts and election contests

§ 24A-15.1. Except as herein provided, discovery recounts and election contests shall be conducted as otherwise provided for in "The Election Code", as amended. The automatic tabulating equipment shall be tested prior to the discovery recount or election contest as provided in Section 24A-9, and then the official ballots or ballot cards shall be recounted on the automatic tabulating equipment. In addition, (1) the ballot or ballot cards shall be checked for the presence or absence of judges' initials and other distinguishing marks, and (2) the ballots marked "Rejected", "Defective", "Objected to" and "Absentee Ballot" shall be examined to determine the propriety of the such labels, and (3) the "Duplicate Absentee Ballots", "Duplicate Overvoted Ballots" and "Duplicate Damaged Ballots" shall be compared with their respective originals to determine the correctness of the duplicates.

Any person who has filed a petition for discovery recount may request that a redundant count be conducted in those precincts in which the discovery recount is being conducted. The additional costs of such a redundant count shall be borne by the requesting party.

The log of the computer operator and all materials retained by the election authority in relation to vote tabulation and canvass shall be made available for any discovery recount or election contest.

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**INDIANA CODE
TITLE 3. ELECTIONS
ARTICLE 12. ASCERTAINING RESULTS OF
ELECTIONS
CHAPTER 3. COUNTING OF BALLOT CARD VOTES**

3-12-3-13 Recount; procedure

Sec. 13. In case of a recount, all ballot cards shall be recounted in the manner prescribed by this chapter unless:

- (1) the court ordering the recount or the state recount commission directs that they be counted manually; or
- (2) a request for a manual recount is made under IC 3-12-6 or IC 3-12- 11.

IOWA CODE
TITLE II. ELECTIONS AND OFFICIAL DUTIES
SUBTITLE 1. ELECTIONS
CHAPTER 50. CANVASS OF VOTES

50.48. General recount provisions

1. The county board of canvassers shall order a recount of the votes cast for a particular office or nomination in one or more specified election precincts in that county if a written request therefor is made not later than five o'clock p.m. on the third day following the county board's canvass of the election in question. The request shall be filed with the commissioner of that county, or with the commissioner responsible for conducting the election if section 47.2, subsection 2 is applicable, and shall be signed by either of the following:

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a. A candidate for that office or nomination whose name was printed on the ballot of the precinct or precincts where the recount is requested.

b. Any other person who receives votes for that particular office or nomination in the precinct or precincts where the recount is requested and who is legally qualified to seek and to hold the office in question.

Immediately upon receipt of a request for a recount, the commissioner shall send a copy of the request to the apparent winner by certified mail. The commissioner shall also attempt to contact the apparent winner by telephone. If the apparent winner cannot be reached within four days, the chairperson of the political party or organization which nominated the apparent winner shall be contacted and shall act on behalf of the apparent winner, if necessary. For candidates for state or federal offices, the chairperson of the state party shall be contacted. For candidates for county offices, the county chairperson of the party shall be contacted.

2. The candidate requesting a recount under this section shall post a bond, unless the abstracts prepared pursuant to section 50.24, or section 43.49 in the case of a primary election, indicate that the difference between the total number of votes cast for the apparent winner and the total number of votes cast for the candidate requesting the recount is less than the greater of fifty votes or one percent of the total number of votes cast for the office or nomination in question. Where votes cast for that office or nomination were canvassed in more than one county, the abstracts prepared by the county boards in all of those counties shall be totaled for purposes of this subsection. If a bond is required, it shall be filed with the state commissioner for recounts involving a state office, including a seat in the general assembly, or a seat in the United States Congress, and with the commissioner responsible for conducting the election in all other cases, and shall be in the following amount:

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a. For an office filled by the electors of the entire state, one thousand dollars.

b. For United States representative, five hundred dollars.

c. For senator in the general assembly, three hundred dollars.

d. For representative in the general assembly, one hundred fifty dollars.

e. For an office filled by the electors of an entire county having a population of fifty thousand or more, two hundred dollars.

f. For any elective office to which paragraphs "a" to "e" of this subsection are not applicable, one hundred dollars.

After all recount proceedings for a particular office are completed and the official canvass of votes cast for that office is corrected or completed pursuant to subsections 5 and 6, if necessary, any bond posted under this subsection shall be returned to the candidate who requested the recount if the apparent winner before the recount is not the winner as shown by the corrected or completed canvass. In all other cases, the bond shall be deposited in the general fund of the state if filed with the state commissioner or in the election fund of the county with whose commissioner it was filed.

3. The recount shall be conducted by a board which shall consist of:

a. A designee of the candidate requesting the recount, who shall be named in the written request when it is filed.

b. A designee of the apparent winning candidate, who shall be named by that candidate at or before the time the board

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is required to convene.

c. A person chosen jointly by the members designated under paragraphs "a" and "b" of this subsection.

The commissioner shall convene the persons designated under paragraphs "a" and "b" of this subsection not later than nine o'clock a.m. on the seventh day following the county board's canvass of the election in question. If those two members cannot agree on the third member by eight o'clock a.m. on the ninth day following the canvass, they shall immediately so notify the chief judge of the judicial district in which the canvass is occurring, who shall appoint the third member not later than five o'clock p.m. on the eleventh day following the canvass.

4. When all members of the recount board have been selected, the board shall undertake and complete the required recount as expeditiously as reasonably possible. The commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall supervise the handling of ballots or voting machine documents to ensure that the ballots and other documents are protected from alteration or damage. The board shall open only the sealed ballot containers from the precincts specified to be recounted in the request or by the recount board. The board shall recount only the ballots which were voted and counted for the office in question, including any disputed ballots returned as required in section 50.5. If an electronic tabulating system was used to count the ballots, the recount board may request the commissioner to retabulate the ballots using the electronic tabulating system. The same program used for tabulating the votes on election day shall be used at the recount unless the program is believed or known to be flawed.

Any member of the recount board may at any time during the recount proceedings extend the recount of votes cast for the office or nomination in question to any other precinct or

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precincts in the same county, or from which the returns were reported to the commissioner responsible for conducting the election, without the necessity of posting additional bond.

The ballots or voting machine documents shall be resealed by the recount board before adjournment and shall be preserved as required by section 50.12. At the conclusion of the recount, the recount board shall make and file with the commissioner a written report of its findings, which shall be signed by at least two members of the recount board. The recount board shall complete the recount and file its report not later than the eighteenth day following the county board's canvass of the election in question.

5. If the recount board's report is that the abstracts prepared pursuant to the county board's canvass were incorrect as to the number of votes cast for the candidates for the office or nomination in question, in that county or district, the commissioner shall at once so notify the county board. The county board shall reconvene within three days after being so notified, and shall correct its previous proceedings.

6. The commissioner shall promptly notify the state commissioner of any recount of votes for an office to which section 50.30 or section 43.60 in the case of a primary election, is applicable. If necessary, the state canvass required by section 50.38, or by section 43.63, as the case may be, shall be delayed with respect to the office or the nomination to which the recount pertains. The commissioner shall subsequently inform the state commissioner at the earliest possible time whether any change in the outcome of the election in that county or district resulted from the recount.

7. If the election is an election held by a city which is not the final election for the office in question, the recount shall progress according to the times provided by this subsection. If this subsection applies the canvass shall be held by the second

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day after the election, the request for a recount must be made by the third day after the election, the board shall convene to conduct the recount by the sixth day after the election, and the report shall be filed by the eleventh day after the election.

KANSAS STATUTES
CHAPTER 25.--ELECTIONS
ARTICLE 31.--COUNTY BOARDS OF CANVASSERS

25-3107. Procedure for canvass by county board; recount, when; recount procedure; payment of costs.

(a) At the time of commencement of any canvass by the county board of canvassers the county election officer shall present to the county board of canvassers the preliminary abstracts of election returns, together with the ballots and records returned by the election boards. The county board of canvassers shall inspect and check the records presented by the county election officer and shall hear any questions which the county election officer believes appropriate for determination of the board. The county board of canvassers shall do what is necessary to obtain an accurate and just canvass of the election and shall finalize the preliminary abstract of election returns by making any needed changes, and certifying its authenticity and accuracy. The certification of the county board of canvassers shall be attested by the county election officer. Neither the county board of canvassers nor the county election officer shall open or unseal sacks or envelopes of ballots, except as is required by K.S.A. 25-409, 25-1136 and 25-1337, and amendments thereto, or other specific provision of law or as is authorized to carry out a recount under subsection (b).

(b) If a majority of the members of the county board of canvassers shall determine that there are manifest errors appearing on the face of the poll books of any election board, which might make a difference in the result of any election, or if any candidate shall request the recount of the ballots cast in all or in only specified voting areas for the office for which such person is a candidate, or if any registered elector who cast a ballot in a question submitted election requests a recount in all or only specified voting areas to determine the result of the election, the county board of canvassers shall cause a special

election board appointed by the county election officer to meet under the supervision of the county election officer and recount the ballots with respect to any office or question submitted specified by the county board of canvassers or requested by such candidate or elector. If a recount is required in a county that uses optical scanning systems as defined in K.S.A. 25-4601 et seq., and amendments thereto, or electronic or electromechanical voting systems, as defined in K.S.A. 25-4401, and amendments thereto, the method of conducting the recount shall be at the discretion of the person requesting such recount. The county election officer shall not be a member of such special election board. Before the special election board meets to recount the ballots upon a properly filed request, the party who makes the request shall file with the county election officer a bond, with security to be approved by the county or district attorney, conditioned to pay all costs incurred by the county in making such recount. In the event that the candidate requesting the recount is declared the winner of the election as a result of the recount, or if as a result of the recount a question submitted is overturned, no action shall be taken on the person's bond and the county shall bear the costs incurred for the recount. Any recount requested must be requested in writing of the county election officer not later than 12:00 noon on the Monday following the election. The request shall specify which voting areas are to be recounted. The county election officer shall immediately notify any candidate involved in the election for which such recount is requested, or shall notify the county chairperson of each candidates party. Any such recount shall be initiated not later than the following day and shall be completed not later than the Friday of such week at 5:00 p.m. Upon completion of any recount under this subsection, the election board shall package and reseal the ballots as provided by law and the county board of canvassers shall complete its canvass. The members of the special election board shall be paid as prescribed in K.S.A. 25-2811 and amendments thereto for time actually spent making the recount.

MARYLAND

§ 12-106 Duties of the State Board and local boards.

(a) Duties of local boards. -- In accordance with regulations adopted by the State Board, the local board shall:

(1) Conduct the recount and certify the official result of the election or question which is the subject of the recount; and

(2) Ensure the public's ability to be present while the recount is conducted.

(b) State Board to monitor conduct of recount. -- The State Board shall monitor and support the work of any local board conducting a recount to ensure compliance with this subtitle.

(c) Termination of recount. -- The State Board shall establish a procedure that will allow petitioners and counterpetitioners to request that a recount be terminated prior to its completion.

(d) Correction of returns. -- When a recount is completed, the local board, and when appropriate the State Board, shall correct the primary, general, or special election returns and certificates that were made by a canvassing board.

MASSACHUSETTS

**§ 135B. Recount where electronic voting system used;
petition specifying recount by hand**

The recount of the votes cast in any polling place where an electronic voting system is used shall consist of the inserting of the original ballots or ballot cards in a computer or tabulating mechanism which has been programmed and tested in accordance with section thirty-three F; provided, that if the recount petition so specifies, said recount shall consist of the checking of the original ballots or ballot cards by hand. Any such recount shall be in conformity with the provisions of section one hundred and thirty-five, so far as applicable.

NEVADA

NRS 293.404 Employment and duties of recount board; persons present; count of ballots; recounts affecting more than one county.

1. Where a recount is demanded pursuant to the provisions of NRS 293.403, the:

(a) County clerk of each county affected by the recount shall employ a recount board to conduct the recount in the county, and shall act as chairman of the recount board unless the recount is for the office of county clerk, in which case the chairman of the board of county commissioners shall act as chairman of the recount board. At least one member of the board of county commissioners must be present at the recount.

(b) City clerk shall employ a recount board to conduct the recount in the city, and shall act as chairman of the recount board unless the recount is for the office of city clerk, in which case the mayor of the city shall act as chairman of the recount board. At least one member of the city council must be present at the recount.

Each candidate for the office affected by the recount and the voter who demanded the recount, if any, may be present in person or by an authorized representative, but may not be a member of the recount board.

2. Except in counties or cities using a mechanical voting system, the recount must include a count and inspection of all ballots, including rejected ballots, and must determine whether those ballots are marked as required by law.

3. If a recount is demanded in a county or city using a mechanical voting system, the person who demanded the recount shall select the ballots for the office or ballot question affected from 5 percent of the precincts, but in no case fewer than three

precincts, after consultation with each candidate for the office or his authorized representative. The recount board shall examine the selected ballots, including any duplicate or rejected ballots, shall determine whether the ballots have been voted in accordance with this Title and shall count the valid ballots by hand. In addition, a recount by computer must be made of all the selected ballots. If the count by hand or the recount by computer of the selected ballots shows a discrepancy equal to or greater than 1 percent or 5 votes, whichever is greater, for any candidate for the office, or in favor of or against a ballot question, from the original canvass of the returns, the county or city clerk shall order a count by hand of all the ballots for that office. Otherwise, the county or city clerk shall order a recount by computer of all the ballots for the office.

4. The county or city clerk shall unseal and give to the recount board all ballots to be counted.

5. In the case of a demand for a recount affecting more than one county, the demand must be made to the secretary of state, who shall notify the county clerks to proceed with the recount.

MICHIGAN COMPILED LAWS
CHAPTER 168. MICHIGAN ELECTION LAW
MICHIGAN ELECTION LAW
CHAPTER II. BOARDS OF ELECTION
COMMISSIONERS, BOARDS OF CANVASSERS, AND
CLERKS

168.24a. Board of county canvassers

(1) Establishment of board; powers, duties, jurisdiction, cost of canvass. A 4-member board of county canvassers is established in every county in this state. All of the powers granted to and duties required by law to be performed by all boards of canvassers established by law, other than the board of state canvassers, boards of city canvassers in cities having more than 5 precincts, boards of canvassers in counties having a population of 1,500,000 or more, and boards of township canvassers in townships having more than 5 precincts, are granted to and required to be performed by the board of county canvassers. The board of county canvassers shall conduct all recounts of elections in cities, townships, villages, school districts, or any other districts and be vested with all of the powers and required to perform all the duties in connection with any recount. If a city, village, school district, or any other district lies in more than 1 county, and a duty is to be performed by the board of county canvassers, the board of county canvassers in the county in which the greatest number of registered voters of the city, village, or district resides at the close of registration for the election involved shall perform the duty. The cost of canvass of school, city, township, and village elections shall be borne by the school district, city, township, or village holding the election, and upon presentation of a bill for the costs incurred by the board of county canvassers, the school district, city, township, or village shall reimburse the county treasurer.

(2) Other boards abolished. All boards of canvassers

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provided for in law including boards of school canvassers, the duties of which are by this act required to be performed by boards of county canvassers, are abolished.

(3) Appointment, term, notice. Members of the board shall be appointed for terms of 4 years beginning on November 1 following their appointment. Of the members first appointed, 1 member of each of the political parties represented on the canvassing board shall be appointed for a term of 4 years and 1 for a term of 2 years. Members of the board shall be notified of their appointment within 5 days thereafter by the county clerk.

(4) Application of section, charters. This section shall apply to all elections, any charter provision to the contrary notwithstanding.

**MINNESOTA RULES
CHAPTER 8235
SECRETARY OF STATE
RECOUNTS**

8235.1000 ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS.

In precincts in an election jurisdiction where an electronic voting system is used, the recount official shall determine if the ballots are to be recounted on the electronic voting system or manually. If the ballots are recounted on the electronic voting system, a test of the program and the voting system must be made immediately prior to the recount, and a test sample of the ballots must also be counted manually. Unless the jurisdiction has only one precinct, the test sample shall be from at least two precincts, one selected by each candidate. In each of the precincts selected, the sample shall be at least three percent of the ballots cast or 50 ballots, whichever is greater. The test sample must also be counted on the voting system. Access to the immediate area of the voting system is limited to the recount official and legal adviser, officials of the election jurisdiction, the candidates and their representatives, and the technical persons necessary to the operation of the counting equipment. An observation area must be provided for the public. Ballots must be recounted by precinct. A report of recount results must be provided for each precinct. After the count of ballots for a precinct has been determined, all ballots must be resealed in the ballot container and returned with the other materials to the custodian of the ballots.

**MINNESOTA STATUTES
ELECTIONS
CHAPTER 204C. ELECTION DAY ACTIVITIES**

204C.22. Determining voter's intent

Subdivision 1. Ballot valid if intent determinable. A ballot shall not be rejected for a technical error that does not make it impossible to determine the voter's intent. In determining intent the principles contained in this section apply.

Subdivision 2. From face of ballot only. Intent shall be ascertained only from the face of the ballot.

Subdivision 3. Votes for too many candidates. If a voter places a mark (X) beside the names of more candidates for an office than are to be elected or nominated, the ballot is defective with respect only to that office. No vote shall be counted for any candidate for that office, but the rest of the ballot shall be counted if possible. At a primary, if a voter has not indicated a party preference and places a mark (X) beside the names of candidates of more than one party on the partisan ballot, the ballot is totally defective and no votes on it shall be counted. If a voter has indicated a party preference at a primary, only votes cast for candidates of that party shall be counted.

Subdivision 3a. Votes yes and no. If a voter votes both yes and no on a question, no vote may be counted for that question, but the rest of the ballot must be counted if possible.

Subdivision 4. Name written in proper place. If a voter has written the name of an individual in the proper place on a general or special election ballot a vote shall be counted for that individual whether or not the voter makes a mark (X) in the square opposite the blank.

Subdivision 4a. Write-in vote for candidate team. A

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write-in vote cast for a candidate for governor without a write-in vote for a candidate for lieutenant governor must be counted as a vote for the candidate team including the lieutenant governor candidate selected by that candidate for governor.

Subdivision 5. Name written on primary ballot. If a voter has written the name of an individual on a primary or special primary ballot, a vote shall not be counted for that office.

Subdivision 6. Mark out of place. If a mark (X) is made out of its proper place, but so near a name or space as to indicate clearly the voter's intent, the vote shall be counted.

Subdivision 7. All written names or marks counted up to limit. If a number of individuals are to be elected to the same office, the election judges shall count all names written in and all printed names with (X) marks in squares opposite them, not exceeding the whole number to be elected. When fewer names than the number to be elected are marked with an (X) or written in, only the marked or written in names shall be counted. When more names than the number to be elected are marked or written in, the ballot is defective with respect to that office and no vote shall be counted for that office.

Subdivision 8. Misspelling; abbreviations. Misspelling or abbreviations of the names of write-in candidates shall be disregarded if the individual for whom the vote was intended can be clearly ascertained from the ballot.

Subdivision 9. Votes for only some offices or questions determined. If the voter's choice for only some of the offices or questions can be determined from a ballot, the ballot shall be counted for those offices or questions only.

Subdivision 10. Different marks. If a voter uniformly uses a mark other than (X) which clearly indicates an intent to mark a name or to mark yes or no on a question, and the voter

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does not use (X) anywhere else on the ballot, a vote shall be counted for each candidate or response to a question marked. If a voter uses two or more distinct marks, such as (X) and some other mark, a vote shall be counted for each candidate or response to a question marked, unless the ballot is marked by distinguishing characteristics that make the entire ballot defective as provided in subdivision 13.

Subdivision 11. Attempted erasures. If the names of two candidates have been marked, and an attempt has been made to erase or obliterate one of the marks, a vote shall be counted for the remaining marked candidate. If an attempt has been made to obliterate a write-in name a vote shall be counted for the remaining write-in name or marked candidate.

Subdivision 12. Soil; defacement. A ballot shall not be rejected merely because it is slightly soiled or defaced.

Subdivision 13. Identifying ballot. If a ballot is marked by distinguishing characteristics in a manner making it evident that the voter intended to identify the ballot, the entire ballot is defective.

Subdivision 14. No votes for certain offices. If the number of candidates for an office is equal to the number of individuals to be elected to that office, and the voter has not marked any name, no vote shall be counted for any candidate for that office.

Subdivision 15. Blank ballot for one or more offices valid. If no name or response to a question is marked and no name is written in, the ballot is blank with respect to that office or question. A ballot that is blank with respect to one or more offices or questions is not defective.

NEBRASKA REVISED STATUTES OF 1943
CHAPTER 32. ELECTIONS
ARTICLE 11. CONTEST OF ELECTIONS AND
RECOUNTS.

The text of Nebraska Statutes and Constitution 2000 was provided by the Executive Board of the Legislative Council through the Revisor of Statutes and is subject to a claim of copyright by the State of Nebraska.

§ 32-1119. Automatic recount; when; waiver; procedure.

(1) If it appears as evidenced by the abstract of votes that any candidate failed to be nominated or elected by a margin of (a) one percent or less of the votes received by the candidate who received the highest number of votes for the office at an election in which more than five hundred total votes were cast or (b) two percent or less of the votes received by the candidate who received the highest number of votes for the office at an election in which five hundred or less total votes were cast, then such candidate shall be entitled to a recount. Any losing candidate may waive his or her right to a recount by filing a written statement with the Secretary of State, election commissioner, or county clerk with whom he or she made his or her filing. All expenses of a recount under this section shall be paid by those political subdivisions involved in the recount.

(2) Recounts shall be made by the county canvassing board which officiated in making the official county canvass of the election returns. If any member of the county canvassing board cannot participate in the recount, another person shall be appointed by the election commissioner or county clerk to take the member's place.

(3) Recounts for candidates who filed with the Secretary of State shall be made on the fifth Wednesday after the election and shall commence at 9 a.m. The Secretary of State shall

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inform each election commissioner or county clerk of the names of the candidates for which the board of state canvassers deems a recount to be necessary.

(4) The election commissioner or county clerk shall be responsible for recounting the ballots for those candidates for whom the county canvassing board deems a recount to be necessary. The recount shall be made as soon as possible after the adjournment of the county canvassing board, except that if a recount is required under subsection (3) of this section, the recounts may be conducted concurrently.

(5) The Secretary of State, election commissioner, or county clerk shall notify all candidates whose ballots will be recounted of the time, date, and place of the recount. Candidates whose ballots will be recounted may be present or be represented by an agent appointed by the candidate.

(6) The procedures for the recounting of ballots shall be the same as those used for the counting of ballots on election day. The recount shall be conducted at the county courthouse, except that if vote counting devices are used for the counting or recounting, such counting or recounting may be accomplished at the site of the devices. Counties counting ballots by using a vote counting device shall first recount the ballots by use of the device. If substantial changes are found, the ballots shall then be manually counted in any precinct which might reflect a substantial change.

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**NEW JERSEY STATUTES
TITLE 19. ELECTIONS
SUBTITLE 15. VOTING MACHINES; PROCEDURE
CHAPTER 53A. ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS**

19:53A-14. Recount

In case of a recount the ballot cards shall be recounted in the manner provided by section 8 of this act unless the court ordering the recount directs that they be counted manually.

TEXAS STATUTES AND CODES
ELECTION CODE
TITLE 8. VOTING SYSTEMS
CHAPTER 127. PROCESSING ELECTRONIC VOTING
SYSTEM RESULTS
SUBCHAPTER E. PROCESSING RESULTS AT
CENTRAL COUNTING STATION

s 127.130. Manual Counting

(a) Electronic system ballots that are not to be counted automatically and the write-in votes not counted at the polling places shall be counted manually at the central counting station.

(b) If the automatic counting of electronic system ballots becomes impracticable for any reason, the manager may direct that the ballots be counted manually at the central counting station.

(c) The procedure for manual counting is the same as that for regular paper ballots to the extent practicable. The manager is responsible for the manual counting of ballots at the central counting station.

(d) Subject to Subsection (e), in any manual count conducted under this code, a vote on a ballot on which a voter indicates a vote by punching a hole in the ballot may not be counted unless:

- (1) at least two corners of the chad are detached;
- (2) light is visible through the hole;
- (3) an indentation on the chad from the stylus or other object is present and indicates a clearly ascertainable intent of the voter to vote; or
- (4) the chad reflects by other means a clearly ascertainable intent of the voter to vote.

(e) Subsection (d) does not supersede any clearly ascertainable intent of the voter.

UTAH CODE, 1953
TITLE 20A. ELECTION CODE
CHAPTER 4. ELECTION RETURNS AND ELECTION
CONTESTS
PART 1. COUNTING BALLOTS AND TABULATING
RESULTS

20A-4-105 Standards and requirements for evaluating voter's ballot choices.

(1) Each person counting ballots shall apply the standards and requirements of this section to resolve any questions that arise as ballots are counted.

(2) Except as provided in Subsection (11), if a voter marks more names than there are persons to be elected to an office, or if for any reason it is impossible to determine the choice of any voter for any office to be filled, the counter may not count that voter's ballot for that office.

(3) The counter shall count a defective or incomplete mark on any paper ballot if:

(a) it is in the proper place; and

(b) there is no other mark or cross on the paper ballot indicating the voter's intent to vote other than as indicated by the defective mark.

(4) (a) When the voter has marked the ballot so that it appears that the voter has voted more than one straight ticket, the election judges may not count any votes for party candidates.

(b) The election judges shall count the remainder of the ballot if it is voted correctly.

(5) A counter may not reject a ballot marked by the voter

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because of marks on the ballot other than those marks allowed by this section unless the extraneous marks on a ballot or group of ballots show an intent by a person or group to mark their ballots so that their ballots can be identified.

(6) (a) In counting the ballots, the counters shall give full consideration to the intent of the voter.

(b) The counters may not invalidate a ballot because of mechanical and technical defects in voting or failure on the part of the voter to follow strictly the rules for balloting required by Chapter 3.

(7) The counters may not reject a ballot because of any error in:

(a) stamping or writing any official endorsement; or

(b) delivering the wrong ballots to any polling place.

(8) The counter may not count any paper ballot that does not have the official endorsement by an election officer.

(9) If the counter discovers that the name of a candidate voted for is misspelled or that the initial letters of a candidate's given name are transposed or omitted in part or altogether, the counter shall count the voter's vote for that candidate if it is apparent that the voter intended to vote for that candidate.

(10) The counter shall count a vote for the president and the vice president of any political party as a vote for the presidential electors selected by the political party.

(11) In counting the valid write-in votes, if, by casting a valid write-in vote, a voter has cast more votes for an office than that voter is entitled to vote for that office, the judges shall count the valid write-in vote as being the obvious intent of the voter.

VERMONT

§ 2601 Recounts

If the difference between the number of votes cast for a winning candidate and the number of votes cast for a losing candidate is less than five percent of the total votes cast for all the candidates for an office, divided by the number of persons to be elected, that losing candidate shall have the right to have the votes for that office recounted.-- Added 1977, No. 269 (Adj. Sess.), § 1; amended 1979, No. 200 (Adj. Sess.), § 89.

§ 2587 Rules for counting ballots

(a) In counting ballots, election officials shall attempt to ascertain the intent of the voter, as expressed by his markings on the ballot. If it is impossible to determine the intent of the voter for any office or public question, the ballot shall be counted as blank or spoiled, as the case may be, for that office or question; but that determination shall not control any other office or question on the ballot for which the voter's intent can be determined. If they have any doubt about the intent of the voter or any other question about a ballot, the election officials counting the ballot shall bring it to the presiding officer, who shall present the question of how to treat the ballot to the assembled election officials. The decision of how to treat the ballot shall be made by majority vote of the election officials who are present.

(b) If the voter marks more names than there are persons to be elected to an office, or marks contradictory sides on any public question, his ballot shall not be counted for that office or public question.

(c) A person who receives more than one vote for the same office on any ballot shall be entitled to one vote, and one

vote only.

(d) If the board of civil authority decides by majority vote of those present that any markings on a ballot were made for the purpose of enabling it to be identified and the vote traced, so as to defeat the secrecy of the ballot, that ballot shall be rejected. The board shall make a record of the rejection and the reason for it, and shall preserve the record with the ballot in question.

(e) In the case of "write-in" votes, the act of writing in the name of a candidate, or pasting a label containing a candidate's name upon the ballot, without other indications of the voter's intent, shall constitute a vote for that candidate, even though no cross is placed after such name. The election officials counting ballots and tallying results must list every person who receives a "write-in" vote and the number of votes received.

(f) When the same number of persons are nominated for the position of justice of the peace as there are positions to be filled, the presiding officer may declare the whole slate of candidates elected without making individual tallies, providing each person on the slate has more votes than the largest number of write-in votes for any one candidate.-- Added 1977, No. 269 (Adj. Sess.), § 1; amended 1979, No. 200 (Adj. Sess.), §§ 83-85.

CODE OF VIRGINIA
TITLE 24.2. ELECTIONS.
CHAPTER 6. THE ELECTION.
ARTICLE 4. CONDUCT OF ELECTION; ELECTION
RESULTS.

§ 24.2-644 Voting by paper ballot; voting for presidential electors; write- in votes.

A. The qualified voter shall take the official paper ballot and enter the voting booth. After entering the voting booth, the qualified voter shall mark immediately preceding the name of each candidate for whom he wishes to vote a check (/) or a cross (X or +) or a line (-) in the square provided for such purpose, leaving unmarked the square preceding the name of each candidate for whom he does not wish to vote. Any ballot marked so that the intent of the voter is clear shall be counted.

B. The qualified voter at a presidential election shall mark the square preceding the names and party designation for his choice of candidates for President and Vice-President. His ballot so marked shall be counted as if he had marked squares preceding the names of the individual electors affiliated with his choice for President and Vice-President. The qualified voter at a presidential election may cast a write-in vote for President and Vice-President as provided in subsections C and D of this section.

C. At all elections except primary elections it shall be lawful for any voter to vote for any person other than the listed candidates for the office by writing or hand printing the person's name on the official ballot. No check or other mark shall be required to cast a valid write-in vote. Write-in votes for President and Vice-President shall be counted only for candidates who have filed a joint declaration of intent to be write-in candidates for the offices with the Secretary of the State Board not less than ten days before the date of the presidential

election. The declaration of intent shall be on a form prescribed by the State Board and shall include a list of presidential electors pledged to those candidates which equals the whole number of senators and representatives to which the Commonwealth at that time is entitled in the Congress of the United States. A write-in vote cast for candidates for President and Vice-President, or for a candidate for President only, shall be counted for the individual electors listed on the declaration of intent as pledged to those candidates.

D. No write-in vote shall be counted unless the name is entered on the ballot in conformance with this section. No write-in vote shall be counted when it is apparent to the officers of election that a voter has voted for the same person for the same office more than one time. No write-in vote shall be counted for an office for any person whose name appears on the ballot as a candidate for that office. If two or more persons are to be elected to the same office, a voter may vote for one or more persons whose names do appear on the ballot and one or more persons whose names do not appear on the ballot, provided that the total number of votes cast by him for that office does not exceed the number of persons to be elected to that office.

CODE OF VIRGINIA
TITLE 24.2. ELECTIONS.
CHAPTER 8. RECOUNTS AND CONTESTED
ELECTIONS.
ARTICLE 1. RECOUNTS.

§ 24.2-802 Procedure for recount.

A. Within seven days of the filing of the petition, the chief judge of the circuit court shall call a preliminary hearing at which (i) motions may be disposed of and (ii) the rules of procedure may be fixed, both subject to review by the full court. As part of the preliminary hearing, the chief judge may permit the petitioner and his counsel, together with each other party and

his counsel and at least two members of the electoral board and the custodians, to examine any mechanical or direct electronic voting device of the type that prints returns when the print-out sheets are not clearly legible. If the number of absentee votes cast in the election is sufficient to change the result of the election, the petitioner and his counsel and each other party and their counsel, under supervision of the electoral board and its agents, shall also have access to absentee ballots cast in the election for examination purposes. The petitioner and his counsel and each other party and their counsel under supervision of the electoral board and its agents shall also have access to pollbooks and other materials used in the election for examination purposes. The chief judge during the preliminary hearing shall review all security measures taken for all ballots and voting devices and direct, as he deems necessary, all appropriate measures to ensure proper security to conduct the recount.

The chief judge, subject to review by the full court, may set the place or places for the recount and may order the delivery of election materials to a central location and the transportation of voting devices to a central location in each county or city under appropriate safeguards.

After the full court is appointed under s 24.2-801, it shall call a hearing at which all motions shall be disposed of and the rules of procedure shall be fixed finally. The court shall call for the advice and cooperation of the State Board or any local electoral board, as appropriate, and such boards shall have the duty and authority to assist the court. The court shall fix procedures that shall provide for the accurate determination of votes in the election. Commencing upon the filing of the recount, nothing shall prevent the discovery or disclosure of any evidence that could be used pursuant to s 24.2-803 in contesting the results of an election.

B. The court shall permit each candidate, or petitioner

and governing body or chief executive officer, to select an equal number of the officers of election to be recount officials and to count ballots, or in the case of mechanical or direct electronic voting devices to redetermine the vote. The number shall be fixed by the court and be sufficient to conduct the recount within a reasonable period. The court may permit each party to the recount to submit a list of alternate officials in the number the court directs. There shall be at least one team of recount officials to recount paper ballots and to redetermine the vote cast on mechanical or direct electronic devices of the type that prints returns for the election district at large in which the recount is being held. There shall be at least one team from each locality in the election district to redetermine the vote on other types of mechanical voting devices. There shall be at least one team from each locality using electronic counting devices to insert the ballots into one or more counting devices. The counting devices shall be programmed to count only votes cast for parties to the recount or for or against the question in a referendum recount. Each team shall be composed of one representative of each party.

The court may provide that if, at the time of the recount, any recount official fails to appear, the remaining recount officials present shall appoint substitute recount officials who shall possess the same qualifications as the recount officials for whom they substitute. The court may select pairs of recount coordinators to serve for each county or city in the election district who shall be members of the county or city electoral board and represent different political parties. The court shall have authority to summon such officials and coordinators. On request of a party to the recount, the court shall allow each party to appoint one representative observer for each team of recount officials. The expenses of its representatives shall be borne by each party.

C. The court (i) shall supervise the recount and (ii) may require delivery of any or all pollbooks used, any or all ballots

cast at the election, and absentee ballots sought to be cast but ruled invalid or may assume supervision thereof through the recount coordinators and officials. The court shall permit the parties, recount officials, and counsel to examine all ballots cast in the election, including paper ballots, ballots cast on mechanical voting devices, ballots counted on electronic counting devices, and all absentee ballots sought to be cast but ruled invalid, for the purpose of ascertaining the number of ballots cast for each of the party candidates or for or against the question. At the conclusion of the recount of each precinct, the recount officials shall write down (i) in the case of mechanical or direct electronic voting devices the redetermination of the vote and (ii) the number of valid ballots cast, this number being obtained from the ballots cast in the precinct, or from the ballots cast as shown on the statement of results if the ballots cannot be found, for each of the two candidates or for and against the question. They shall submit the ballots or the statement of results used, as to the validity of which questions exist, to the court. The written statement of any one recount official challenging a ballot shall be sufficient to require its submission to the court. If, on all mechanical or direct electronic voting devices, the number of persons voting in the election, or the number of votes cast for the office or on the question, totals more than the number of names on the pollbooks of persons voting on the devices, the figures recorded by the devices shall be accepted as correct.

At the conclusion of the recount of all precincts, after allowing the parties to inspect the questioned ballots, and after hearing arguments, the court shall rule on the validity of all questioned ballots and votes. After determining all matters pertaining to the recount and redetermination of the vote as raised by the parties, the court shall certify to the State Board and the electoral board or boards (i) the vote for each party to the recount and declare the person who received the higher number of votes to be nominated or elected, as appropriate, or (ii) the votes for and against the question and declare the outcome of the

referendum.

D. Costs of the recount shall be assessed against the counties and cities comprising the election district when (i) the candidate petitioning for the recount is declared the winner; (ii) the petitioners in a recount of a referendum win the recount; or (iii) there was between the candidate apparently nominated or elected and the candidate petitioning for the recount a difference of not more than one-half of one percent of the total vote cast for the two such candidates as determined by the State Board or electoral board prior to the recount. Otherwise the costs of the recount shall be assessed against the candidate petitioning for the recount or the petitioners in a recount of a referendum. If more than one candidate petitions for a recount, the court may assess costs in an equitable manner between the counties and cities and any such candidate if both are liable for costs under this subsection. Costs incurred to date shall be assessed against any candidate or petitioner who defaults or withdraws his petition.

E. The court shall determine the costs of the recount subject to the following limitations: (i) no per diem payment shall be assessed for salaried election officials; (ii) no per diem payment to officers of election serving as recount officials shall exceed two-thirds of the per diem paid such officers by the county or city for service on election day; and (iii) per diem payments to alternates shall be allowed only if they serve.

F. Any petitioner who may be assessed with costs under subsection D of this section shall post a bond with surety with the court in the amount of ten dollars per precinct in the area subject to recount. If the petitioner wins the recount, the bond shall not be forfeit. If the petitioner loses the recount, the bond shall be forfeit only to the extent of the assessed costs. If the assessed costs exceed the bond, he shall be liable for such excess.

G. The recount proceeding shall be final and not subject

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to appeal.

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CHAPTER 3. ELECTIONS.
ARTICLE 4A. ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS.

§ 3-4A-28 Post-election custody and inspection of vote recording devices; canvass and recounts.

(1) The vote recording devices, the ballot labels, ballot cards, program decks and standard validation test decks shall remain sealed during the canvass of the returns of the election and for a period of seven days thereafter, except that such equipment may be opened for the canvass and it shall be resealed immediately thereafter. During such period any candidate or the local chairman of a political party may be permitted to examine any of the materials so sealed: Provided, that a notice of the time and place of such examination shall be posted at the central counting center before and on the hour of nine o'clock in the morning on the day the examination is to occur, and all persons entitled to be present at the central counting center may, at their option, be present. Upon completion of the canvass and after a seven-day period has expired, the vote recording devices, the ballot labels, ballot cards, program decks and standard validation test decks shall be sealed for one year: Provided, however, that the vote recording devices and all tabulating equipment may be released for use in any other lawful election to be held more than ten days after the canvass is completed, and any of the electronic voting equipment herein discussed may be released for inspection or review by a request of a circuit court or the supreme court of appeals.

(2) In canvassing the returns of the election, the board of canvassers shall examine all of the vote recording devices, the ballot labels, ballot cards and the automatic tabulating equipment used in such election and shall determine the number of votes cast for each candidate and for and against each question and by such examination shall procure the correct returns and ascertain the true results of the election. Any candidate or his party

representative may be present at such examination.

(3) If any candidate shall demand a recount of the votes cast at an election, the ballots and ballot cards shall be reexamined during such recount for the purpose of reascertaining the total number of votes cast for any candidate in the same manner and according to the same rules as are utilized in the original vote count pursuant to section twenty-seven [s 3-4A-27] of this article.

(4) During the canvass and any requested recount, at least five percent of the precincts shall be chosen at random and the ballot cards cast therein counted manually. The same random selection shall also be counted by the automatic tabulating equipment. If the variance between the random manual count and the automatic tabulating equipment count of the same random ballots, is equal to or greater than one percent, then a manual recount of all ballot cards shall be required. In the course of any recount, if a candidate for an office shall so demand, or if the board of canvassers shall so elect to recount the votes cast for an office, the votes cast for that office in any precinct shall be recounted by manual count.

**WISCONSIN STATUTES
ELECTIONS
CHAPTER 5. ELECTIONS--GENERAL PROVISIONS;
BALLOTS AND VOTING SYSTEMS
SUBCHAPTER III. ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS**

5.90. Recounts

Except as otherwise provided in this subchapter, recounts of votes cast on an electronic voting system shall be conducted in the manner prescribed in § 9.01. If the ballots are in readable form, the board of canvassers may elect to recount the ballots without the aid of automatic tabulating equipment. If the board of canvassers elects to use automatic tabulating equipment, the board of canvassers shall test the automatic tabulating equipment to be used prior to the recount as provided in § 5.84, and then the official ballots or the record of the votes cast shall be recounted on the automatic tabulating equipment. In addition, the board of canvassers shall check the ballots for the presence or absence of the initials and other distinguishing marks, shall examine the ballots marked "Rejected", "Defective" and "Objected to" to determine the propriety of such labels, and shall compare the "Duplicate Overvoted Ballots" and "Duplicate Damaged Ballots" with their respective originals to determine the correctness of the duplicates.