

REFERENCE TITLE: ballot tabulation; hand count comparison

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-sixth Legislature
First Regular Session
2023

SB 1471

Introduced by
Senator Kavanagh

AN ACT

PROVIDING FOR A TABULATION OF CERTAIN BALLOTS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Ballot retabulation; hand count comparison;
3 staffing estimate; report; delayed repeal

4 A. Beginning not later than September 1, 2023, the officer in
5 charge of elections in a county with a population of more than two million
6 persons shall randomly select four election precincts in the county from
7 the ballot test decks used for logic and accuracy testing for the 2022
8 general election and shall recount all races using one hundred of those
9 ballots from each precinct. The recounting shall include the use of
10 duplication boards, adjudications boards and other functions generally
11 used or required in ballot tabulations. The hand count boards shall
12 consist of volunteers who are members of the three largest political
13 parties in the state and shall include on each team a member of at least
14 two different political parties. Notwithstanding section 16-624, Arizona
15 Revised Statutes, the county treasurer shall provide the specified ballots
16 to the officer in charge of elections. The county officer in charge of
17 elections shall process separately the selected 2022 general election
18 ballots as follows:

19 1. The actual ballots shall be counted through a county ballot
20 tabulator and the results of that tabulation shall remain confidential
21 until after the hand count prescribed in this section is completed.

22 2. The actual ballots shall be photocopied and the photocopies
23 shall be hand counted using the procedures prescribed in the secretary of
24 state's instructions and procedures manual adopted pursuant to section
25 16-452, Arizona Revised Statutes. During the hand counting, the officer
26 in charge of elections shall calculate how many ballots per hour each hand
27 counting team is able to process.

28 3. The officer in charge of elections shall compare the tabulator
29 total and the hand count total for each precinct and if there is a
30 difference in the totals that is greater than one-tenth of one percent,
31 the actual ballots shall be retabulated using a different tabulator and
32 the hand counted photocopies of ballots shall be recounted using different
33 hand counters.

34 4. After determining the average number of ballots counted for each
35 hand counting team, the officer in charge of elections shall estimate how
36 many persons working sixteen hours each day would be required to hand
37 count the entire number of ballots cast in the November 2022 election.

38 B. The officer in charge of elections shall report on the results
39 of the tabulations and calculations, including the number of ballots
40 counted per hand counting team per hour. The officer in charge of
41 elections shall provide that report to the governor, the president of the
42 senate, the speaker of the house of representatives and the county
43 recorder and shall file a copy with the secretary of state.

44 C. This section is repealed from and after February 29, 2024.