

## Recounts | Questions of the Day

Certification & Training Program

August 13, 2014

I'm sorry to bring up the dreaded "R" word, but we've started to receive questions from counties about mandatory recounts. In addition to these recent questions, see our helpful online [Recount FAQ](#).

### **In the Primary, which candidates are recounted?**

Recounts are triggered by the difference between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place candidates. The two candidates who receive the most votes advance to the General Election.

### **How do I determine if a recount is needed?**

One method is shown in the example below. Candidate A has 2000 votes and Candidate B has 1995 votes:

1. Add the votes for Candidate A and Candidate B (total votes).  
 $2000 + 1995 = 3995$
2. Determine the number of votes separating the two candidates (the difference).  
 $2000 - 1995 = 5$
3. Divide the difference by the total votes.  
 $5 \text{ divided by } 3995 = 0.00125 \text{ or } .125\%$

In this case, a manual (hand) recount is required because the difference is less than 150 votes *and* less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  of 1% (0.25%) of the total votes cast.

### **Is it possible for a close race between two write-in candidates to trigger a recount?**

Yes. A candidate needs to meet two thresholds:

1. Receive 1% of the total votes cast for the entire office, including write-in votes.
2. Be one of the top two vote getters to advance to the Primary.

A close race with two write-in candidates, most likely the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place candidates, may trigger a recount. Use the above formula to determine if a recount is required.

### **What is the Secretary of State's role in recounts?**

If a recount involves Congressional or Legislative District candidates, the Secretary of State is charged with conducting a special review before the recount takes place.

Keep the questions coming and we'll do our best to provide you with the answers!

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