

Senate Engrossed
ballot tabulation; hand count comparison

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

SENATE BILL 1471

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 four
6 hundred thousand persons shall randomly select four hundred ballots from
7 the ballot test decks randomized by precincts used for logic and accuracy
8 testing for the 2022 general election and shall recount all races using
9 one hundred of those ballots from each precinct. The recounting shall
10 include the use of duplication boards, adjudications boards and other
11 functions generally used or required in ballot tabulations. The hand
12 count boards shall consist of volunteers who are members of the three
13 largest political parties in the state and shall include on each team a
14 member of at least two different political parties. Notwithstanding
15 section 16-624, Arizona Revised Statutes, the county treasurer shall
16 provide the specified ballots to the officer in charge of elections. The
17 county officer in charge of elections shall process separately the
18 selected 2022 general election 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 any
30 difference in the totals, the actual ballots shall be retabulated using a
31 different tabulator and the hand counted photocopies of ballots shall be
32 recounted using different hand counters.

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

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

43 C. This section is repealed from and after February 29, 2024.

44 Sec. 2. Legislative intent

45 The legislature intends that the retabulation and hand count
46 required in section 1 of this act may be conducted as early as July 1,
47 2023.