CANVASSING THE VOTE IN NEVADA



WHAT IS CANVASSING?

Canvassing is the process by which State election results are declared, examined, and certified. There are two levels of canvassing: local (county) and statewide. Meeting statutory deadlines to "close" an election by canvassing the vote requires a highly coordinated effort among local election officials (LEOs), boards of county commissioners, the Secretary of State, and the Nevada Supreme Court. For more information on ballot counting and canvassing, contact the <u>Secretary of State's office</u> or your <u>LEO</u>, or see Chapters 293 of <u>Nevada Revised Statutes</u> and <u>Nevada Administrative Code</u>. For more information about Nevada elections generally, see the <u>Secretary of State's website</u> and other <u>Research Division publications</u>.

THE CANVASSING PROCESS: AN OVERVIEW

After Polls Close: Initial Counts —

Election workers at each polling place complete an initial count of votes sent, received, still awaiting return, etc., and submit it to the county's LEO.

The LEO forwards an electronic version of this count—called a "mechanized abstract"—to the Secretary of State. (More updates will be sent until counting is complete.)

LEO (county) actionSecretary of State action

The Secretary of State reviews the abstract for errors or problems and uploads unofficial counts to an <u>election results website</u>. (Results are updated as additional abstracts are received.)

2 After Election Day: Continuing Counts and Local Certification

The LEO and local counting board review all mail,* provisional, illegible, and Effective Absentee System for Elections (EASE) ballots, contacting voters to resolve any issues. Updated abstracts continue to be sent to the Secretary of State.

The Secretary of State continues to review and upload incoming abstracts.

The LEO and counting board reach a consensus on the total vote in their county. Requests for recounts are noted and undertaken as applicable.

The LEO submits the certified results to the Secretary of State. Barring a recount or lawsuit, the LEO's responsibilities are complete.

Within ten days after the election, the LEO calls a canvass meeting with the board of county commissioners to present and certify the final vote count. Local results become official and are published.

3 By the Fourth Tuesday in November: State Certification -

After all county canvasses are complete, the Secretary of State ensures the data from each canvass matches the information on the State's election results website.

The Secretary of State compiles and verifies all results for ballot questions and for statewide, federal, and multicounty races. No later than the fourth Tuesday in November after an election, the Secretary of State convenes a State-level canvass with a majority of Nevada Supreme Court justices to present and certify statewide, federal, and multicounty election results. These results become official and are published.

^{*}The local counting board may begin reviewing mail ballots 15 days before election day, though the results may not be released until the polls have closed and all votes have been cast.