

SUMMARY: STATE ELECTION CANVASSING TIMEFRAMES AND RECOUNT THRESHOLDS

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The following chart provides an overview of the state canvassing timeframes and automatic recount thresholds in each state. State laws vary on the specific procedures for canvassing election results. In general, local officials (often a county canvassing board) meet within a specified timeframe to canvass and certify election results from precincts within the jurisdiction. Results for offices canvassed at the state level (e.g. statewide and multi-county offices) are then transmitted to the state. State officials (often a state canvassing board) meet within a specified timeframe to canvass and certify those results. Many states authorize a recount to take place when the canvass of election results indicates that the difference in vote totals between the winning and losing candidate for an office is within a specific margin. Some states (as reflected in the chart) authorize “automatic” recounts which require no additional initiating mechanism beyond the recount threshold.

Alabama	<p>County officials meet on the second Friday after the election to canvass local election results. The state canvassing board (comprised of the Governor, the Secretary of State, and the Attorney General) must meet within 22 days following the election to certify the returns for state and federal offices. (Alabama Code 17-12-15; 17; 21) (also see Alabama 2024 Election Calendar).</p> <p>An automatic recount takes place when the margin of defeat is no more than .5 % of the votes cast for the office. The recount must commence within 72 hours of certification of election results by the county or state canvassing board (as applicable). (17-16-20).</p>
Alaska	<p>Election boards certify election returns no later than the day after the election. The state ballot counting review (i.e. post-election audit) begins no later than 16 days after the election. Upon completion of the ballot counting review the State Director of Elections certifies the results for state and federal offices. (Alaska Statutes 15.15.370; 15-15-450) (also see Alaska 2024 Election Calendar)</p>
Arizona	<p>Local officials meet no later than 20 days after the election to canvass and certify local election returns. The Secretary of State (in the presence of the Governor, Attorney General, and Chief Justice) canvasses and certifies results for state and federal offices on the third Monday following the election. The Secretary of State issues certificates of election. (Arizona Statutes 16-642; 648; 650) (also see Arizona 2024 Election Calendar)</p> <p>An automatic recount is required when canvass results show that the difference in total votes cast for the top two candidates is less than or equal to .5% (16-661).</p>
Arkansas	<p>County officials canvass local election returns no later than 15 days after the election. The Secretary of State (in the presence of the Governor) conducts the state canvass for state and federal offices no later than 30 days after county canvass deadline. The Governor certifies results for federal offices. The Arkansas General Assembly certifies results for state constitutional offices. (Arkansas Statutes 7-5-701; 703; 704; 705; 7-8-304)</p> <p>County election officials canvass the results for presidential electors within 8 days of the election. The constitutional officers must canvass and declare the presidential election results within 20 days of the election, and must certify the electors within 5 days of declaring the results.</p>
California	<p>County officials begin canvassing local election results no later than Thursday after the election and transmit results to the Secretary of State within 31 days of the election. The Secretary of State canvasses and certifies results for state and federal offices no later than the 38th day after the election and issues certificates of election.</p> <p>County officials must canvass and submit the results for presidential electors to the Secretary of State no later than 28 days after the election. The Secretary of State must certify the names of Presidential Electors no later than 32 days after the election. (California Code 15301; 15374; 15375; 15501; 15503; 15504; 15505)</p> <p>Within five days after the Secretary of State canvasses the results, the Governor may order a state-funded manual recount of all votes cast if official results in a statewide general election show that the two candidates for a statewide office getting the highest number of votes are only separated by less than or equal to the lesser of 1,000 votes or 0.00015 of the number of all votes cast for that office. (15645)</p>

Colorado	<p>County officials canvass local election returns no later than the 22nd day after the election and transmit results to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State canvasses election results no later than the 27th day after the election. (Colorado Statutes 1-10-102; 1-10-103; 1-11-105) (also see Colorado 2024 Election Calendar)</p> <p>An automatic recount must be held if the difference between the highest number of votes cast in the election contest and the next highest number of votes cast is less than or equal to .5% of the highest vote cast in the election contest.</p>
Connecticut	<p>Municipal officials transmit preliminary local election results to the Secretary of State no later than midnight on election day. Municipal officials must transmit a duplicate of results to the Secretary of State by electronic means no later than 48 hours after the election, and must seal and deliver duplicate returns to the Secretary of State no later than the 3rd day after the election. The Secretary of State, State Treasurer, and State Comptroller canvass and declare election results for federal offices and presidential electors on the last Wednesday of month in which votes are cast.</p> <p>The same officials canvass and declare election results for state officers within 30 days of the election, and the canvass results are presented to the General Assembly on the first day of session. (Connecticut Statutes 9-314; 315; 318; Connecticut Constitution Article 4, Section 4)</p> <p>An automatic recount is required if the difference between the top two candidates is less .5% of the total votes for the office (but no more than 2,000 votes or less than 20 votes).</p>
Delaware	<p>The Superior Court canvasses and certifies election returns in each county on the 2nd day after the election (Delaware Code 15-5701) (also see Delaware 2024 Election Calendar).</p>
District of Columbia	<p>Following the tabulation of ballots, a consolidated report of results is produced. The Board of Elections certifies the results of each election. (3 DCMR § 806; 813)</p> <p>An automatic recount must be conducted if the certified election results show a margin of victory for a candidate that is less than 1% of the total votes cast for that office (3 DCMR § 814)</p>
Florida	<p>County officials canvass local election returns and transmit results to the Department of State by the 13th day following the election. The Governor, and two members of the Governor’s Cabinet, canvass and certify election results for state and federal and multi-county offices and statewide issues on the 14th day after the election. (Florida Statutes 102.111; 102.112) (also see Florida 2024 Election Calendar).</p> <p>An automatic recount takes place where a candidate or issue was defeated by .5% or less of the votes cast for that office or issue. (102.141)</p>
Georgia	<p>County officials canvass local election returns and transmit results to the Secretary of State no later than the second Friday after the election. The Secretary of State must canvass and certify election results for state and federal offices no later than 17 days after the election. The Governor must certify the presidential electors no later than the 18th day after the election. (Georgia Statute 21-2-493; 499)</p>

Hawaii	<p>County officials or the Chief Election Officer canvass and certify election returns after the time expires for an election contest. (Hawaii Statutes 11-155; 11-156) No later than the last day of November, or as soon as presidential election results are received from the counties, the Chief Election Officer must certify the presidential electors.</p> <p>A mandatory recount takes place if the different between the candidates is equal to or less than 100 votes or .25% of the total votes cast for that contest, whichever is greater. (Hawaii Statute Chapter 11, Section 1).</p>
Idaho	<p>County officials meet no later than 10 days after the election to canvass local election returns. The Secretary of State, State Controller, and State Treasurer meet within 15 days after the election to canvass and certify election results for state and federal offices. The Secretary of State issues certificates of election. (Idaho Statutes 34-1205; 1207; 1211; 1215; 34-2301; 34-2008) (also see Idaho 2024 Election Calendar).</p>
Illinois	<p>Local official canvass local election returns within 21 days of the election and transmit results to the State Elections Board. The Board meets within 31 days after the election to canvass and declare election results for state and federal offices. The Governor issues certificates of election. (Illinois Statutes 10-5-22-1; 22-7) (also see Illinois Election Calendar).</p>
Indiana	<p>Circuit court clerks complete a statement of results for election returns and transmit results to the State Election Division no later than noon on the second Monday following the election. Upon receipt of results from the circuit court clerks the Election Division canvasses results for U.S. Congress. The Election Division canvasses the results for presidential electors and state offices (other than Governor and Lt. Gov) no later than noon on the last Tuesday in November. The Secretary of State issues certificates of election. The State Legislature canvasses and certifies results for Governor and Lt. Governor. (Indiana Code 3-12-4-6; 3-12-5-5; 5-6; 5-7; 5-9)</p>
Iowa	<p>County officials canvass local election returns on the Monday or Tuesday after the election and transmit election results to the State Commissioner within 13 days of the election. The Governor, Secretary of State, State Auditor, State Treasurer, and Secretary of Agriculture meet to canvass and declare election results for state and federal offices no later than 27 days after the election. The Governor issues certificates of election. (Iowa Code 50.24; 30; 37; 38; 41)</p>
Kansas	<p>County officials canvass local election returns on the Monday following the election and transmit results to the Secretary of State. The Governor, Secretary of State, and Attorney General canvass and certify election results for state and federal offices no later than December 1st. The Secretary of State issue certificates of election. (Kansas Statutes 25-3104; 25-3204; 25-3201; 3202; 3206; 3211)</p>
Kentucky	<p>County officials canvass local election returns after the polls close and transmit results to the State Board of Elections no later than the Friday following the election. The State Board of Elections meets to canvass and certify election results for state and federal offices no later than the 3rd Monday after the election. (Kentucky Statutes 117.275; 118.425) (also see Kentucky 2024 Election Calendar).</p> <p>An automatic recount is held if when a candidate for state or federal office is defeated by a margin of no more than .5% of the votes cast for the office (120.157)</p>

Louisiana	Parish officials canvass local election returns by the 5th day after the election and transmit results to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of state canvasses and certifies results federal offices on or before the 14th day after the election. (Louisiana Statutes 18-574; 513; 1277)
Maine	Local officials canvass local election returns and transmit results to the Secretary of State within 3 days of the election. The Secretary of State canvass results for state and federal elections and presents the tabulation to the Governor within 20 days after the election. The Governor issues certificates of election within a reasonable time after an election. (Maine Statutes 21-A-711; 722; 724)
Maryland	Local officials canvass local election returns and transmit results to the State Board of Elections by the 2nd Friday after the election, or within 48 hours of completing the canvass. The Secretary of State, the Comptroller, the State Treasurer, the Clerk of the Court of Appeals, and the Attorney General meet within 30 days of the election to canvass and certify results for state and federal offices. (Maryland Code 11-401; 502; 503) (also see Maryland 2024 Election Calendar).
Massachusetts	Municipal clerks transmit election results to the Secretary of State within 15 days of the election. The Secretary of State presents election results to the Governor. The Governor and 5 members of the Governor's Executive Council canvass the results. Within ten days after presidential election results are submitted to the Secretary of State, the Governor must declare the results, and must certify the electors within 14 days of declaring the results. (Massachusetts Statutes 54-112; 115; 116)
Michigan	County officials meet on the day after the election to canvass local elections and must finish within 14 days of the election and transmit results to the Secretary of State. The Governor appoints four bi-partisan individuals to the Board of State Canvassers. The Board meets on or before 20th day after the election to canvass state and federal election results and must conclude no later than the 40th day after the election. (Michigan Statutes 168.22(a); 821; 822; 828; 841; 842; 845) (also see Michigan 2024 Election Calendar). An automatic recount for statewide office candidates is required where the election is determined by a difference of 2,000 votes or less. (880).
Minnesota	County officials meet between the 3rd and 10th day following the election to canvass local election returns. County officials transmit county canvass results to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State, two State Supreme Court Judges, and two District Court Judges meet on the 3rd Tuesday following the election to canvass and certify election results for state and federal offices. State canvass results are declared within 3 days of completing the canvass. The Secretary of State issues certificates of election 7 days after the Board declares the results, or upon resolution of any election contest. (Minnesota Statutes 204C.33; 204C.40) (also see Minnesota 2024 Election Calendar)
Mississippi	County officials canvass local election returns and transmit results to the Secretary of State within 10 days after the election . The Secretary of State canvasses and declares election results for state and federal office no later than 30 days after the election. (Mississippi Statues 23-15-601; 603; 605) (also see Mississippi 2022 Election Calendar).

Missouri	<p>County officials canvass local election returns and transmit results to the Secretary of State no later than the 2nd Tuesday after the election. The Secretary of State, and two disinterested judges selected by the Secretary of State, meet no later than the 2nd Tuesday in December to canvass and announce election results for state and federal offices. (Missouri Statutes 15-507; 15-511; Missouri Constitution Art. 4 sec. 18).</p> <p>County officials canvass the results for presidential electors within 8 days of the election. The Governor must declare the results for the presidential electors within 15 days of the election. (128.060; 070)</p>
Montana	<p>County officials meet between the 3rd and 14th day after the election to canvass local election returns. County officials transmit results to the Secretary of State. The State Auditor, the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction meet within 27 days of the election to canvass and certify election results for state and federal offices. (Montana Statutes 13-15-401; 501; 502) (also see Montana 2024 Election Calendar).</p> <p>A candidate may request recount (state funded) where the margin of defeat does not exceed 1/4 of 1% of the total votes cast for the office. The request must be filed with the Secretary of State within 5 days after the county or state canvass, depending on the office. (13-16-201)</p> <p>A candidate may request a recount at their own expense where the margin of defeat is greater than the amount for a state funded recount but does not exceed 1/2 of 1% of votes cast for the office. The request must be filed with the relevant filing officer within 5 days after the canvass. (13-16-205)</p>
Nebraska	<p>County officials canvass local election returns and transmit results to the Secretary of State by the 3rd Monday after the election. The Governor, Secretary of State, Auditor of Public Accounts, State Treasurer, and Attorney General meet on the 4th Monday after the Election to canvass and determine election results for state and federal offices (except state executive offices). The State Legislature canvasses election results for state executive offices at the next regular session. The Secretary of State issues certificates of election within 40 days of the election. (Nebraska Statutes 32-1031; 1037; 1039; 1040) (also see Nebraska 2024 Election Calendar).</p> <p>An automatic recount takes place where a candidate loses by 1% or less of the votes received by the candidate with the most votes where more than 500 votes are cast (2% where less than 500 votes cast).</p>
Nevada	<p>County officials canvass local election returns no later than the 10th day following the election and transmit results to the Secretary of State no later than 7 working days after the election. The Secretary of State and all, or a majority, of the State Supreme Court justices canvass election results for state and federal offices on the 4th Tuesday in November. The Governor issues certificates of election. (Nevada Statutes 293.387; 395) (also see Nevada 2024 Election Calendar)</p>
New Hampshire	<p>Local officials prepare election returns and transmit results to the Secretary of State no later than the Monday following the election. The Secretary of State canvasses and declares the results of state and federal offices. The Governor issues certificates of election for federal offices, and the Secretary of state issues certificates for state offices, after the time for requesting a recount. (New Hampshire States 659.75; 659.81; 659.84)</p>

New Jersey	<p>County officials meet 15 days after the election to canvass local election returns, and transmit results to the Secretary of State within 5 days of the meeting. The Governor, and four bi-partisan members of the state legislature appointed by the Governor, meet no later than 30 days after the election to canvass and certify state and federal election results. The Secretary of State issues certificates of election. (New Jersey Statutes 19:6-27; 19-1, 21-1; 22-6; 22-7) (also see New Jersey 2024 Election Calendar)</p>
New Mexico	<p>County officials meet within 3 days of the election to canvass election returns. County officials must complete the canvass within 10 days of the election and transmit results to the Secretary of State. The Governor, Secretary of State, and Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court meet on the 3rd Tuesday after the election to canvass and declare election results for state and federal elections. After the canvass is complete, but not before 31 days after the election the state canvass officials issue certificates of election. (New Mexico Statutes 1-13-3; 13-13; 13-15; 13-16; New Mexico Constitution 6-33)</p> <p>An automatic recount takes place where the margin between the two candidates with the most votes is less than .25% percent of total votes cast (for federal or statewide office) or less than 1 % of the total votes cast (for any other state office). (1-14-24)</p>
New York	<p>County officials meet to canvass local election returns the day after the election. County officials transmit results to the State Board of Elections within 25 days of the election, except for results of a Governor's race, which must be transmitted no later than Dec 10th. The State Board of Elections meets to canvass and certify election results for state and federal elections no later than Dec 15th, or, in a year when presidential electors are chosen, the first Monday after the first Wednesday in December. The Board must complete the canvass within 5 days. (New York Statutes 9-204; 9-214; 9-216)</p> <p>An automatic recount must be held where the margin of victory is 20 voters or less; .5% or less, or at least 1 million ballots have been cast and the margin of victory is less than 5,000 votes. (9-208)</p>
North Carolina	<p>County officials meet to canvass local election returns on the 10th day after the election. County officials transmit canvass results to the State Board of Elections. The State Board of Elections meets to canvass election results for state and federal offices on the Tuesday three weeks after the election. The Board issues certificates of election no later than 6 days after the state canvass is complete (unless there is an election protest). (North Carolina Statutes 163-182.5; 182.6; 182.15)</p>
North Dakota	<p>County officials meet to canvass and local election returns within 13 days after the election. The State Canvassing Board meets no later than 17 days after the election to canvass and certify election results for state and federal offices. The Board consists of the Clerk of the Supreme Court, the Secretary of State, the State Treasurer, and the Chairman of the State Committee of the two political parties which cast the highest vote for Governor at the last general. (North Dakota Statutes 16.1-15-17; 15-22; 15-33; 15-35; 15-42) (also see North Dakota 2024 Election Calendar).</p> <p>An automatic recount must be conducted where a candidate failed to be elected .5% or less of the highest vote cast for a candidate for that office. (16.1-16-01)</p>

Ohio	<p>County officials canvass local election returns no later than the 21st day after the election and transmit results to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State canvasses and declares results for state and federal offices (except state executive offices) no later than 10 days after receipt of county canvass results. The State General Assembly canvasses and declares results for state executive office during the first week of regular session. The Secretary of State issues certificates of election. (Ohio Code 3505-32; 34; 35; 38)</p> <p>An automatic recount in a statewide election takes place where the votes cast for the declared winner does not exceed votes cast for the defeated candidate by a margin of .25% or more of the total vote. An automatic recount takes place in a district election where the votes cast for the declared winner does not exceed votes cast for the defeated candidate by a margin of .5% or more of the total vote. (3515.011)</p>
Oklahoma	<p>County officials canvass local election returns and transmit results to the State Elections Board on the Friday following the election. The State Elections Board canvasses and certifies election results on the Tuesday following the election. (Oklahoma Statutes 26-7-136)</p>
Oregon	<p>County officials canvass local election returns and transmit results to the Secretary of State no later than the 20th day after the election. The Secretary of state canvasses and declares election results for state and federal offices (except for Governor) no later than 30 days after the election. The Speaker of the House canvasses and publishes the results for Governor. (Oregon Statutes 254.545; 555; Oregon Constitution Article V, Section 4)</p> <p>The Secretary of State must order an automatic recount where there is a tie among candidates or the difference in votes between the candidate apparently elected and the defeated candidate is no more than .2% of the total votes for both candidates. (258.280)</p>
Pennsylvania	<p>County officials must canvass and submit unofficial election returns to the Secretary of the Commonwealth no later than the Tuesday following the election, and must certify election returns with the Secretary of the Commonwealth no later than November 25th. Upon receipt of the certified county canvass returns, the Secretary of the Commonwealth canvasses and certifies election results for state and federal offices. The Secretary of the Commonwealth issues certificates of election for state offices. The Governor issues certificates of election for federal offices. (25 Pa. Stat § 3154; 3159; 3163; 3164; 3165)</p> <p>An automatic recount takes place where a candidate appearing on the ballot statewide was defeated by .5% or less of the votes cast for the office. (3154)</p>
Rhode Island	<p>The State Board of Elections begins canvassing local, state, and federal election results on Election Day or within 24 hours of the election. The Board issues certificates of election upon completion of the canvass. (Rhode Island Statutes 17-19-37; 17-22-1)</p>
South Carolina	<p>County officials canvass local election no later than the Friday after the election and transmit results to the State Election Commission. The State Election Commission canvasses election results for state and federal offices within 10 days of the election. The Commission must complete the canvass and certify results within 15 days, or within 5 days for results of presidential electors. (South Carolina Statutes 7-17-10; 20; 210; 220; 230; 290) (also see South Carolina 2024 Election Calendar).</p>

	An automatic recount takes place when the difference in votes between the declared winning candidate and another candidate is less than 1% of the total votes cast for the office. (7-17-280)
South Dakota	County officials meet to canvass local election returns within 6 days of the election. County canvass results are sent to the Secretary of State. The Governor, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and the Secretary of State meet within 7 days of the election to canvass election results for state and federal offices. The Governor issues certificates of election. (South Dakota Statutes 12-20-36; 37; 46; 47; 49) (also see South Dakota 2024 Election Calendar).
Tennessee	County officials meet no later than the 3rd Monday after the election to canvass local election returns. County canvass results are sent to the Secretary of State. After the Secretary of State receives the county canvass results, the Governor, Secretary of State, and the Attorney General canvass and declare election results for state and federal offices. The Governor issues certificates of election. (Tennessee Code 2-8-101; 109; 110)
Texas	Local officials canvass local election returns no later than the 14 th day after the election. Upon completion of the local canvass, returns are sent to the Secretary of State. The Governor conducts the state canvass for state and federal offices (except Governor and Lt. Gov.) no earlier than the 18th day, and no later than the 33 rd day, after the election. The Governor issues certificates of election after completing the canvass. The State Legislature canvasses the results for Governor and Lieutenant Governor during the first week of the state legislative session (Texas Code 67-003; 012; 016; Texas Constitution Article 4, Section 3)
Utah	County officials meet no earlier than the 7th day, and no later than the 14th day, after the election to canvass local election returns. County canvass results are sent to the Lieutenant Governor. The State Auditor, the State Treasurer, and the Attorney General meet on the 4th Monday of November to canvass and determine election results for state and federal offices. The Lieutenant Governor issues certificates of election. (Utah Code 20A-4-301; 306)
Vermont	Within 48 hours of the polls closing local officials transmit election returns to the Secretary of State. One week after the election, the Secretary of State, and the chair of the state committee of each major political party, canvass and certify election results for state and federal offices. (Vermont Statutes 17-51-2588; 2592)
Virginia	Local officials must complete the canvass of election results within 10 days of the election. Local canvass results are sent to the State Board of Elections. The State Board of Elections meets by the first Monday in December to canvass and ascertain election results for state and federal offices. The Board issues certificates of election. (Virginia Statutes 24.2-671; 675; 679; 680)
Washington	County officials complete the canvass of local election returns 21 days after the election and transmit results to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State canvasses and certifies election results for state and federal offices no later than the 30th day after the election. (Washington Statutes 29A-60-190; 230; 250)

	An automatic recount takes place if the difference in the number of votes cast for a candidate and the closest apparently defeated opponent is less than 2000 votes and also less than .5% of the total number of votes cast for both candidates. (29A.64.021)
West Virginia	County Commissions serve as the Boards of Canvassers and meet to begin canvassing election results for local, state, and federal offices on the 5 th day after the election, excluding Sunday. The Boards must certify results within 48 hours after the results are declared. (West Virginia Statutes 3-6-9; 3-6-11). (also see West Virginia 2024 Election Calendar).
Wisconsin	County officials meet to canvass local election returns no later than the Tuesday after the election. Results must be transmitted to the state election commission no later than 14 days after the election. The state elections commission canvasses and certifies results no later than Dec 1 st following the election. Board issues certificates of election after the period for requesting a recount has passed. (Wisconsin Statutes 7-60(3); 60(5)(a); 70(3)(a); 70(5)(a)) (also see Wisconsin 2024 Election Calendar).
Wyoming	<p>County officials meet no later than Friday after the election to canvass local election returns. County officials transmit canvass results to the Secretary of State. The Governor, the Secretary of State, the State Auditor, and the State Treasurer no later than the 2nd Wednesday after the election to canvas and certify results. The Governor issues certificates of election. (Wyoming Statutes 22-16-103; 108; 118; 121)</p> <p>An automatic recount takes place when the difference in votes cast for the winning candidate receiving the least number of votes and the losing candidate receiving the greatest number of votes is less than 1% of the number of votes cast for the winning candidate receiving the least number of votes cast for the office. (22-16-109)</p>