



VOTE COUNT VERIFICATION COMMITTEE

**September 9, 2024
DRAFT MINUTES**

The Vote Count Verification Committee met on September 9, 2024, via Zoom.

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair, Jennifer Morrell, called the meeting to order at 11:34 a.m., and per roll call, a quorum was present.

Present:

Rhonda Barnes, General Counsel, House Democratic Staff
Thomas Collins, , Executive Director, Citizens Clean Elections Commission
Jennifer Morrell, CEO, The Elections Group
Helen Purcell, former Maricopa County Recorder
Pete Rios, former Arizona legislator
Reynaldo Valenzuela, Director of Election Services and Early Voting, Maricopa County Recorder
Benny White, Research Staff Member, The Audit Guys

Absent: Pete Rios, former Arizona legislator

Also Present:

Juli Myers – Elections Executive Assistant/Constituent Correspondence Coordinator & Staff
Tanner Robinson – Elections Constituent Services Manager & Staff
Amy Chan – General Counsel, Secretary of State’s Office
Karen Hartman-Tellez – Senior Litigation Counsel, Arizona Attorney General’s Office

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 8, 2022

Chair Morrell opened Committee discussion on approval of minutes and requested that a small typo be corrected prior to final consideration.

Ms. Barnes made the motion to approve the July 8, 2022, meeting minutes as amended. Ms. Purcell seconded the motion. The motion was approved 6-0-1.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Barnes: Yes
Mr. Rios: Absent
Mr. Collins: Yes
Ms. Purcell: Yes
Mr. Valenzuela: Yes
Co-Chair White: Yes

Chair Morrell: Yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 24, 2024

Co-Chair White pointed out a spelling error and notation for “ballot tabulation counted correctly.” Chair Morrell then requested a motion.

Ms. Purcell made the motion to approve the June 24, 2024, meeting minutes as amended. Co-Chair White seconded the motion. The motion was approved 6-0-1.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Barnes: Yes
Mr. Rios: Absent
Mr. Collins: Yes
Ms. Purcell: Yes
Mr. Valenzuela: Yes
Co-Chair White: Yes
Chair Morrell: Yes

STAFF PRESENTATION AND COMMITTEE DISCUSSION: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF HAND COUNT AUDIT RESULTS FROM 2012 THROUGH THE JULY 30, 2024 PRIMARY ELECTION

Ms. Myers referred to the report, noting the addition of the 2024 Primary Election information.

Co-Chair Morrell noted the thresholds are currently set as follows:

- 3 votes or 1% of early ballots, whichever is greater
- 3 votes or 1% of polling place ballots, whichever is greater

Co-Chair White asked what the phrase “in total aggregate audit” refers to. He referred to page 4 regarding Gila County, among other references. Mr. Valenzuela described it as being requested since committee inception in 2006.

Co-Chair White expressed his concern that discrepancies and reconciliation are not defined in statute.

Co-Chair Morrell noted that because the audit report doesn’t address it, does not indicate that reconciliation is not occurring. Mr. Valenzuela echoed this response.

Co-Chair White asked about legislative action capabilities for the committee. Ms. Chan noted that the committee could convey to the Secretary of State a preference regarding legislative action items, she did note that this was not a current agenda item for this meeting. She also noted that each member may pursue legislative efforts individually, and added that members could approach the Secretary individually as well.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE REGARDING DESIGNATED MARGINS FOR THE NOVEMBER 5, 2024, GENERAL ELECTION

Co-Chair White motioned to maintain the current margins for the November 5, 2024 General Election. Ms. Purcell seconded the motion, and the motion was approved 6-0-1.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Barnes: Yes
Mr. Rios: Absent
Mr. Collins: Yes
Ms. Purcell: Yes
Mr. Valenzuela: Yes
Co-Chair White: Yes
Chair Morrell: Yes

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No comments were received to enter into the record.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Valenzuela made the motion that the Committee adjourn. Co-Chair White seconded the motion and the motion was approved 6-0-1. The meeting adjourned at 11:55a.m.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Barnes: Yes
Mr. Rios: Absent
Mr. Collins: Yes
Ms. Purcell: Yes
Mr. Valenzuela: Yes
Co-Chair White: Yes
Chair Morrell: Yes