ROXANNA MORITZ AUDITOR & COMMISSIONER OF ELECTIONS

600 W. 4TH Street Davenport, Iowa 52801

Ph: (563) 326-8631 Fax: (563) 326-8601

Cell: (563) 370-3915

www.scottcountyiowa.com



To: Scott County Board of Canvassers

From: Roxana Moritz, Scott County Auditor and Clerk to the Board of Supervisors

Date: November 30, 2020

Re: Report of the Recount Board for the U.S. Representative 2nd District Election

The Recount Board referenced above recounted the votes in each precinct in Scott County, including the absentee precinct. The method used by the Board was a combination of hand counting the ballots and machine counting the ballots. Because the Board used this method it provided my office with a report which did not include a summary report distributing the votes from the absentee ballots back to the home precinct of the voter. The Board did include a summary report for each precinct individually canvassed. The report of the Board is attached.

The Abstract of Votes reflects the total votes the Recount Board counted for each candidate. The Election Canvass Summary does not reflect that total due to the inability to distribute the absentee precinct votes back to the home precincts.

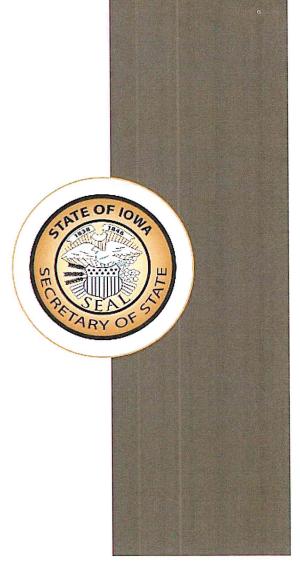
Auditor and Staff Restrictions

Auditor and Staff Restrictions

The auditor and auditor's staff should not count votes unless they are designated as a member of the recount board. Do not instruct members of the recount board to count or not count a particular vote. Recount board members are the only individuals authorized to decide whether or not to count a vote. If the auditor or auditor's designee is asked a question related to whether or not a vote should be counted, that individual should instruct the recount board to review the Counting Votes Guide and IAC 721—26. If legal advice is needed, the recount board should consult with the county attorney.

The auditor or auditor's designee is responsible for the security of the ballots and must supervise their handling. If the recount board requests the use of the optical scan voting machine, the auditor or auditor's designee must operate the tabulation machine.

[IAC 721-26.105]



Report for Recount of Votes Cast for Office Scott County Nov. 3, 2020 General Election US Rep. 2nd District

Board Members: Ian Russell

D74

D82

D84

D4

HG

RV

WF

Absentee Total

John Nahra

710 HOT 25 PH 3: 55

State of Iowa

Abstract of Votes

Scott County, Iowa

We, the undersigned members of the County Board of Canvassers, hereby certify the following to be a true and correct abstract of the votes cast in this county, at the General Election - 2020 held on Tuesday, November 03, 2020, as shown by the tally lists returned from the several election precincts.

United States Representative District 2

Received One Hundred and Sixty-Eight (168) votes

Rita R. Hart, DEM

Received Forty-Seven Thousand Five Hundred and Sixty-Two (47,562) votes

Mariannette Miller-Meeks, REP

Received Forty-Two Thousand and Forty-Six (42,046) votes

Scattering

Total

Eighty-Nine Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy-Six (89,776) votes

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and caused to be affixed the seal of this county by the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors at Davenport, the county seat of Scott County, this Tuesday, November 10, 2020.

Chairperson	
	Members of the Board of Supervisors and exofficion County Board of Canvassers
Att - L	

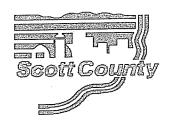
Attest: County Auditor and Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

MICHAEL J. WALTON COUNTY ATTORNEY

Scott County Courthouse 416 West Fourth Street Davenport, Iowa 52801-1104 Telephone: (563) 326-8600

Facsimile Transmission (563) 326-8763

robert.cusack@scottcountyiowa.com WEB SITE - www.scottcountyiowa.com



Robert L. Cusack, Assistant County Attorney (563) 326-8231

November 18, 2020

Memo re: election recount procedure and authority of the recount board

The questions presented are what procedures are to be used by recount judges and what authority do recount judges have when they have determined what the intent of the voter was on ballots that were not machine counted.

These questions arise in the tabulation of absentee ballots. A special precinct is formed by statute and is comprised of all absentee and provisional ballots within the boundaries of a county. See Iowa Code Section 53.20.

A recount of the votes for the election of the representative for lowa's Second Congressional District was duly ordered pursuant to Iowa Code Section 50.48. Three members were named to the recount board. *Id.* The recount board "shall undertake and complete the required recount as expeditiously as reasonably possible." Iowa Code Section 50.48. The responsibility of a recount board is to tabulate all votes for the office in question on ballots that were counted by the precinct election officials at the election. IAC 721-26.104(50). All ballots that were accepted for counting shall be recounted. IAC 721-26.104(1). A voter's definite choices shall be counted even if the recount board determines that the voter's choices differ from the votes as counted by the tabulating device. IAC 721-26.104(3). The recount board shall follow the standards for counting votes as prescribed by Iowa Code sections 49.92 to 49.99 and this chapter. IAC 721-26.104(3).

Neither the lowa Code nor the lowa Administrative Code sets forth the requirements or procedures for the recount board to "tabulate all votes". The Code does require that the recount board "complete the required recount as expeditiously as reasonably possible." From information received from Scott County Auditor, approximately 60,000 absentee ballots were received in Scott County. According to the recount board a manual recount of 60,000 votes within the timeframe required by lowa Code Section 50.48(4) is an impossibility. It certainly would not be "as expeditiously as reasonably possible." The recount board is currently recounting the ballots by machine and is then manually recounting the votes that the machine has trouble reading. This method is also time consuming, but it is the opinion of this office that it complies with the requirements of both the lowa Code and the lowa Administrative Code. The recount board, and from all accounts all other authorities with knowledge about lowa's election procedures and infrastructure, indicates high confidence in the results of machine vote counting. Using the machine counting, in addition to hand counting the ballots cast that the machine cannot read, is consistent with the requirement to "tabulate all votes". A manual recount of all 60,000 absentee ballots is not required.



State Capitol
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

OFFICE OF THE IOWA SECRETARY OF STATE

November 19, 2020

Shayla McCormally McCormally & Cosgrove, PLLC 4508 Fleur Drive Des Moines, IA 50321

Dear Ms. McCormally:

As you know, Secretary Pate is committed to a transparent process to review and count every vote so that Iowans can be confident that the General Election was conducted in a secure and fair manner. The unofficial result in US Congressional District 2 is unprecedented. The twenty-four County Auditors in the district and Secretary Pate are working to ensure that the recount boards in those counties have the tools and guidance they need to conduct a smooth recount in each county.

To that end, this office has made available the Recount Guide, Recount Board Guide, and Counting Votes Guide that have been resources for county auditors for many years. In addition, this office has responded to specific questions from county auditors, some of whom have not been through a recount before, let alone a recount of every precinct in their counties. In an effort to promote transparency and uniformity, we have shared those responses with all county auditors and their staffs in the event they have similar questions.

You have raised a question regarding guidance from our office that "after the machine count for a precinct, the Recount Board may conduct a hand recount in that precinct if it reported either undervotes or overvotes on Election Day and after the machine recount." It appears that by quoting a partial sentence, you may not understand the context in which the response was given.

Our office was asked whether a recount board may count only the undervotes and overvotes in a given precinct. The answer to this, of course, is no. The recount board is required to count all of the votes for the office in question that were tabulated on election day. See Iowa Admin. Code 721—