

Important Tool: Hand Counts

LINDA RANTZ



Return to Hand Counting



objection

noun

ob·jec·tion

Legal Definition

: a reason or argument forming the ground of an objection



"Objection." Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/objection>. Accessed 7 Jan. 2024

objection

noun

ob·jec·tion

Legal Definition

: a reason or argument forming the ground of an objection



“Objection.” Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/objection>. Accessed 7 Jan. 2024

: a popular belief that is
false or unsupported

myth
noun
'mith



“Myth.” Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/myth>. Accessed 7 Jan. 2024

: the results of an
investigation

findings

noun

find·ings



“Finding.” Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/finding>. Accessed 10 Jan. 2024.



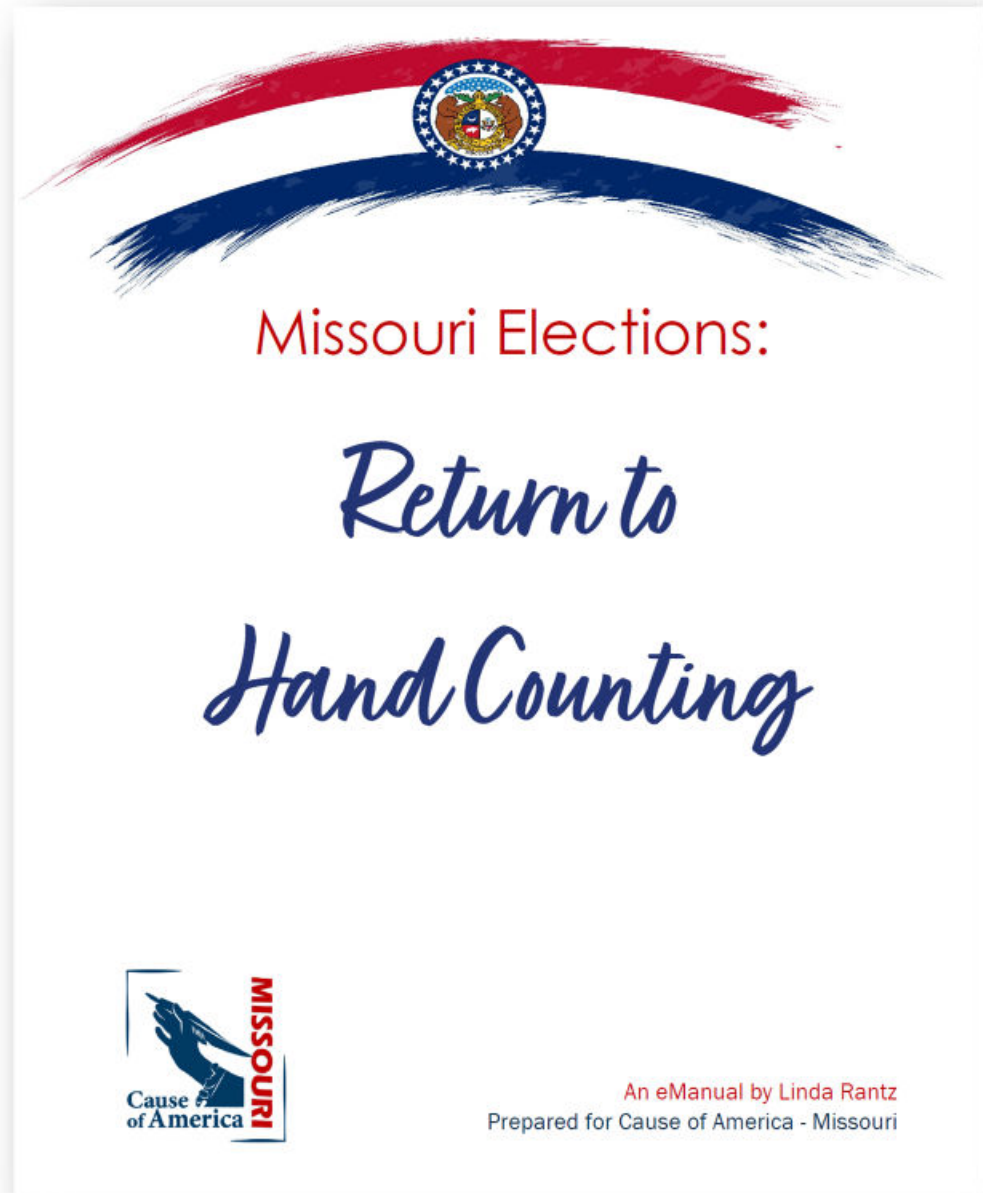
In 1977,
Missouri State Legislature
Statutes in place
for complete
process of hand
counting ballots





eManual

60-page process
plus info & resources



April 4, 2023
Osage County, Missouri

FACT CHECK ✓

Common Myths

Costs too much
Less Accurate
Takes too Long

Not Enough People

Only Works for Small Counties

Findings

Saves Time
Saves Money

Same Day Results

Transparency & Security

Works in Counties of any size



Findings

Continuity of Government



HAND COUNTING COSTS TOO MUCH

What they won't say:

How much it costs (total) to use voting machines.

What they WILL say:

Hand counting will cost more than that.

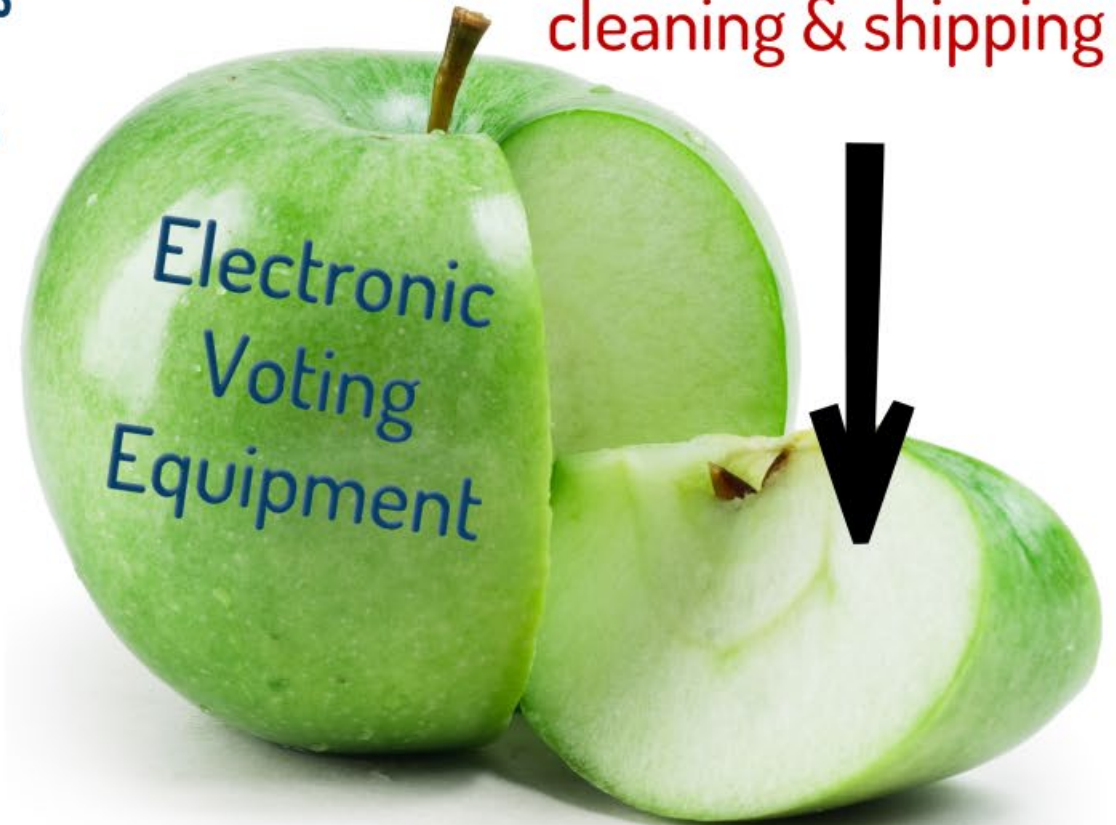
Nearly impossible to do an apples-to-apples comparison, since “ALL” costs for voting equipment are not provided.



Slices-to-Slices Comparison

Additional Election Judges
to hand count the ballots

Program ICP, turnkey EMS, Annual
Licensing, ballot layout, machine
cleaning & shipping

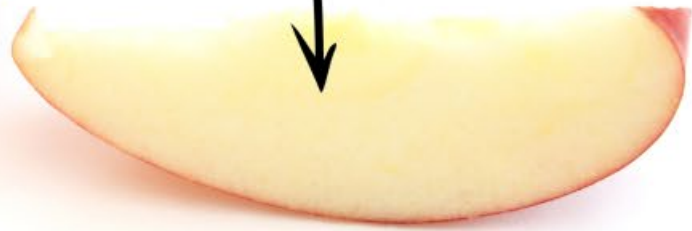


Slices-to-Slices Comparison

Osage County MO • <10,000 Voters • 4-year Cycle

\$1.61
per ballot

Additional Election Judges
to hand count the ballots

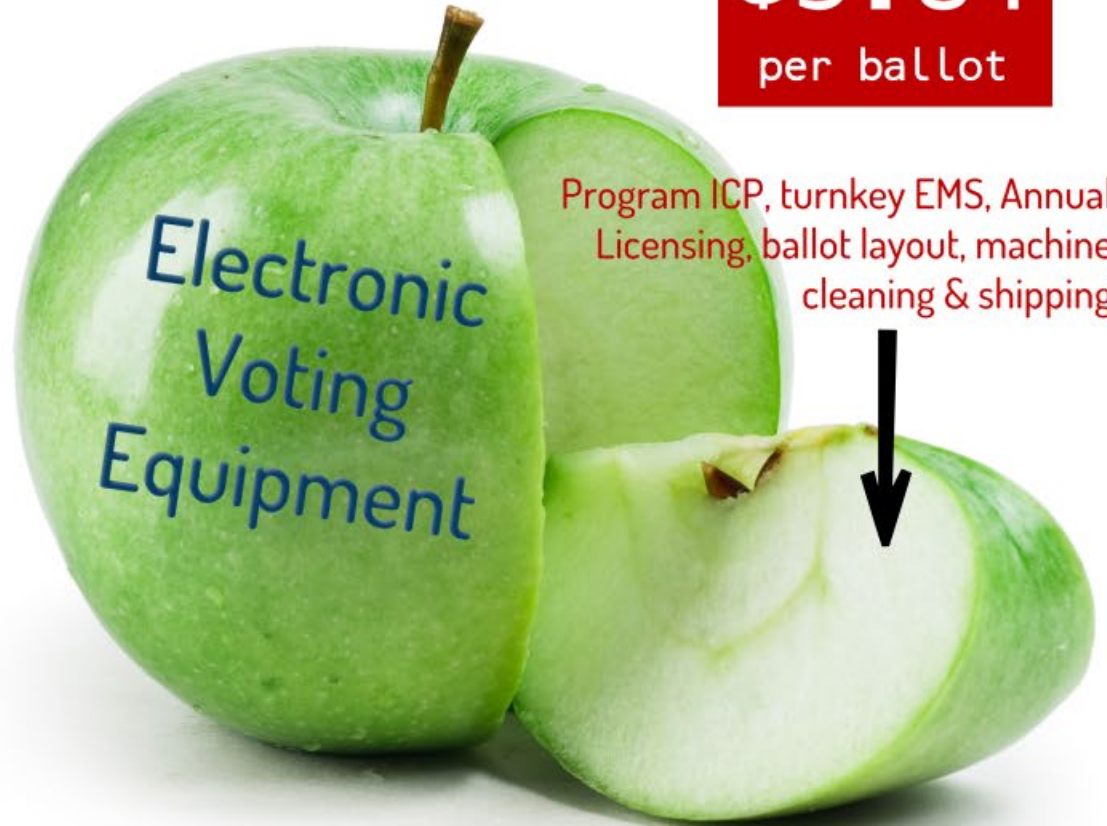


\$3.84
per ballot

Program ICP, turnkey EMS, Annual
Licensing, ballot layout, machine
cleaning & shipping



Electronic
Voting
Equipment



What are the Other Costs?

Osage County MO • <10,000 Voters • 4-year Cycle

EQUIPMENT purchase or lease, software purchases, ongoing upgrades, additional hardware or peripherals, backup storage devices, emergency power supplies, supplies such as printer ink and toner, paper, USB or removable devices. Repair technicians and support, maintenance agreements, training for staff, transportation to move equipment, electricity and associated lighting and air conditioning, storage, depreciation and amortization estimates, disposal costs associated with disposing of or selling obsolete technology, etc.

???

Equipment SECURITY

Pre-Election Testing
Post-Election Testing

- Staff time/labor
- Election worker costs
- Advertising

\$3.84
per ballot

Program ICP, turnkey EMS, Annual Licensing, ballot layout, machine cleaning & shipping

Electronic
Voting
Equipment

What are the Other Costs?

Osage County MO • <10,000 Voters • 4-year Cycle

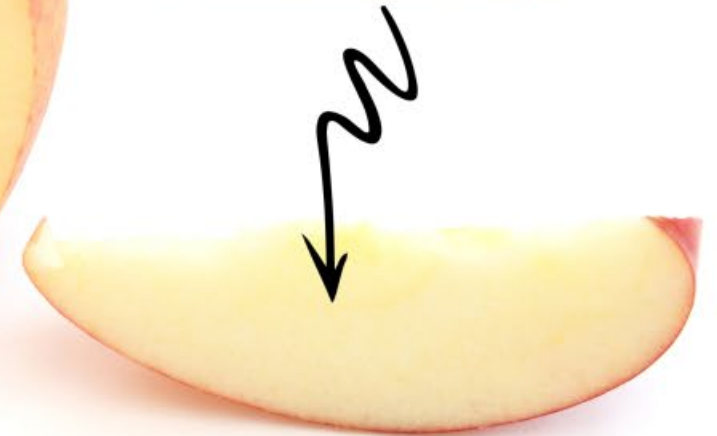
Ballot Boxes,
Security Seals,
Printing, Binders,
Markers, Pens,
Office Supplies, etc.

\$1.10
per ballot



\$1.61
per ballot

Additional Election Judges
to hand count the ballots



What are the Other Costs?

Osage County MO • <10,000 Voters • 4-year Cycle



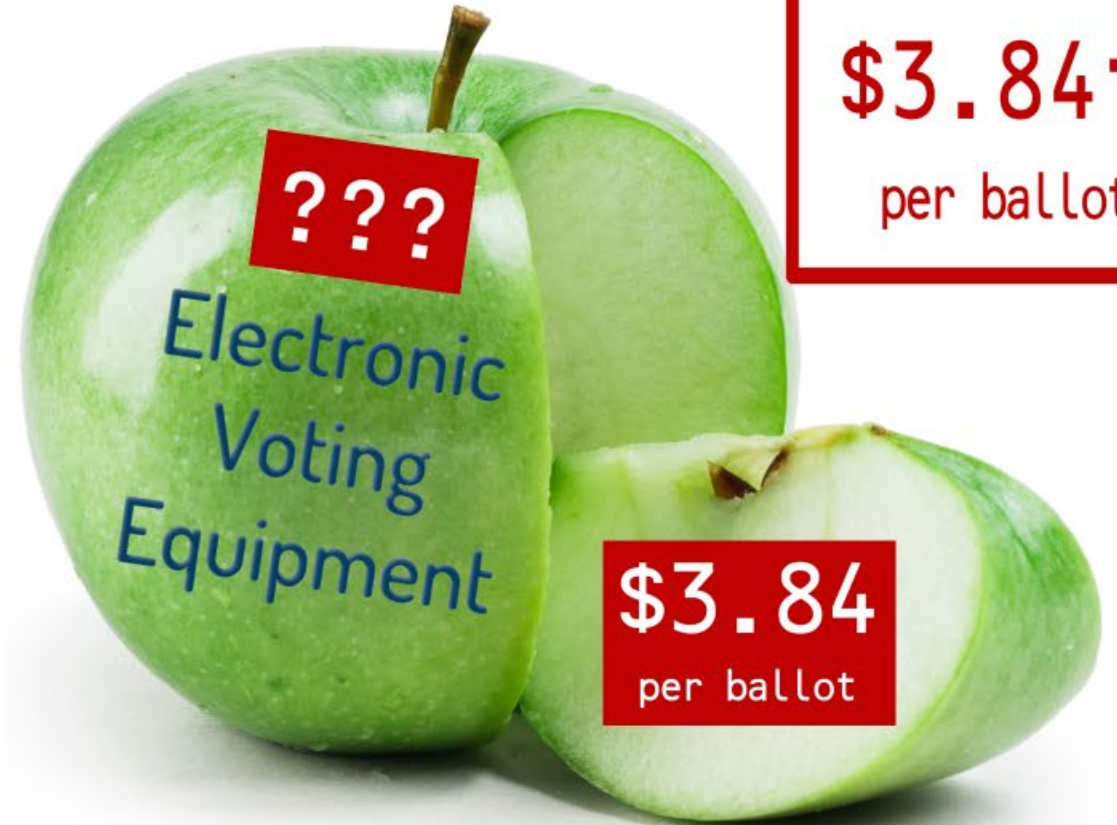
$$\boxed{\begin{array}{c} \$2.71 \\ \text{per ballot} \end{array}} = \begin{array}{c} \$1.10 \\ \text{per ballot} \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \$1.61 \\ \text{per ballot} \end{array}$$

Apple-to-Slice Comparison

Osage County MO • <10,000 Voters • 4-year Cycle



\$2.71
per ballot



\$3.84+
per ballot

\$3.84
per ballot

ONLY WORKS IN SMALL COUNTIES

What is the source information for this claim?

Consider this ...

How many people vote at your polling place?

It is the size of the polling place,
not the size of the county.



A.I.

What is the average number of registered voters per polling place?

600 - 800



A.I.

What is the average voter turnout?

60%

SIMPLE MATH

Average ballots cast at polling places?

360 - 480



HUMANS

Is there a difference when

360 - 480

ballots are cast at a polling place in a **SMALL** county, and

360 - 480

cast at polling place in a **LARGE** county?



APRIL 2023 ELECTION



Osage County, MO

<10,000
Registered Voters

Westphalia Polling Place

481 Ballots Cast
1 Team

Counted in 5 hours

St. Charles County, MO

~292,000
Registered Voters

115 Polling Places (PP)

83 PP <481 ballots / 1 Team
32 PP <1K ballots / 2 Teams

Could count in 5 hours

PEOPLE LESS ACCURATE THAN MACHINES

ELECTIONS

npr kbja

Research finds hand counting ballots to be less accurate and more expensive

October 11, 2022 · 4:49 PM ET

Heard on *All Things Considered*



Miles Parks

<https://www.npr.org/2022/10/11/1128197774/research-finds-hand-counting-ballots-to-be-less-accurate-and-more-expensive>



3-Minute Listen

+ PLAYLIST



Conspiracy theorists want to get rid of voting machines, but research has found hand counting to be less accurate and more expensive.

PEOPLE LESS ACCURATE THAN MACHINES



PARKS: So there have been a few studies that have actually confirmed this. Most recently there was a study that was published in 2018 that looked at Wisconsin, which has a lot of really small election jurisdictions. Some places there hand-count. Some places use machines to help with the count.

PEOPLE LESS ACCURATE THAN MACHINES

The Washington Post
Democracy Dies in Darkness

2. It opens up the process to more errors

Humans aren't particularly good at repetitive tasks such as counting ballots. Machines were made for that, said Wendy Weiser, who directs the democracy program at the Brennan Center for Justice.

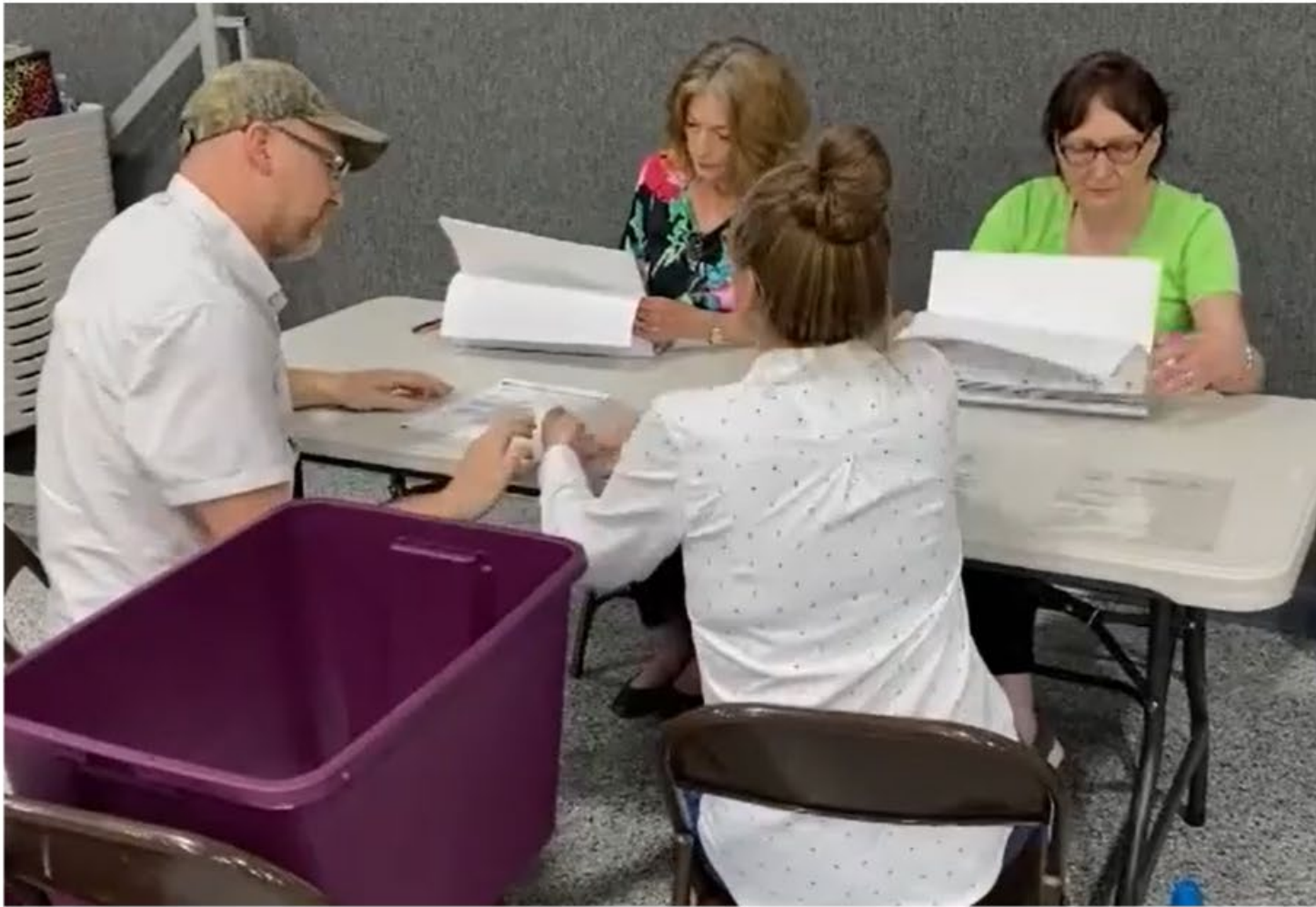
PEOPLE LESS ACCURATE THAN MACHINES

The Washington Post
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Weiser said there aren't many studies about the accuracy of hand-counting, but a 2012 study looked at error rates for a popular hand-counting method and found a 2 percent error rate. "There are multiple elections won or lost by much less than 1 percent," she said.

If you're entirely hand-counting ballots, voters fill out their ballots entirely by paper — which opens up a lot of room for mistakes.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/04/08/hand-count-election-explained/>



VOTER INTENT

115.453

“Distinguishing Mark”

“Regulations promulgated by the secretary of state shall be used by the judges to determine voter intent.”

<https://www.sos.mo.gov/cmsimages/adrules/csr/current/15csr/15c30-9.pdf>

Voter Intent – Hand Counting

For Governor (Vote for one)		
☒	HARRY S. TRUMAN	PARTY
☐	LAURA INGALLS WILDER	PARTY
☐	MARK TWAIN	PARTY
☐	GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER	PARTY
☐	_____ WRITE-IN	PARTY

For Governor (Vote for one)		
☒	HARRY S. TRUMAN	PARTY
☐	LAURA INGALLS WILDER	PARTY
☐	MARK TWAIN	PARTY
☐	GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER	PARTY
☐	_____ WRITE-IN	PARTY

For Governor (Vote for one)		
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☐	_____ WRITE-IN	PARTY

For Governor (Vote for one)		
☐	HARRY S. TRUMAN	PARTY
☐	LAURA INGALLS WILDER	PARTY
☐	MARK TWAIN	PARTY
☒	GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER	PARTY
☒	Gertrude Stein	PARTY
☐	_____ WRITE-IN	PARTY

Gertrude Stein: NOT qualified

Voter Intent – Hand Counting

For Governor
(Vote for one)

☒	HARRY S. TRUMAN	PARTY
☐	LAURA INGALLS WILDER	PARTY
☐	MARK TWAIN	PARTY
☐	GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER	PARTY
☐	WRITE-IN	PARTY

This constitutes a vote for Harry S. Truman.

For Governor
(Vote for one)

☒	HARRY S. TRUMAN	PARTY
☐	LAURA INGALLS WILDER	PARTY
☐	MARK TWAIN	PARTY
☐	GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER	PARTY
☐	WRITE-IN	PARTY

This constitutes a vote for Harry S. Truman.

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☐	LAURA INGALLS WILDER	PARTY
☒	MARK TWAIN	PARTY
☐	GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER	PARTY
☐	WRITE-IN	PARTY

This constitutes a vote for Mark Twain.

For Governor
(Vote for one)

☐	HARRY S. TRUMAN	PARTY
☒	LAURA INGALLS WILDER	PARTY
☐	MARK TWAIN	PARTY
☐	GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER	PARTY
☐	WRITE-IN	PARTY

This constitutes a vote for Laura Ingalls Wilder.

For Governor
(Vote for one)

☐	HARRY S. TRUMAN	PARTY
☒	LAURA INGALLS WILDER	PARTY
☐	MARK TWAIN	PARTY
☒	GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER	PARTY
☐	WRITE-IN	PARTY

This constitutes a vote for Laura Ingalls Wilder.

For Governor
(Vote for one)

☐	HARRY S. TRUMAN	PARTY
☐	LAURA INGALLS WILDER	PARTY
☐	MARK TWAIN	PARTY
☒	GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER	PARTY
☒	Gertrude Stein	PARTY

Gertrude Stein is not a qualified candidate. This shall constitute a vote for George Washington Carver.

Voter Intent – Machine Counting

For Governor (Vote for one)		
☒	HARRY S. TRUMAN	PARTY
☐	LAURA INGALLS WILDER	PARTY
☐	MARK TWAIN	PARTY
☐	GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER	PARTY
☐	_____ WRITE-IN	PARTY

For Governor (Vote for one)		
☒	HARRY S. TRUMAN	PARTY
☐	LAURA INGALLS WILDER	PARTY
☐	MARK TWAIN	PARTY
☐	GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER	PARTY
☐	_____ WRITE-IN	PARTY

For Governor (Vote for one)		
☐	HARRY S. TRUMAN	PARTY
☐	LAURA INGALLS WILDER	PARTY
☒	MARK TWAIN	PARTY
☐	GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER	PARTY
☐	_____ WRITE-IN	PARTY

For Governor (Vote for one)		
☐	HARRY S. TRUMAN	PARTY
☒	LAURA INGALLS WILDER	PARTY
☐	MARK TWAIN	PARTY
☐	GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER	PARTY
☐	_____ WRITE-IN	PARTY

For Governor (Vote for one)		
☒ <i>this one</i>	HARRY S. TRUMAN	PARTY
☐	LAURA INGALLS WILDER	PARTY
☒	MARK TWAIN	PARTY
☐	GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER	PARTY
☐	_____ WRITE-IN	PARTY

For Governor (Vote for one)		
☐	HARRY S. TRUMAN	PARTY
☒	LAURA INGALLS WILDER	PARTY
☐	MARK TWAIN	PARTY
☐	GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER	PARTY
☒	<i>Albert Einstein</i>	PARTY
	WRITE-IN	PARTY

Albert Einstein: NOT qualified

Voter Intent – Machine Counting

For Governor
(Vote for one)

☒	HARRY S. TRUMAN	PARTY
☐	LAURA INGALLS WILDER	PARTY
☐	MARK TWAIN	PARTY
☐	GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER	PARTY
☐	_____ WRITE-IN	PARTY

This constitutes a vote for Harry S. Truman.

For Governor
(Vote for one)

☒	HARRY S. TRUMAN	PARTY
☐	LAURA INGALLS WILDER	PARTY
☐	MARK TWAIN	PARTY
☐	GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER	PARTY
☐	_____ WRITE-IN	PARTY

This constitutes a vote for Harry S. Truman.

For Governor
(Vote for one)

☐	HARRY S. TRUMAN	PARTY
☐	LAURA INGALLS WILDER	PARTY
☒	MARK TWAIN	PARTY
☐	GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER	PARTY
☐	_____ WRITE-IN	PARTY

This constitutes a vote for Mark Twain.

For Governor
(Vote for one)

☐	HARRY S. TRUMAN	PARTY
☒	LAURA INGALLS WILDER	PARTY
☐	MARK TWAIN	PARTY
☐	GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER	PARTY
☐	_____ WRITE-IN	PARTY

This constitutes a vote for Laura Ingalls Wilder.

For Governor
(Vote for one)

☒	HARRY S. TRUMAN	PARTY
☐	LAURA INGALLS WILDER	PARTY
☒	MARK TWAIN	PARTY
☐	GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER	PARTY
☐	_____ WRITE-IN	PARTY

This constitutes a vote for Harry S. Truman.

For Governor
(Vote for one)

☐	HARRY S. TRUMAN	PARTY
☒	LAURA INGALLS WILDER	PARTY
☐	MARK TWAIN	PARTY
☐	GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER	PARTY
☒	Albert Einstein	PARTY

Albert Einstein is not a qualified candidate. This constitutes a vote for Laura Ingalls Wilder.

DO MACHINES CONSIDER VOTER INTENT?

**ARE MACHINES ACCURATELY
TALLYING VOTER INTENT?**

A STANDARD BALLOT

WHAT THE VOTER REVIEWS / CARES ABOUT

WHAT THE MACHINE SEES

 **Demonstration General Election**
Demo County, USA
November 5, 2024

Instructions

Making Selections

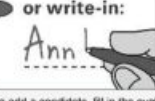


Fill in the oval to the left of the name of your choice. You must blacken the oval completely, and do not make any marks outside of the oval. You do not have to vote in every race.

Do not cross out or erase, or your vote may not count. If you make a mistake or a stray mark, ask for a new ballot from the poll workers.

Optional write-in

or write-in:



To add a candidate, fill in the oval to the left of "Write-in" and print the name clearly in the space provided.

Turning in the ballot



Insert the completed ballot into the ballot sleeve. Hand in the ballot to be counted.

Do not fold the ballot.

President
Vote for One

☐ Andy Andrews

☒ Betsy Brown

☐ Cara Craig

☐ Write-in _____

Board of Commissioners
Vote for no more than Two

☐ Justine Jones

☐ Kurt Kelly

☒ Lisa Lewis

☒ Mike Morgan

☐ Nora Nelson

☐ Oscar Olson

☐ Percy Perez

U.S. Representative District 1
Vote for One

☐ Dan Davis

☒ Evan Edwards

☐ Francine Franklin

☐ Write-in _____

Governor
Vote for One

☐ Geraldine George

☒ Harry Harvin

☐ Ingrid Ingalls

Voting Day Question

Are you in favor of moving Election Day to Saturday?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please Vote Both Sides

Typ:01 Seq:0001 Spr:01 Print:1

Demonstration General Election
Demo County, USA
November 5, 2024

President
Vote for One

☐ Andy Andrews

☒ Betsy Brown

☐ Cara Craig

☐ Write-in _____

U.S. Representative District 1
Vote for One

☐ Dan Davis

☒ Evan Edwards

☐ Francine Franklin

☐ Write-in _____

Governor
Vote for One

☐ Geraldine George

☒ Harry Harvin

☐ Ingrid Ingalls

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☐ Kurt Kelly

☒ Lisa Lewis

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☐ Nora Nelson

☐ Oscar Olson

☐ Percy Perez

Voting Day Question

Are you in favor of moving Election Day to Saturday?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Print:1







WHAT THE VOTER REVIEWS / CARES ABOUT

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Demo County, USA
November 5, 2024

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Making Selections

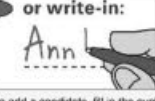


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Vote for One

☐ Andy Andrews

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☐ Write-in _____

U.S. Representative District 1
Vote for One

☐ Dan Davis

Board of Commissioners
Vote for no more than Two

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A STANDARD BALLOT

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☐ Write-in _____

Governor
Vote for One

☐ Geraldine George

☒ Harry Harvin

☐ Ingrid Ingalls

Voting Day Question

Are you in favor of moving Election Day to Saturday?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please Vote Both Sides

Typ:01 Seq:0001 Spr:01 Print:1

Demonstration General Election
Demo County, USA
November 5, 2024

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Print:1

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☐ Yes

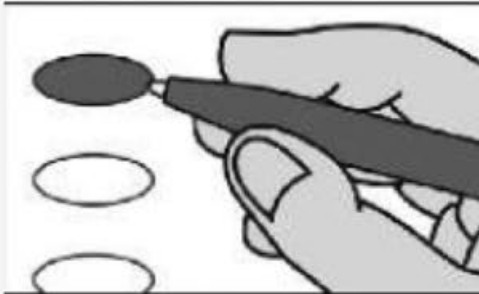
☒ No



Demonstration
Demo County
November 5,

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Optional write-in

“... do not make any marks outside of the oval.”

“Do not cross out or erase, or your vote may not count.”

☒ Betsy Brown

☐ Kurt Kelly

☒ Lisa Lewis

☒ Mike Morgan

☐ Nora Nelson

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U.S. Representative
District 1
Vote for One

A STANDARD BALLOT



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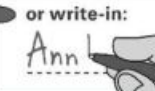


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Are you in favor of moving Election Day to Saturday?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please Vote Both Sides

Typ:01 Seq:0001 Spr:01 Print:1

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Demo County, USA
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☐ Yes

☒ No

WHAT THE MACHINE SEES

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Demo County, USA
November 5, 2024

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Vote for One

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U.S. Representative District 1
Vote for One

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☒ Evan Edwards

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☐ Write-in _____

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Vote for One

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☐ Ingrid Ingalls

Board of Commissioners
Vote for no more than Two

☐ Justine Jones

☐ Kurt Kelly

☒ Lisa Lewis

☒ Mike Morgan

☐ Nora Nelson

☐ Oscar Olson

☐ Percy Perez

Voting Day Question

Are you in favor of moving Election Day to Saturday?

☐ Yes

☒ No

WHAT THE MACHINE SEES

INE SEES



Demonstration of
Demo County, USA
November 5, 2024

Instructions

Making Selections

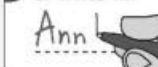


Fill in the oval to the left of the name of your choice. You must blacken the oval completely, and do not make any marks outside of the oval. You do not have to vote in every race.

Do not cross out or erase, or your vote may not count. If you make a mistake or a stray mark, ask for a new ballot from the poll workers.

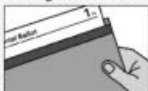
Optional write-in

or write-in:



To add a candidate, fill in the oval to the left of "Write-in" and print the name clearly in the space provided.

Turning in the ballot



Insert the completed ballot into the ballot sleeve. Hand in the ballot to be counted.

Do not fold the ballot.

The diagram consists of two vertical columns of five circles each, enclosed within a dashed rectangular border. The left column contains circles at positions 1, 3, 4, and 5, with a solid black circle at position 2. The right column contains circles at positions 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, with solid black circles at positions 2, 3, and 4.

[illegible]

ARE MACHINES ACCURATELY TALLYING VOTER INTENT?

WHAT THE MACHINE SEES

For Governor
(Vote for one)

☐ HARRY S. TRUMAN	PARTY
☒ LAURA INGALLS WILDER	PARTY
☐ MARK TWAIN	PARTY
☐ GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER	PARTY
☐ _____	PARTY
WRITE-IN	

This constitutes a vote for Laura Ingalls Wilder.

For Governor
(Vote for one)

THIS ONE

☒ HARRY S. TRUMAN	PARTY
☐ LAURA INGALLS WILDER	PARTY
☒ MARK TWAIN	PARTY
☐ GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER	PARTY
☐ _____	PARTY
WRITE-IN	

This constitutes a vote for Harry S. Truman.

For Governor
(Vote for one)

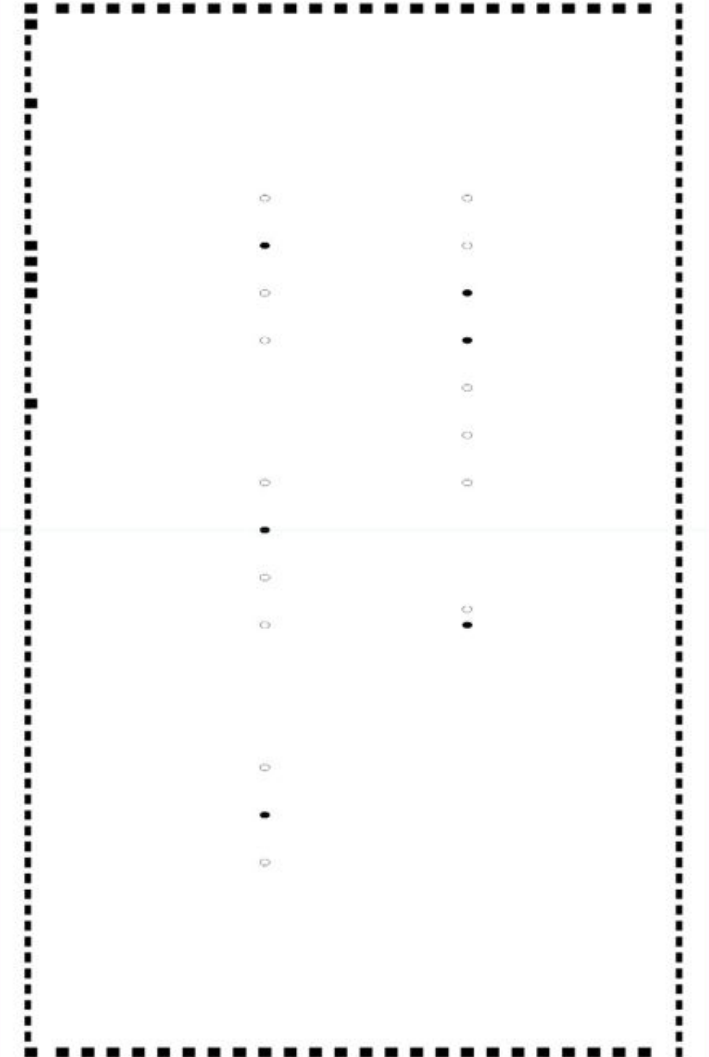
☐ HARRY S. TRUMAN	PARTY
☐ LAURA INGALLS WILDER	PARTY
☒ MARK TWAIN	PARTY
☐ GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER	PARTY
☐ _____	PARTY
WRITE-IN	

This constitutes a vote for Mark Twain.

For Governor
(Vote for one)

☒ HARRY S. TRUMAN	PARTY
☐ LAURA INGALLS WILDER	PARTY
☐ MARK TWAIN	PARTY
☐ GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER	PARTY
☐ _____	PARTY
WRITE-IN	

This constitutes a vote for Harry S. Truman.



LONG DELAYS FOR RESULTS

Without any basis, claims are made that hand counting election results will take days, weeks, or months.

Media **MUST** have results as early as possible to meet their deadlines

Claims are no one will want to wait that long for results

Same Day Results

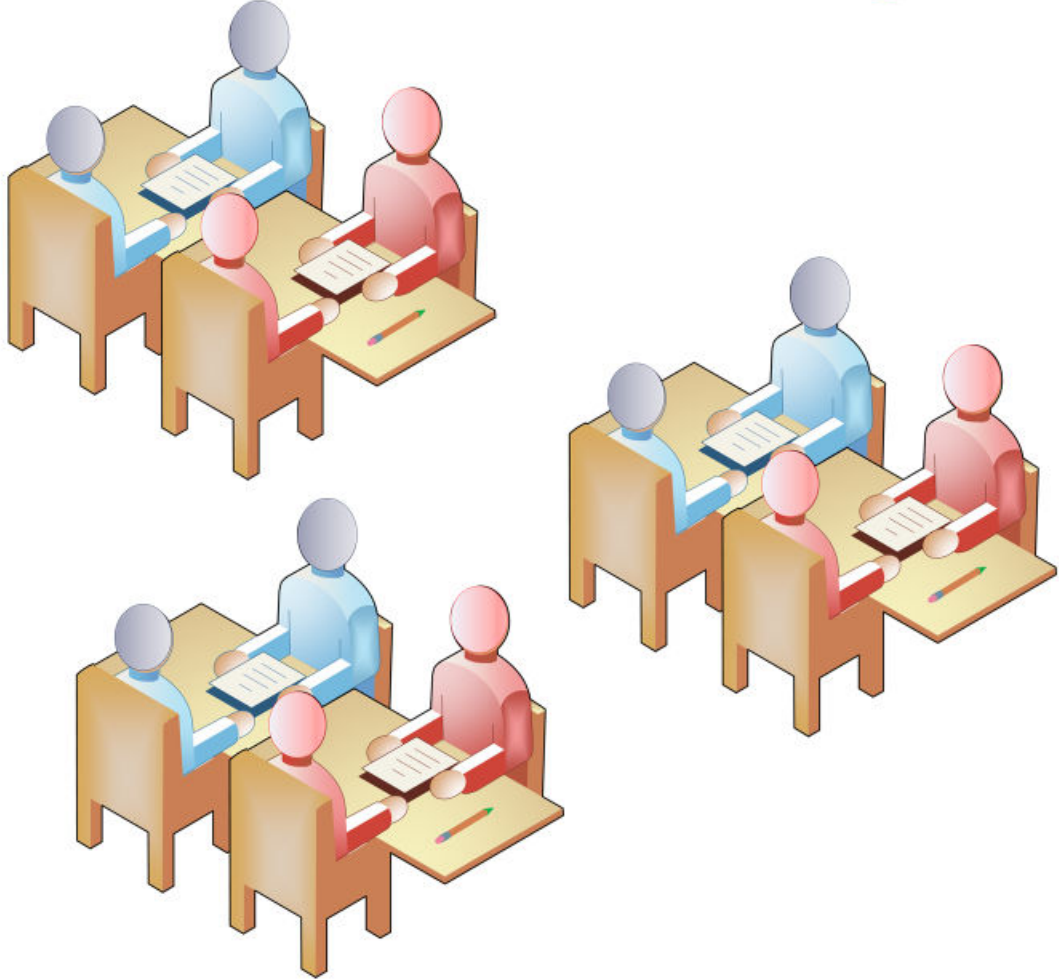


50 to 100 ballots
per Hr per team

"Missouri Model"

Counting Team

4 Election Judges



Team Scheduling

600 ballots/poll place
= 1 Team

Up to 1,200 ballots/poll place
= 2 Teams

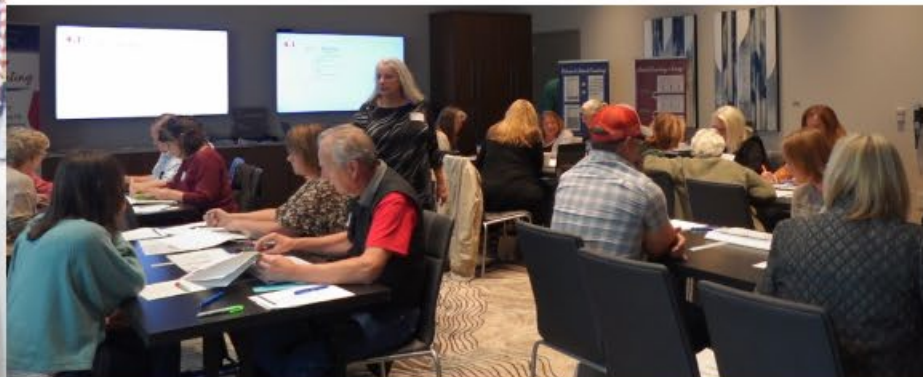
Up to 1,800 ballots/poll place
= 3 Teams

NOT ENOUGH PEOPLE TO COUNT

If all else is debunked, the “fall back” is:
**“Not enough people working the polls now,
we’ll never have enough people to count.”**

And, we say:

We’ll teach them!



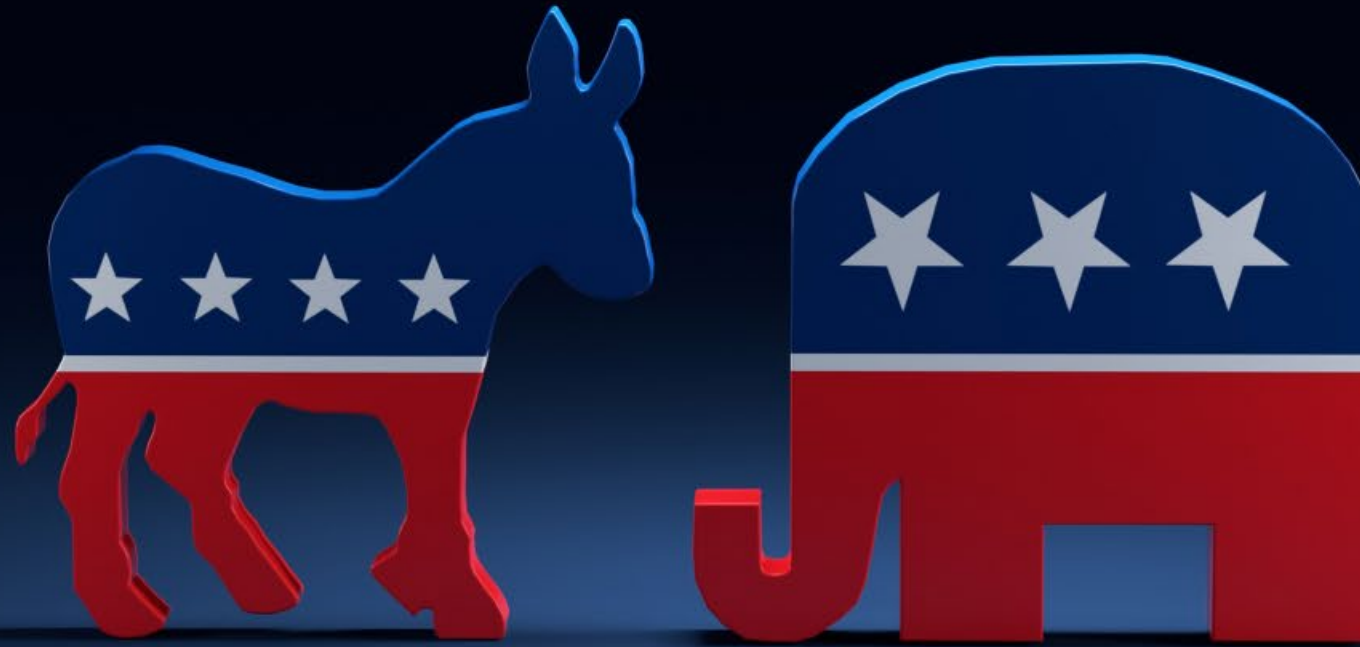


Continuity of Government



Continuity of Government





Responsible for recruiting election judges, poll workers, etc.

Hand Counting is Easy!



CauseofAmerica.org



HandCount@CauseofAmerica.org