

RETURN TO HAND COUNTING

Missouri Method Hand Count Process

Myth-Debunking Workbook

FINDING:

Plenty of People to Hand Count
Because We are Re – Training

Linda Rantz



Note on Links:

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Page numbers correspond to page locations in the full eManual, available in paperback or hardcover from Amazon.com, or downloadable from ReturntoHandCounting.com/eManual

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The hand-counting process and commentary in this manual reflect a layperson’s interpretation of Missouri statutes and rules by someone not qualified as a legal authority. This content is not offered as legal advice and should not replace advice from a licensed attorney. Readers are encouraged to consult a licensed attorney for legal guidance on Missouri’s (or other states’) laws, statutes, and rules, and to verify compliance with local election regulations before applying these methods. The author has made every effort to ensure the information in this book was correct as of August 2025. However, the author does not assume, and hereby disclaims, any liability for loss, damage, or disruption caused by errors, omissions, misuse of this manual, or unauthorized alterations, whether resulting from negligence, accident, or any other cause.

Names appearing on sample forms are fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or deceased, is purely coincidental.



FINDING: PLENTY OF PEOPLE TO
HAND COUNT BECAUSE WE'RE
"RE"-TRAINING



Myth: Not Enough People to Hand Count

I have heard this so often, ‘*We don’t have enough people to work elections now, there will never be enough to hand count,*’ that I can usually finish the sentence before the clerk.

I agree that clerks struggle to get enough election workers, but those who must fix the current issue are the political parties and the clerks themselves. This topic is discussed in “[Have We Abdicated Our Election Duties to Clerks?](#)” on page 179.

The second half of the sentence begs another question: **How many people are needed to hand-count an election?**

In February 2025, Rasmussen Reports published the results of a national survey that asked participants if they would be willing to volunteer to “hand count and examine ballots ... on election night.” The majority, 56%, answered “yes.” That is more than what is needed. Franklin County, OH, with about 840,000 registered voters, would need less than 2% of voters to volunteer.²⁰

Registered Voters Need to Do More Than Vote

The Wyoming article (see page 239) makes the unsupported claim that it will take 2,200 people to count 20,000 ballots in four hours. That is debunked on page 263, where the Hand Count Estimator tool was used, and it showed that only 484 people were needed to count that many ballots in four hours.

The Hand Count Estimator Tool Shows the Percentage of Voters Needed to Count

How are there enough people to count the ballots?		
16,370	Enter # of Registered Voters in Jurisdiction	2.96% Percentage of registered voters needed to hand count the election

307 Hand Count Estimator Tool results for Campbell County, WY showing >3% of registered voters needed to hand count an election

Another feature of the Hand Count Estimator Tool (see page 276) is that it will calculate the percentage of registered voters needed to hand-count an election. This stat is meant to put into perspective the small amount of the electorate that should step forward to serve as election workers, including hand count teams. (Missouri requires that only voters registered to vote in the state may serve as election judges.)

For Campbell County, WY, the estimator tool shows that less than 3% of registered voters make up 484 people needed to hand-count an election. The percentage required to hand count would be 2.6% of voters casting ballots.

Counting the Ballots Done by The People is Not a New Idea

It is not an old idea or concept, either. The use of electronic voting machines is the **NEW**, and its advent can be traced back to “hanging chads” in Florida in the 2000 election. Was that an accidental debacle or something used to convince the public that we can only rely on elections counted by machines?



308 DeNatale, , Bell, and Lueders-Booth.
Election Day, Massachusetts; 1987.
Library of Congress
[LOC.gov/item/afc1987042_ib_300/](https://www.loc.gov/item/afc1987042_ib_300/)

²⁰ X post by Linda Rantz on 3/6/2025 replying to @Rasmussen_Poll about American voters willing to volunteer to hand count ballots. [Perma.cc/RE53-MHDG](https://perma.cc/RE53-MHDG)

The Skill to Hand Count Ballots: We Were Misled to Believe It's Less Effective

In our rush towards modernity, we mistakenly abandoned hand-counting ballots, believing it to be unnecessary, when in fact, it's quite the opposite. The knowledge of the skill faded into obscurity through a collective cultural misstep that convinced us of its unimportance.

That misstep and misconception are being corrected now.

One-Day Voting, Paper Ballots, Hand Counted

The Hanging Chad debacle opened the floodgates for federal legislation to “protect” elections. These new laws, including HAVA and NVRA and the formation of CISA, were supposed to reassure voters, but those assurances did not hold. The *Newsroom* section of this eManual provides multiple examples, but I especially recommend the 2019 investigation by Senators Warren and Klobuchar regarding the vulnerabilities of voting equipment (see page 199).

We need to undo the damage inflicted on the security of our election systems through these ill-conceived pieces of legislation. As Mike Lindell repeats, we need to have elections with one-day voting on paper ballots that are hand-counted.

Empower the People by “Re”-Training to Hand Count Ballots

Through Mike Lindell’s grassroots organization, Cause of America, we have brought the skill of hand-counting ballots back to the People. Hand count training empowers the people to take back control and return trust in our elections. Both in-person and online training resources are available; as quoted in this article, it is “easy-peasy.”



309 QR Code:
Oregon Training

2023, Oct. 9 – When Oregon Neighborhoods Return to In-Precinct, Paper Ballots Only, Hand Counting, Done on One Day, Voters and Poll Workers Will Find It Easy-Peasy to Do.

Truth in the Pacific Northwest

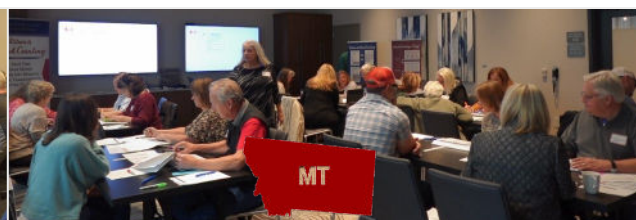
“When Oregon neighborhoods return to in-precinct, paper ballots only, hand counting, done on one day, voters and poll workers will find it Easy-Peasy to do. Nine counties trained October 4, 2023. At least 100 more poll watchers signed up for the next training.”

Tags: Training, Train the Trainer, paper ballots, Oregon



Training: Train the Trainers

Train the Trainers is a 6-hour class covering the entire hand-count process in detail. Those who take this course are empowered to train others, making them force multipliers. Pictures on this and the following two pages show just some of the states where we have traveled to teach hand-counting.



Train the Trainer Resources

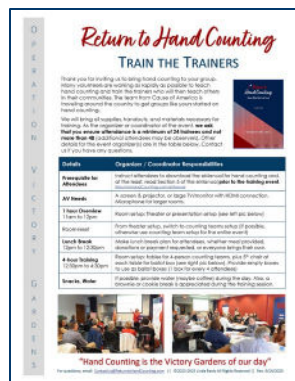
Materials for this course include:

- Organizer Instructions on needs for scheduling a Train the Trainers event
- Trainer presentation materials, including PowerPoint with script
- Training Materials: downloadable forms, including mock ballots and supplies list of all materials needed to conduct in-person training classes

At-Home Digital Training

The efforts to get both trainers and hand counters trained nationwide have been extraordinary. At the end of 2025, the 6-hour *Train the Trainers* class was live-streamed and recorded. Recording the training fulfilled multiple requests:

- First and foremost, the ability for anyone, anywhere, to take the training online 24/7
- Refresher for those who attended in-person training
- Reference for trainers to review any training topics



310 Image of Organizer Flyer for Train the Trainer





Training: Express Training

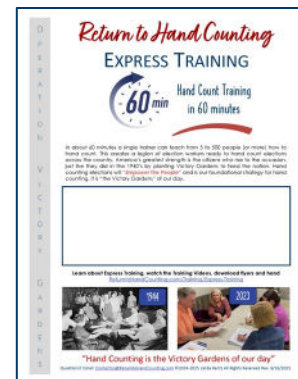
Those trained in a 'Train the Trainers' class can, but do not have to, teach the 6-hour class themselves. For trainers who would prefer to teach a shorter class with fewer supplies needed, we designed Express Training.

Learn to Hand Count in 60 Minutes

In about 60 minutes, a single trainer can teach 5 to 500 people (or more) how to hand count. Training more people in less time creates a legion of election workers ready to hand count elections nationwide. All training materials are available for download, including a template for a flyer to advertise the event.

Online Training

Another benefit of the Express Training class is that it is recorded and posted online at ReturntoHandCounting.com/Training/Express-Training for 24/7 access. Whether you want to self-learn at home or play the video for a group meeting, the only materials you will need are four documents to print and a Sharpie-style marker.



311 Image of Event Flyer for Express Training

AUTHOR BIO

Linda Rantz

In October of 2022, in response to Mike Lindell's call to "get rid of machines," Linda Rantz asked herself, "and replace them with what?" She took action to find out, starting with a visit to Louisiana where that team was demonstrating their hand count method. Returning to Missouri, Linda immersed herself in Missouri's laws, learning that not only was hand counting permitted in her state, but the laws dated back to 1977 (and probably even earlier).



Based on Missouri statutes, Linda began to write an 'outline' of the Missouri Method hand count process. It grew into a 300-page eManual, which includes 60 pages of process and a multitude of links to supporting documents and laws, all with the hopes of giving others the information they need to speak with their election officials. The guide, "*Return to Hand Counting*," is available in paperback, hardcover, digitally, and a downloadable PDF at ReturntoHandCounting.com/eManual.

Linda, with her husband Craig Rantz, continues to promote and teach hand counting around the country. Together they have already trained groups, in person or online, in more than half the states, including Georgia, Pennsylvania, Nevada, Oregon, and New York!

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Return to
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Website

PERMISSION FOR USE

From the Author, Linda Rantz:

Return to Hand Counting is a resource dedicated to sharing a hand-counting process for elections, based on my layperson's interpretation of Missouri statutes. This eManual, available in print and digitally, is the result of my efforts to design and document a complete hand count process: from opening of polling places to delivering election results to the clerk.

The Missouri Method hand count process is easy to learn, taking less than 60 pages of this publication (Section 5, pages 70 to 128). The other 200 or so pages contain additional commentary, illustrations, and resources.

All hand count forms and instructions provided in this eManual or as downloadable files were created by me, including the distinctive ballot tallying form design with oval-style vote marking. These forms may be printed and used as provided, but they must not be altered in part or in whole (including their design style) or claimed as new works without permission.

To protect the integrity of this work and prevent unauthorized edits that could be misrepresented as my own, the PDF version of this eManual and all downloadable forms are password-protected to allow printing and reproduction but prohibit editing. The Microsoft Word version is not provided for these same reasons. Visit ReturntoHandCounting.com/Copyright for more information.

Election Officials

The Missouri Method is very adaptable and could potentially be used in many other states. If you are an election official interested in using the Missouri Method hand-counting process at no charge for non-commercial election purposes, I invite you to contact me for permission. Please submit a permission request form (available at ReturntoHandCounting.com/Copyright) detailing your intended use and acknowledging the manual's disclaimers. Upon review, I will grant written permission with specific conditions, such as attribution to Linda Rantz and verification of local legal compliance. The permission process ensures the Missouri Method is used responsibly and allows me to offer guidance where needed.

Not Intended as Legal Advice

This work is not legal advice, and readers are encouraged to consult a licensed attorney to ensure compliance with local election laws before applying the process. I have made every effort to ensure accuracy as of August 2025, but I disclaim liability for any errors, omissions, misuse, or unauthorized alterations.

Let's work together to promote transparent elections—feel free to reach out with questions or feedback!