

# RETURN TO HAND COUNTING

Missouri Method Hand Count Process

## Myth-Debunking Workbook

### **FINDING:**

Real Objections Have Grounds  
Most Objections are Myths

Linda Rantz



## Note on Links:

This manual contains many external hyperlinks (e.g., to archived sources on Perma.cc). If using **Adobe Acrobat Reader** and you see a security warning like “Adobe does not allow connections to [site],” go to **Edit > Preferences > Trust Manager > Change Settings** and select “Allow PDF files to access all web sites” (or add the site to your allowed list). This is a one-time setup for safe, trusted links. Links work seamlessly in web browsers or other PDF viewers.

Page numbers correspond to page locations in the full eManual, available in paperback or hardcover from Amazon.com, or downloadable from [ReturntoHandCounting.com/eManual](https://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: REAL OBJECTIONS  
HAVE 'GROUNDS,' MOST  
OBJECTIONS ARE MYTHS



## MYTH: There Are Lots Of “Objections” To Hand-Counting Ballots

If you bring up “hand counting” to an elected official, you will likely hear “objections” in response. However, if they fail to support their stance with evidence, those objections are just myths.

### Definitions of Objections, Myths, and Findings

What is an objection? It is a reason or argument presented in opposition.<sup>16</sup> An objection should be based on “grounds.” Think of a courtroom scene in a movie where one lawyer yells, “I object.” The opposing lawyer fires back, “on what grounds?” The court will override the objection without “grounds” or a basis of fact.

It should be expected that someone making an objection, especially a government official, can prove that what they say is verified, proven, or based on a case study or investigation.

### Most Objections are Myths

When someone pushes an objection, asking for their source or grounds is a good idea. Almost always, in my experience, they have nothing to cite.

Having no grounds for an objection means it is more likely a “myth.” The definition of “myth” is a popular belief that is FALSE or UNSUPPORTED.<sup>17</sup>

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*Myth: Popular belief that is false or unsupported*

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**Being “popular” does not make something accurate.**

In the [Wyoming article](#) on page 239, Clerk #1 said, “when our integrity is questioned, it’s insulting.” The same clerk says, “I hope to encourage more people to become involved. Come to the testing, call our office, ask questions. We’re here to help.”

These two quotes highlight a glaring contradiction that leads to a misunderstanding between citizens and elected officials. Citizens *are* becoming more involved and asking questions. But apparently the clerk considers questions to be outside the box of appropriate citizen participation. When citizens ask questions, they recognize that they are being read a litany of objections without basis. So, they dig deeper and ask more questions, to the apparent chagrin of election officials.

The posture taken by many clerks, including the quoted Wyoming clerk, is that when citizens question or investigate elections, the personal integrity of the clerks is being challenged.

### Findings Equal Fact Check

Findings are the results of investigations or research.<sup>18</sup> The term “fact-checking” has become somewhat toxic in recent years due to being used by some to cancel free speech. But whatever it is called, accurate findings are



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<sup>16</sup> “Objection” Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary, [Perma.cc/B7TG-EKGP](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/objection)

<sup>17</sup> “Myth” Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary, [Perma.cc/8DAW-K7XJ](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/myth)

<sup>18</sup> “Finding.” Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary, [Perma.cc/FAQ3-7BEM](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/finding)

critical, especially for government officials, before making objections that turn out to be popular beliefs.

When popular beliefs are debunked or the public realize they've been misinformed, trust in institutions, media, and experts can erode. This realization can lead to skepticism.

The table below shows some common “myths” about hand counting and the corresponding findings.

## Hand Counting Myths and Findings

### Common Hand Counting Myths

While there may be slight variations in how they are argued, these are the most common:

Costs Too Much

People are Less  
Accurate

Takes Too Long for  
Results

Not Enough People to  
Count

Only Works for Small  
Counties

People are Likely to  
Cheat

### Findings About Hand Counting

Based on our fact-checking and experience, the “findings” about hand counting are:

Saves Money

Incremental Auditing  
Assures Accuracy

Same-Day or Election-  
Day Results

Plenty of People and  
Training is Quick

Works in Counties of  
Any Size

More Transparency &  
Better Security

Understanding the benefits of hand counting and the findings that debunk the myths is essential. Be prepared for these conversations by using the tools that have been developed and are explained throughout this section.

### ***Training: Myth-Debunking Overview Presentation***

To understand more about debunking hand count myths, or if you are giving a presentation yourself, downloadable materials, including handouts, transcript, PowerPoint deck, and more, from [ReturntoHandCounting.com/Training](https://ReturntoHandCounting.com/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](https://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!

Contact Linda Rantz

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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.

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## **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](https://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!