

FW: Hand counting report and cost estimate

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Sent: Thursday, April 3, 2025 3:45 PM

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Subject: Hand counting report and cost estimate

I attended the hand counting demonstration at the state capitol yesterday. While they counted perfect ballots without overvotes or random markings voters are prone to use, it still took the teams over a minute per ballot to hand count each one. The group who put this demonstration on created a spread sheet for each MO county to see how many judges we would need to hand count and what the cost would be to pay them. This group uses the time estimate of a four person team counting 50 ballots per hour. Based on our precinct sizes from 5-10 years ago they have estimated how many judges we would need for each of the precincts as well as at the election authority office (for counting absentee ballots). Their math would require an extra 2,396 election judges at a cost of \$287,520. In November of 2024 we staffed 1,208 judges.

In order to hand count ballots in our county we would need a 200% increase in our election judges since existing judges are needed to check in voters. There is also a substantial cost increase for hand counting. We pay \$22,545 per calendar year for the licensing agreement for the election machines. Divide that by the 3 elections we had last year and the machines only cost \$7,515 for the November election. Subtracting this cost from the labor cost of hand counting and hand counting would have cost an addition \$280,005 in November.

I do not believe it is in the best interest of the taxpayers to entertain the idea of hand counting ballots in our county.

Below are the screen shots from this groups calculator hand counting. The first is for the precincts and the second is for absentee ballots. Under state law they cannot be counted before election day and thus we cannot use the same counting teams for both.

Hand Counting Estimator for Same Day Election Re

Jurisdiction	St. Charles County, Missouri	Election Type or Date	11/5/2024 P
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Enter Shift and Team Preferences	Same Day Results based
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4	Enter # of persons on each hand count team	1,944	# Individual Counters some work more than
8	Enter preferred # hours for shift-length of teams	486	# of teams/shifts to co
50	Enter estimate of # of ballots to be counted per hour	29	Average # hours to co team used to count b location
169,555	Anticipated # ballots to be cast (based on historical voter turnout averages)	122	# Counting Locations (ie., polling places, pre

How are there enough people to count the ballots?

301,218	Enter # of Registered Voters in Jurisdiction	0.65%	Percentage of registe to hand count the ele
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Enter Hourly Rate	Labor Cost Estimate b Average
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\$15.00	Enter hourly rate paid to hand counters	\$233,280	Labor Cost for Hand C per ballot cast cost be
\$1.10	Estimated cost per ballot cast for hand counting expenses (other than labor)	\$1.38	Labor Cost for Hand C Cast

Hand Counting Estimator for Central Counting Location

Jurisdiction	St. Charles County, Missouri	Election Type or Date	Absentee - Pres
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Enter Shift and Team Preferences

8-Hour Results based on

4	Enter # of persons on each hand count team	452	# Individual Counters some work more than
8	Enter preferred # hours for shift-length of teams	113	# of teams/shifts to co
50	Enter estimate of # of ballots to be counted per hour	113	# Hand Count team t complete counting in
45,076	Anticipated # ballots to be cast (based on historical voter turnout averages)	1	# Counting Locations (ie., polling places, pre

How are there enough people to count the ballots?

301,218	Enter # of Registered Voters in Jurisdiction	0.15%	Percentage of registe to hand count the ele
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Enter Hourly Rate

Labor Cost Estimate & Estimate

\$15.00	Enter hourly rate paid to hand counters	\$54,240	Labor Cost for Hand C per ballot cast cost be
\$1.10	Estimated cost per ballot cast for hand counting expenses (other than labor)	\$1.20	Labor Cost for Hand C Cast



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"Confidence in the integrity of our electoral processes is essential

to the functioning of our participatory democracy." – Justice Kavanaugh

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