



Election Costs Breakdown (2010-2025) for St Charles County

How We Calculated the \$67,863 (minimum) Annual Savings with Hand Counting

The items are pulled from the St Charles County Council-approved Election Purchases 2010-2023 document. <https://returntohandcounting.com/doc/scc-council-approved-election-purchases-2010-2023/>
The right-hand column explains our calculation for each item.

DATE	ITEM/VENDOR	AMOUNT	CALCULATION STEP
2-25-13	Election Voting System - Unisyn Voting Solutions	\$1,021,685.00	Pro-Rated Initial Cost: $\$1,021,685 \div 12 \text{ years} = \$85,140.42/\text{year} \times 11 \text{ years (2014-2024)} = \$936,544.62$ (fully eliminated).
7-28-14	Purchase & delivery of 130 ADA E-voting booths - H. Adkins	\$24,739.00	Additional Equipment: \$24,739 (machine-related, fully eliminated).
2-9-15	Election Support Services - Henry Adkins & Sons	\$575,010.03	Election Services: \$575,010.03 (80% machine-specific, contributes to \$105,818.36/year).
2-2016	OVO Voting Machines/Scanners - Henry Adkins & Sons	\$28,740.00	Additional Equipment: \$28,740 (machine-related, fully eliminated).
3-28-16	Custom steel transport cabinets (95 qty.) - Metal Fabrication STL	\$67,014.90	Additional Equipment: \$67,014.90 (machine-related, fully eliminated).
2-16-18	Election Services - Henry Adkins & Sons	\$386,920.00	Election Services: \$386,920 (80% machine-specific, contributes to \$105,818.36/year).
9-9-20	VT-Freedom Vote Tablets (130 qty.) - Henry Adkins & Sons	\$304,850.00	Additional Equipment: \$304,850 (machine-related, fully eliminated).
3-29-21	Election Services - Henry Adkins & Sons	\$492,272.46	Election Services: \$492,272.46 (80% machine-specific, contributes to \$105,818.36/year).
10-25-21	Election Management Software - Intech Software Solutions	\$173,750.00	Additional Equipment: \$173,750 (machine-related, fully eliminated).
2025	Two County Council Approvals for Election Funding	\$127,000.00	Additional Equipment: \$127,000 (assumed machine-related, fully eliminated).
N/A	Annual Licensing Fee (per Election Director)	\$247,995.00 (11 years)	Licensing Fee: $\$22,545/\text{year} \times 11 \text{ years (2014-2024)} = \$247,995$ (fully eliminated).



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Total Voting Machine Costs (2013–2025) = \$3,342,291.01

\$2,053,296.39 (2013–2023 from PDF) + \$127,000 (2025) + \$247,995 (licensing) + \$936,544.62 (pro-rated initial cost) = \$3,342,291.01

Annual Average Voting Machine Cost = \$303,844.63

$\$3,342,291.01 \div 11 \text{ years} = \$303,844.64/\text{year}$

Adjusted for Hand Counting Savings:

- Licensing Fee: \$22,545/year (fully eliminated).
- Election Services: $\$1,455,002.46 \div 11 = \$132,272.95/\text{year}$; 80% machine-specific = \$105,818.36/year.
- Additional Equipment (including 2025 approvals): $\$701,354.90 \div 11 = \$63,759.54/\text{year}$ (fully eliminated).
- Pro-Rated Initial Cost: \$85,140.42/year (fully eliminated).

Total Annual Voting Machine Cost Eliminated = \$277,263

$\$22,545 + \$105,818.36 + \$63,759.54 + \$85,140.42 = \$277,263/\text{year}.$

Hand Count Labor Costs (4-Year Cycle, 2024–2027):

- Municipal (Annually): $\$37,920 \times 4 \text{ years} = \$151,680$
- Primary (Every 2 Years): $\$100,800 \times 2 \text{ (2024, 2026)} = \$201,600$
- Mid-Term (Every 4 Years): \$179,520 (2026)
- Presidential (Every 4 Years): \$304,800 (2024)

Total Over 4 Years = \$837,600

$\$151,680 + \$201,600 + \$179,520 + \$304,800 = \$837,600$

Annual Average Hand Count Cost = \$209,400

$\$837,600 \div 4 = \$209,400/\text{year}$



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Comparison to Election Director's Estimates:

In December 2023, Election Director Kurt Bahr estimated that hand counting three elections (municipal, primary, general) in one year would cost \$1,303,826, based on flawed assumptions about voter turnout and race counts. Our Hand Count Estimator, developed in response, calculated a more accurate cost of \$581,500 for the same three elections in 2020: \$86,000 (municipal), \$127,500 (primary), and \$368,000 (general). Bahr later revised his estimate to \$287,520 for a presidential election, using our estimator tool, but did not acknowledge the \$1 million reduction from his original claim, which would have highlighted the cost-effectiveness of hand counting.

Annual Savings with Hand Counting = at least \$67,863

$\$277,263$ (voting machine cost) - $\$209,400$ (hand count cost) = $\$67,863$ /year.

Hat Tip to Grok 3 from xAI. I utilized the services of Grok 3, an xAI tool, to assist with categorizing and calculating these expenditures, and creating a table to explain the breakdown.

Online version of this breakdown: [Election Costs Breakdown \(2010-2025\) for St Charles County](https://returntohandcounting.com/scc-election-costs-breakdown-2010-2025/2024/)
<https://returntohandcounting.com/scc-election-costs-breakdown-2010-2025/2024/>

Original Report of [St Charles County Council-Approved Election Purchases 2010 to 2023](https://returntohandcounting.com/doc/scc-council-approved-election-purchases-2010-2023/), prepared by Councilman Joe Brazil's staff
<https://returntohandcounting.com/doc/scc-council-approved-election-purchases-2010-2023/>

Read more at [Let's Save St Charles County \\$68,00 on Elections Every Year](https://returntohandcounting.com/save-st-charles-county-68000-elections/2025/)
<https://returntohandcounting.com/save-st-charles-county-68000-elections/2025/>

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