

Indiana First Action's HAND COUNTING PAPER BALLOT MODEL

WHO IS IFA?

INDIANA FIRST ACTION is a citizen driven initiative that seeks to restore trust in our elections through a focus on equal protection under the law, transparency and accountability. Election integrity is the cornerstone of the American system of governance, which derives its "just powers from the consent of the governed." It is for this reason that this journey began in July of 2021 and continues to date. We are entirely a grassroots-built organization and have volunteered 20,000 to 75,000 volunteer hours, which at a conservative \$50/hr estimate, is anywhere from \$3.25 to \$3.75 million dollars in free labor for our Hoosier state. Indiana citizens have fact-based, reasonable questions related to the integrity of the elections as described in full detail on our website at IndianaFirstAction.com as well as our Rumble channel (search Indiana First Action).

THE PROBLEM

The Indiana Constitution guarantees "free and equal elections." With the wide disparities between the voting systems the counties use in Indiana, not all counties perform their elections equally ... 4 different vendors, different e-Pollbooks, some are vote centers, some are not, and some do not have the ability to audit the vote, until VVPATs are installed in 2024. **As the evidence we have put forth indicates, Indiana was not immune from voting "irregularities."** If a full forensic audit cannot be conducted to ensure that every legitimate vote is counted the way it was cast, then Indiana can't guarantee the equality of the vote between members of various counties. Our legislators have not done their duty to investigate the evidence we have brought forth. They have a duty to either explain away the anomalies with facts and evidence in a transparent and full forensic audit or to uncover the fraud and correct it to reflect the will of the people. Either way, they have a duty to act. Because of this concerted effort in the legislature to avoid a full forensic audit (and contrary to what you are told, **Risk Limiting Audits do not catch fraud** — see our website) or bring forth any meaningful legislation, sans the new ID submission with mail-ins this year (open up source codes, audit the systems pre, during and post elections, keep 'Made in China' parts out of our election machines, not allow vendors to hide behind intellectual property clauses in their contracts, etc.), we are urging our local clerks and county election boards to go back to paper ballots, hand counted. This will return the trust citizens should have in the electoral system. Transparency and accountability are required by every democratic society if it is to survive.

THE MISSOURI MODEL

We applaud Ms. Linda Rantz, Cause of America-Missouri, for her team's tireless work in analyzing, practicing, and perfecting the processes of hand counting paper ballots. It can be done. She is a fearless warrior in the election integrity fight and we, here at Indiana First Action/Cause of America-Indiana, are proud to call her friend. Missouri's model can be found here: <https://frankspeech.com/article/return-hand-counting-missouri-elections-emanual>. It is a wonderful and exhaustive resource of nationwide anomalies.

WE APPRECIATE OUR TEAM

We also want to thank the members of this incredible team who have worked tirelessly for Hoosiers by analyzing the precincts, canvassing door to door, writing articles, travelling the state speaking at town halls, working the polls, calling elected officials, publishing hours and hours of material, and the incredible data analysis that has been performed. You guys are Hoosier heroes! **THANK YOU!**



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Saving the Clerks Considerable Time and Taxpayer Money

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“THE ENTIRE ELECTION PROCESS IS WAY TOO COMPLICATED for the lay person to understand ... hundreds and thousands of pages of statutes and varying processes for 5 different voting methods. IS THIS ON PURPOSE?”

MARIE · IFA Director

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THE PUSHBACK: Indiana First Action scratches our heads when we are met with narratives/push back all over the state ... “It will take too long,” “Machines are Safe and Secure,” “There is no way we could ever count all of these ballots by hand when a machine can do it for you in minutes.” Well, we say, “How did we hand count the ballots prior to the machines coming here? What are we sacrificing at the altar of convenience? Our voice!” Not so long ago, Hoosiers hand counted their ballots and had complete confidence in the outcomes not being manipulated by hackable, un-auditable machines. If other countries can accomplish hand counting with results by evening, then let’s bring integrity back to this process in Indiana.

The process of elections now does NOT give the opportunity for us as citizens to have meaningful participation in the process. Hackers can enter through back doors in the system and leave no trace. (<https://rumble.com/v2gagxg-show-this-video-to-your-country-officials-machine-rigging-exposed-in-90-min.html>.) All we want between us and our ballot is a pen. Our fantastic clerks are NOT cyber, software and computer experts, plus they are signing contracts that prohibit them from ‘looking under the hood.’ Do they even know this? It is insane, really. Can you imagine purchasing a home without a home inspection? Our Indiana elections should be transparent, simple, and secure. If these voting machine systems over-complicate the process of casting a ballot, the County should heavily consider abandoning them for a return to hand-marked, hand-counted paper ballots.

The county election boards (with county clerk as the ex officio member), can go back to paper tomorrow statutorily (IC 3-11-11-1.1). This needs to happen across our great state. By going back to paper, our clerks can save considerable time by not having to comply with the pages and pages of state laws surrounding electronic voting systems. Any manuals from the voting machine vendors could be returned or recycled, training on said systems null and void, no more Logic and Accuracy Testing, Risk-limiting Audits, or VSTOP/CISA/DHS having to be involved in our elections. There would be no need at that point for cyber security or certifying machines. \$10 million alone will be spent in 2024 to retrofit MicroVote systems with VVPATs (voter verifiable paper audit trail). So, Hoosiers are having to spend \$10 million to install a PAPER printer, to produce a trail of PAPER, when we could simply begin with voting on PAPER ballots. How does any of that make sense?

The financial savings would be immense — no more millions of dollars spent, no more cyber monthly fees, storage, delivery fees of machines to polling locations, modems, touch screens, backup storage devices, printer ink/toner, software updates or any maintenance tasks that go along with utilizing these machines. Yes, more election workers (counting teams) will need to be paid, but that increase pales in comparison to the millions of dollars for machines/upkeep. This safer voting method will increase voter confidence and civic participation.

How Much Time Will It Take to “Hand Count the Ballots,” and How Many Volunteers to Accomplish This Task?

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“WE WERE ONCE REPLACED BY MACHINES.
Learn how to become their replacement.”

LINDA RANTZ • Lead, Missouri Cause of America

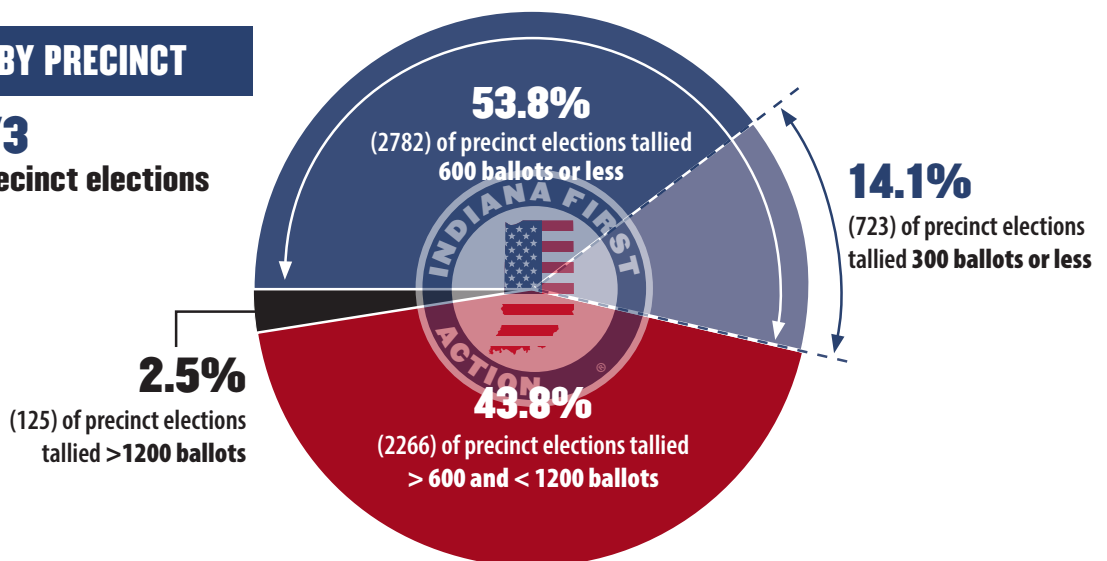
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HAND COUNTING TIME/TURNOUT: It is a narrative that hand counting will take weeks or months. That simply is not true. How did we count the ballots before machines arrived in our state. With precincts capped at 2,000 voters (in most cases), this can be accomplished by the end of the evening.

Let’s look at this from a precinct level. 97.5% of Indiana’s precincts have fewer than 1200 ballots cast at a precinct! Even more incredible is 53.8% have 600 or fewer ballots cast. Absorb that fact ... shocking, we know!

BALLOT COUNT BY PRECINCT

5173

Total number of precinct elections



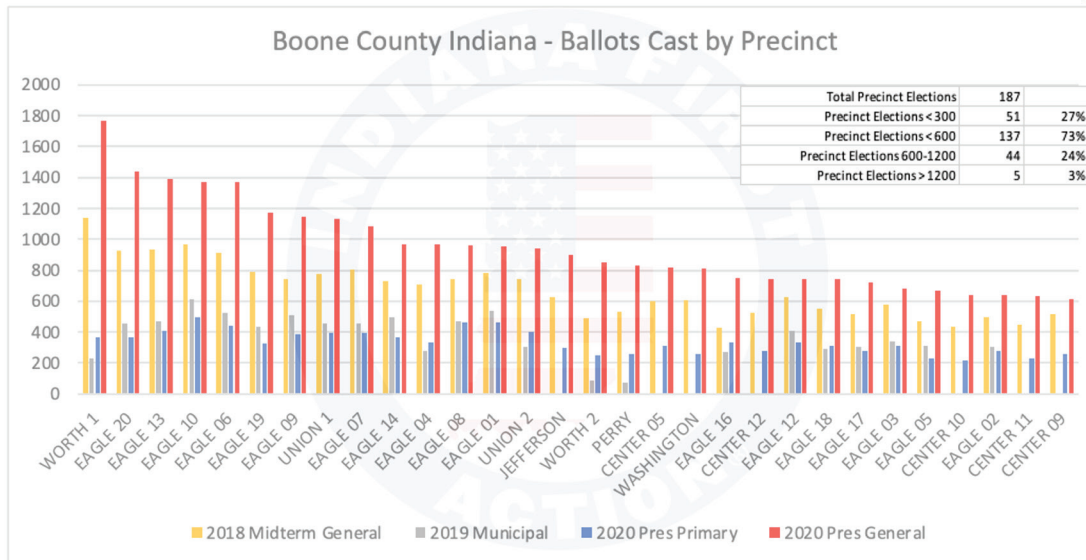
Two main points to consider for scheduling counting teams at each precinct:

- 1) How long it might take to count the ballots; and
- 2) how many ballots are typically cast in a polling place.

Remember the fact from above: This is not about the total COUNTY-wide vote, but breaking it down by precinct level turnout into a manageable process. Turnout historically needs to be reviewed so that enough teams are in place to hand count the ballots.

Boone County Number of Ballots by Precinct

Boone County



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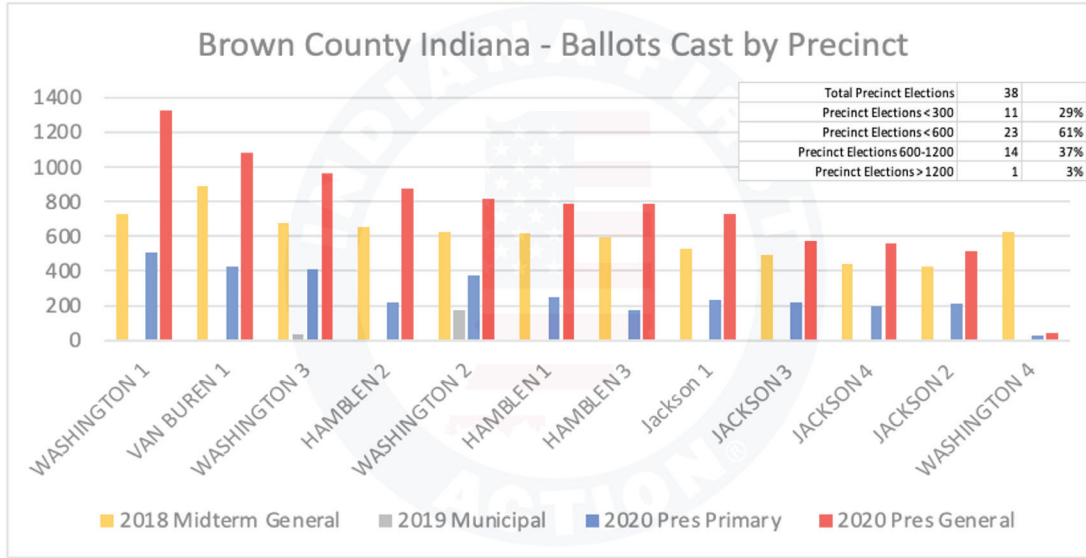
These graphs break out each precinct by a general, primary, midterm, and municipal election.

Let's look at Center 01, Eagle 19 and Washington, for example.

BOONE COUNTY	MUNICIPALS	PRIMARIES	MID-TERMS	GENERALS
Center 01		181	422	536
Eagle 19	433	324	793	1169
Washington		255	607	813

Brown County Number of Ballots by Precinct

Brown County



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BROWN COUNTY	MUNICIPALS	PRIMARIES	MID-TERMS	GENERALS
Jackson 2		213	422	511
Washington 1		503	726	1325
Washington 4		31	624	40

Our IFA data analyst team has modeled each county for an easy-to-read municipal, primary, midterm and general election chart.

All 92 county Ballots Cast by Precinct can be viewed on IFA's Rumble channel:

<https://rumble.com/c/c-1364642>

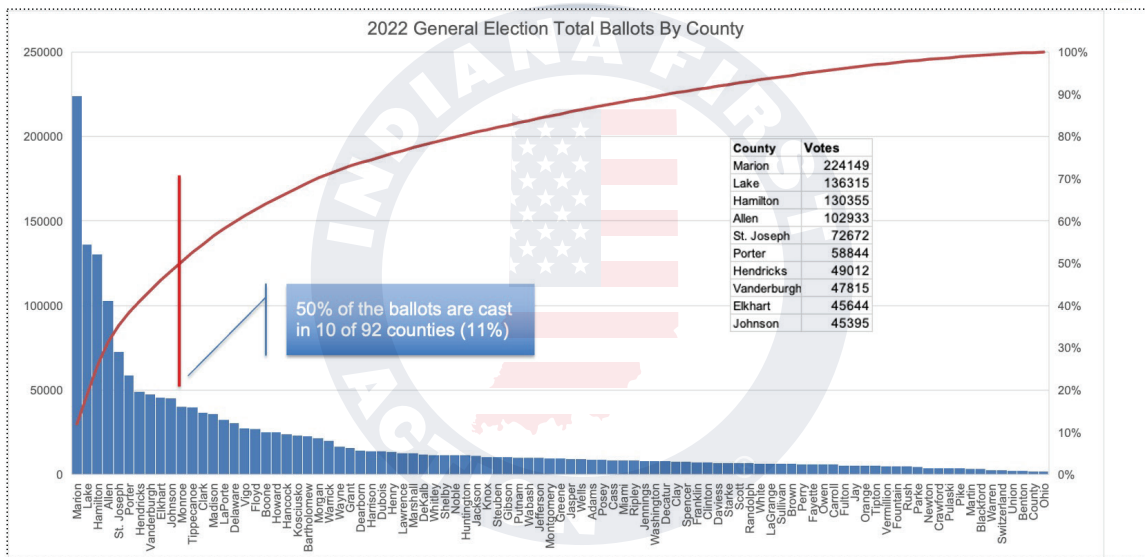
Historical Vote Data

Did you know?

Only 6 of our 92 counties had more than 50,000 ballots cast in the 2022 General Election, and over 80% had less than 25,000?



Historical Vote Data



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A conservative approach is an estimate of 50 ballots per hour with multiple races per ballot (primary/mid-term/general). For municipal and special elections, with fewer races or questions, the counting teams can likely count up to 100 ballots per hour.

One counting team will consist of two election clerks/workers; one calling out the vote, and one making the tally marks (hand counting). The Inspector and Judge will be of opposite parties who will have unfettered access to watch the entire process as it is being done. Watchers appointed by candidates can also watch the process. Challenges can be made at any point if they believe a 'caller' or 'tabulator' made an error. That process is discussed in the Statute Section on page 10.

Ballots Counted Per Hour

Below are times vs. turnout calculations of 50 (multiple candidates on ballot) to 100 votes (one candidate on ballot/referendum) hand counted per hour. Ballots cannot be counted until polls close (6 pm).

We recommend these times as a good gauge, based on the incredible work and testing completed by Missouri Cause of America's Team, led by Linda Rantz.

BALLOTS PER PRECINCT	NUMBER OF TEAMS	NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS	TIME NEEDED FOR MUNICIPALS	TIME NEEDED FOR PRIMARY/GENERAL
600	6 teams of 2	12	Done by 7 pm 100 Ballots/Hour x 1 Hour x 6 Teams = 600 Ballots	Done by 8 pm 50 Ballots/Hour x 2 Hours x 6 Teams = 600 Ballots
1200	12 teams of 2	24	Done by 7 pm 100 Ballots/Hour x 1 Hour x 12 Teams = 1200 Ballots	Done by 8 pm 50 Ballots/Hour x 2 Hours x 12 Teams = 1200 Ballots
1800	18 teams of 2	36	Done by 7 pm 100 Ballots/Hour x 1 Hour x 18 Teams = 1800 Ballots	Done by 8 pm 50 Ballots/Hour x 2 Hours x 18 Teams = 1800 Ballots

If fewer volunteers arrive at 6 pm to begin hand counting, **add time:**

BALLOTS PER PRECINCT	NUMBER OF TEAMS	NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS	TIME NEEDED FOR MUNICIPALS	TIME NEEDED FOR PRIMARY/GENERAL
600	3 teams of 2	6	Done by 8 pm 100 Ballots/Hour x 2 Hours x 3 Teams = 600 Ballots	Done by 9 pm 50 Ballots/Hour x 3 Hours x 3 Teams = 600 Ballots
1200	6 teams of 2	12	Done by 8 pm 100 Ballots/Hour x 2 Hours x 6 Teams = 1200 Ballots	Done by 9 pm 50 Ballots/Hour x 3 Hours x 12 Teams = 1200 Ballots
1800	18 teams of 2	36	Done by 8 pm 100 Ballots/Hour x 2 Hours x 18 Teams = 1800 Ballots	Done by 9 pm 50 Ballots/Hour x 3 Hours x 18 Teams = 1800 Ballots

Legislation Requested by IFA

IFA IS REQUESTING LEGISLATION to begin hand counting of paper ballots at noon alongside when the absentee mail-in ballots are opened and counted (IC 3-11.5-5-12) or even earlier. We are also requesting **6 hours shifts for working/volunteering at the polls instead of all day**. Everyone we have spoken to about the 6-hour shifts is in FULL SUPPORT of this initiative. More citizens would be willing to give 6 hours vs. 12 hours. The single most heard complaint we hear all over the state, especially for retirees, is the day is just too long. This stops many from raising their hand to help. A 14–15-hour day is just too long. Why not cut that in half to engage more citizens in their civic duty? Clerks, please call your legislators for assistance in requesting these additions as well.

By allowing the hand count to begin at noon (when the ABS ballots are allowed), fewer volunteers would be needed (6 hours of counting):

BALLOTS PER PRECINCT	NUMBER OF TEAMS	NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS	TIME NEEDED FOR MUNICIPALS	TIME NEEDED FOR PRIMARY/GENERAL
600	1 team of 2 (Municipal)	2	Done by 6 pm 100 Ballots/Hour	Done by 7 pm 50 Ballots/Hour
	2 teams of 2 (General)	4	x 6 Hours x 1 Team = 600 Ballots	x 6 Hours x 2 Teams = 600 Ballots
1200	2 teams of 2 (Municipal)	6	Done by 6 pm 100 Ballots/Hour	Done by 7 pm 50 Ballots/Hour
	4 teams of 2 (General)	8	x 6 Hours x 2 Teams = 1200 Ballots	x 6 Hours x 4 Teams = 1200 Ballots
1800	3 teams of 2 (Municipal)	6	Done by 6 pm 100 Ballots/Hour	Done by 7 pm 50 Ballots/Hour
	6 teams of 2 (General)	12	x 6 Hours x 3 Teams = 1800 Ballots	x 6 Hours x 6 Teams = 1800 Ballots

Indiana Statutes for Paper Ballots, Hand Counting

Who Establishes What Method of Voting is Used for Your County? IC3-11-11-1.1

A county election board, with the clerk as the ex officio member, may select to use paper ballots in any election.

Precincts Capped by 2,000 Voters: IC3-11-1.5-3

Although some exceptions are provided for up to 2,300 active voters, or precincts located wholly or partially in six specific college campuses (3-11-1.5-3.5).

Ballot Box is Empty: IC3-11-11-2

No earlier than one hour before the poll opens, the precinct election officers shall confirm that no ballots are in the ballot box before voting begins. After inspection, the box is securely locked, the inspector retains one key and gives the other key to the judge of the opposite political party. Once securely locked, the ballot box may not be opened again until after the polls have closed and hand counting begins.

Poll Opening/Closing: IC3-11-8-8

Polls open at 6 a.m. and close at 6 p.m. at 6 p.m., anyone in line to vote will be permitted to vote (IC3-11-8-11).

Two Poll Clerks from Opposite Parties Initial the Back of Ballots Before Presenting to Voter: IC3-6-6-32

Voter Marks Ballot and Folds/Places in Ballot Box: IC3-11-11-12

Process for Mail-In Counts: IC3-11.5-5-7,8,14

Beginning at noon, one counter reads the name of the candidates voted for and a member of a different political party shall view the ballots as the names are read. The counter marks the tally sheet (who can protest the counting of any ballot or part of a ballot (IC3-11.5-5-8).

Hand Counting May Begin After Polls Close: IC3-12-2-1(b), IC3-6-6-33, IC3-6-6-34(b), IC3-12-4-4

One option to consider is having enough teams present once the polls close to get the counting done in one to two hours. In this brochure, we go through the team vs. turnout method. Precinct election boards may call upon the assistant poll clerks (aka counting teams/poll workers) to assist in tallying the ballots. The Board could determine the anticipated turnout and schedule volunteers accordingly.

Once Begun, Counting Must Continue Until Completed: IC3-11-8-12; (mail-ins) IC3-12-2-16

The ballots shall be counted by laying each ballot upon a table in the order in which it is taken from the ballot box. If a precinct election board administers more than one (1) precinct, the board shall keep the ballots cast in each precinct separate from ballots cast in any other precinct, so that the votes cast for each candidate and on each public question in each of the precincts administered by the board may be determined. A poll clerk will read the names of the candidate chosen aloud on the ballot while a counter counts with tally marks on the sheet provided having all candidates' names. IF more volunteers arrive to assist with counting the ballots, precinct boards can either assign watchers over the tallying or callers for accuracy OR assign another counter (2) making tally marks. They will simply count up their tally marks at the end of a batch to confirm numbers match with counter #1. Alternatively, if more volunteers arrive, set up another counting team to reduce the time needed for counting.

Indiana Statutes for Paper Ballots, Hand Counting

Viewing of Counting of Votes by Inspector and Judge of Opposite Political Party (3-12-2-2)

During the counting of the votes, the inspector and the judge of the opposite political party from the inspector shall view the ballots as the names of the candidates voted for are read from the ballots. During the counting of the votes, any member of the precinct election board may protest the counting of any ballot or any part of a ballot. (3-12-2-3.) If a ballot or any part of a ballot is protested, the poll clerks immediately shall write on the back of each protested ballot the word "counted" or the words "not counted," as appropriate. The clerks then shall officially sign each protested ballot. (3-12-2-4)

Counting Concluded

When all votes have been counted, the precinct election board shall prepare a certificate stating the number of votes that each candidate received for each office and the number of votes cast on each public question. The number of votes that each candidate and public question received shall be written in words and numbers. The board shall also prepare a memorandum of the total vote cast for each candidate and ensure that each member of the board receives a copy of the memorandum. (3-12-2-6.) The inspector and the judge of the opposite political party shall deliver the certificates, the list of voters, and the tally papers to the county election board immediately upon the tabulation of the vote. (3-12-2-7)

Inspector's Duty After Ballots are Counted (3-12-2-8)

As soon as the ballots have been counted, the inspector shall, in the presence of the judges and poll clerks:

- (1) Place in a strong and stout paper envelope or bag:
 - (A) All ballots, voted and not voted, together with all protested, disputed, and uncounted ballots;
 - (B) The seals of the ballot packages; and
 - (C) One (1) copy of each of the certificates, list of voters, and tally papers;
- (2) Securely seal the envelope or bag;
- (3) Have both clerks initial the envelope or bag; and
- (4) Plainly mark on the outside of the envelope or bag, in ink, the precinct where the ballots were cast.

The precinct election board will sign the certificate for the release of their precinct results to the media as well (3-12-2-15). The inspector and the judge of the opposite political party shall deliver the envelope or bag prepared to the circuit court clerk immediately upon tabulation of the votes. The inspector shall notify the clerk of the number of ballots placed in the envelope or bag and the condition of the seals of the ballot packages. (3-12-2-9). The clerk will then release the results to the media.

Oath of Inspector Upon Delivery of Envelope or Bag; Contents

Upon delivery of the envelope or bag to the circuit court clerk under section 9 of this chapter, the inspector shall take and subscribe an oath before the clerk stating that the inspector:

- (1) Closed and sealed the envelope or bag in the presence of the judges and poll clerks;
- (2) Securely kept the ballots and papers in the envelope or bag;
- (3) Did not permit any person to open the envelope or bag or to otherwise touch or tamper with the ballots; and
- (4) Has no knowledge of any other person opening the envelope or bag.

The oath shall be filed in the circuit court clerk's office with other election papers. The ballots and all paper will then be preserved for 22 months.



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