

# CANVASS: FINALIZING THE VOTE

## Election Night

After polling places close at 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, all voted ballots are sealed, secured and transported by Sheriff's deputies to be centrally tabulated at the RR/CC headquarters: 12400 Imperial Hwy., Room 3002, Norwalk, CA 90650. Election Night counts include ballots at the polling places as well as Vote by Mail ballots received and processed up until Monday before Election Day.

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## Finalizing the Official Vote Tally (Canvass)

Counting votes does not end on Election Night. The RR/CC makes sure all ballots cast are counted. After Election Night there are tens of thousands of ballots that need to be counted, including Vote by Mail ballots received on Election Day, provisional ballots, write-in ballots, and damaged ballots. These ballots are counted during the 30-day period known as the Official Election Canvass. Provisional ballots require additional review to verify voters are eligible to vote and write-in ballots were cast for qualified candidates.

California state law requires the RR/CC to complete and certify the results within 30 days. This provision of the law recognizes the complexity of completing the ballot count and conducting a thorough audit of the election results to ensure accuracy.

The RR/CC realizes it is difficult for candidates/campaigns involved in close contests to wait for results of the election. The legally mandated processes described above are utilized to guarantee that every vote is counted and included in the official final election returns.

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## Auditing the Election Results

By law, a random sample of ballots from every election must be manually tallied to verify Election Night machine counts. A minimum of all ballots cast in one percent (1%) of the precincts is included in this process, which is known as the 1% Manual Tally Audit. The 1% Manual Tally Audit is open to the public. (E.C. 15360)

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## Public Observation

Every citizen has the right to observe the Official Election Canvass process. Candidates and the public are invited to observe the ballot counting and auditing process by joining the Election Observer Program. The program is part of Los Angeles County's commitment to conducting open and transparent elections. Election observers have the opportunity to observe the logic and accuracy testing of the election systems equipment, Vote by Mail ballot processing, Election Day activities at polling places and Check-In Centers, tally center operations and post-election processing. To learn more, the Election Observer Panel Plan is available online at [LAvote.net](http://LAvote.net).

# ELECTION CANVASS SCHEDULE

## Ballot Counting Updates

Outstanding ballot counting takes place throughout the canvass period.

<b>NOV</b> <b>11</b>	<b>1 PM</b> First Ballot Counting Update	<b>NOV</b> <b>25</b>	<b>1 PM</b> Fifth Ballot Counting Update
<b>NOV</b> <b>15</b>	<b>1 PM</b> Second Ballot Counting Update	<b>NOV</b> <b>28</b>	<b>1 PM</b> Sixth Ballot Counting Update
<b>NOV</b> <b>18</b>	<b>1 PM</b> Third Ballot Counting Update	<b>NOV</b> <b>30</b>	<b>1 PM</b> Seventh Ballot Counting Update (If necessary)
<b>NOV</b> <b>22</b>	<b>1 PM</b> Fourth Ballot Counting Update	<b>DEC</b> <b>2</b>	<b>10 AM</b> Eighth Ballot Counting Update (If necessary)

Ballot counting starts at 1PM.

## Key Dates

<b>NOV</b> <b>10</b>	The Official Canvass begins
<b>DEC</b> <b>2</b>	The RR/CC is tentatively scheduled to certify election results
<b>DEC</b> <b>6</b>	The Board of Supervisors is tentatively scheduled to declare the election results official

# REQUESTING A RECOUNT

## Who can request a recount?

Any voter of the state may file a request. (E.C. § 15620) For more information download our booklet at [LAvote.net](http://LAvote.net).

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## Timing of Request

The request must be filed within five (5) calendar days, after the certification of the official canvass. The RR/CC is not open on weekends or holidays. If the deadline falls on the weekend or holiday, the date will be moved to the next business day. (E.C. § 15)

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## Exceptions

- For statewide recount contests, the request may be filed with the Secretary of State's Office within five (5) days beginning on the 31<sup>st</sup> day after the election. (E.C. § 15621)
  - If election is conducted in more than one county the request may be filed within five (5) days beginning on the 31<sup>st</sup> day after the election. (E.C. § 15620)
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## Notice of Recount

A notice stating the date and place of the recount will be posted by the elections official at least one day prior to the recount. (E.C. § 15628)

Notices are issued to the following parties:

- All candidates for the office being recounted.
- Authorized representatives for presidential candidates, if the race for presidential delegates is to be recounted.
- Proponents of any initiative or referendum or persons filing ballot arguments for or against any initiative, referendum or measure to be recounted.
- Secretary of State if the recount is for candidates for any state or federal office, delegates to a national convention, or any state measure.