

Office of the Secretary of State

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Random Hand Counts to Verify Some Precinct Results

The Secretary of State's Office on Nov. 5 will begin implementation of a new law requiring post-election hand-counts of randomly selected races and precincts in each of Oregon's 36 counties.

The hand-counts, adopted by the Legislature in 2007, are designed to supplement existing testing procedures and verify that machines used to tally ballots on Election Day accurately counted the results.

At 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday Nov. 5, the Secretary of State's new Hand-count Advisory Committee will randomly draw precincts and races to be subject to the hand-counts from a rolling drum.

The committee members, appointed by Secretary of State Bill Bradbury, are:

- Susan Leeson, a justice on the Oregon Supreme Court from 1998 to 2003.
- Lynn Lundquist, former speaker of the Oregon House of Representatives.
- Dr. David Thomas, retired statistics professor from Oregon State University.

Lynn Lundquist will serve as chair of the committee. The meeting, which is open to the public, will be held in Room 500-A of the Public Service Building, 255 Capitol NE, Salem.

Under the new law, the Secretary of State is required to inform each county clerk by 5 p.m. on Nov. 5 which races and precincts in their county are subject to the hand-counts. Counties will have to count by hand a minimum of 3 percent and a maximum of 10 percent of their precincts involving at least three races.

The clerks must conduct the hand-counts only after they certify election results to the Secretary of State. Counties must certify their elections results this year no later than Monday, Nov. 24.

END

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