



# Mandatory Recounts

Governed by RCW 29A.64, WAC 434-264

When the votes for an office or statewide measure fall within a certain, legally-mandated range, we will hold a recount. Recounts verify that the results accurately reflect the votes as cast and provide another opportunity for us to check our work. Recounts can also be requested by candidates, political party representative for an office, or (for a ballot measure) a group of five or more voters. Legally mandated recounts are paid for by the county. Requested recounts are paid for by the requester, unless the outcome changes.

## Machine Recount



Under state law, machine recounts are conducted when the vote total difference between two candidates is less than 2,000 votes AND less than 0.5% of the total number of votes cast for both candidates.

In a machine recount, teams of trained staff will visually inspect each undervote to ensure no vote was missed in tabulation.

## Hand Recount



Hand recounts are required when the total difference between two candidates is less than 150 votes AND less than 0.25% of the number of votes cast for both candidates.

In a hand recount, ballots will be reviewed and tallied by trained staff in teams of two.

### Important!

Voter intent decisions are not considered during the recount process, per [WAC 434-264-010](#)