



## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

# Timeline for Reporting and Certification of 2018 General Election Results

### **November 6: General Election Day**

Preliminary Election Night Returns are due no later than 7:30 p.m. in the respective county's time zone on General Election night and in 45-minute increments thereafter until all results (except provisional and overseas vote-by-mail ballots) are completely reported. ([Section 102.141, Florida Statutes](#)).

**Note:** Pursuant to [Section 101.048, Florida Statutes](#), 5:00 p.m., November 8 is the deadline for persons voting a provisional ballot to provide evidence of eligibility to Supervisors of Elections.

### **November 10**

First Unofficial Returns are due from the county canvassing boards no later than noon on Saturday, November 10. The Secretary of State and Division of Elections will subsequently determine if the returns for any federal, state, or multicounty races or issues on the ballot meet the statutory threshold requiring a machine recount. ([Section 102.141, Florida Statutes](#))

The Secretary of State will order any Machine Recount, if required, for federal, state or multicounty races as determined by statutory threshold of  $\frac{1}{2}$  of one percent. The results from the machine recount constitute the 2nd set of unofficial returns. ([Section 102.141\(7\), Florida Statutes](#))

**Note:** For all other races, the county canvassing board is responsible for ordering recounts.

### **November 15**

If a Machine Recount is ordered, Second Unofficial Returns are due from the county canvassing boards no later than 3 p.m. on November 15. The Secretary of State and Division of Elections will subsequently determine if the returns for any federal, state, or multicounty races or issues on the ballot meet the statutory threshold of  $\frac{1}{4}$  of one percent requiring a manual recount.

The Secretary of State will order any Manual Recount, if required, for federal, state or multicounty races as determined by statutory thresholds. ([Section 102.166, Florida Statutes](#))

**Note:** For all other races, the county canvassing board is responsible for ordering recounts.

### **November 16**

Ballots from overseas uniformed service members and overseas civilians (UOCAVA voters) must be received by November 16. Ballots must be postmarked or signed and dated no later than the date of the General Election. ([Section 101.6952\(5\), Florida Statutes](#))

### **November 18**

Official Returns are due from the county canvassing boards no later than noon on November 18. ([Section 102.112, Florida Statutes](#))

## November 20

The Elections Canvassing Commission meets to certify the Official Returns for federal, state, and multicounty offices at 9 a.m. on November 20 at the Florida Capitol in Tallahassee. The Elections Canvassing Commission consists of the Governor and two members of the Florida Cabinet selected by the Governor ([Section 102.111, Florida Statutes](#)).

### Additional Information on Recounts

In Florida, recounts for any races or issues (such as constitutional amendments) on the ballot, are determined by statutory thresholds following receipt of the first Unofficial Returns, which are due from the county canvassing boards no later than noon on Saturday, November 10. According to Florida law, recounts must be ordered by the Florida Secretary of State, or a county canvassing board, before a recount can be initiated. For federal, state, and multicounty races, only the Florida Secretary of State may order a recount. For all other races on the ballot, such as sheriff and superintendent of schools, only the respective county canvassing board may order a recount. No one other than the Florida Secretary of State or a county canvassing board can order a recount. All recounts are open to the public and conducted by the respective county canvassing board(s). Public notice of any possible recount(s) will be provided by the entity that orders the recount.

### Machine Recount

- A **Machine Recount occurs** if the first set of unofficial returns indicates that a candidate was defeated or eliminated by  $\frac{1}{2}$  of one percent or less of the total votes cast for an office, or if an issue (such as a constitutional amendment) was approved or rejected by  $\frac{1}{2}$  of one percent or less of the total votes cast on the issue. ([Section 102.141\(7\), Florida Statutes](#) and [Rule 1S-2.031, Florida Administrative Code](#))
- The **Machine Recount means** all ballots are re-tabulated, or re-fed, through a county's precinct tabulators and/or central count tabulators.
- Ballots with overvotes and undervotes in the affected race(s) are subsequently set-aside in case a manual recount occurs.
- **Exception to ordering a machine recount:** If the candidate(s) defeated or eliminated from contention for the office by  $\frac{1}{2}$  of one percent or less request in writing that a machine recount not be conducted.
- **Results:** The results from the machine recount constitutes the second set of unofficial returns.
- **Definitions:**
  - **Overvote:** Voter designated more choices than allowable in the recounted race(s) on their ballot.
  - **Undervote:** Voter made no choice or fewer than number of allowable choices in the recounted race(s) on their ballot.

### Manual Recount of Overvotes and Undervotes

- A **Manual Recount occurs** if the second set of unofficial returns indicates that a candidate was eliminated or defeated by  $\frac{1}{4}$  of one percent or less of the votes cast for the office, or if an issue was approved or rejected by  $\frac{1}{4}$  of one percent or less of the total votes cast on the issue. ([Section 102.166, Florida Statutes](#) and [Rules 1S-2.027 and Rule 1S-2.051, Florida Administrative Code](#))
- The **Manual Recount is a hand recount of overvotes and undervotes** set-aside from the machine recount.
- **Exceptions to ordering a manual recount:**
  - If the candidate(s) defeated or eliminated from contention for the office by  $\frac{1}{4}$  of one percent or less request in writing that it not be conducted; OR
  - If the number of overvotes and undervotes is less than the number of votes needed to change the election outcome.
- **Results:** The results from the manual recount will be reflected in the Official Returns due to the state on November 18.