



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2013 Wisconsin Act 176
[2013 Assembly Bill 24]

**Recounting Votes Cast With
Automatic Tabulating Equipment**

Under state law, a board of canvassers generally must use automatic tabulating equipment to conduct a recount of ballots that are in machine-readable form. However, a candidate, or an elector when the recount is for a referendum, may petition the circuit court for an order requiring such ballots to be recounted by hand or by another method approved by the court.

2013 Wisconsin Act 176 allows the board of canvassers to conduct the recount of a specific election by hand, rather than by automatic tabulating equipment, unless a court orders the recount to be conducted by another method. The board, in using its discretion under the Act to conduct a recount by hand, may determine to conduct the recount by hand for only certain wards or election districts. This allows a board to recount using a combination of counting by hand and counting by automatic tabulating equipment, rather than requiring that all wards or districts be recounted using the same method.

Effective date: April 4, 2014. The Act first applied with respect to petitions for recounts at elections held after April 4, 2014.

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.