

Suggested Items for Proposed County Auditors Election Bill in 2010  
June 9, 2009

Purpose: address the issues raised by the 2008 US Senate recount and election contest

1. Clarify who can sign an absentee ballot application and return envelope on the voter's behalf
2. Eliminate signature requirement for voters providing a driver's license or other number on the absentee ballot return envelope
3. Permit voter's to provide their e-mail address and phone number on the absentee ballot application
4. Permit absentee ballot application to be e-mailed
5. Eliminate witness requirement for pre-registered absentee voters
6. Permit any eligible voter to be a non-registered absentee voter's witness
7. Authorize absentee ballot boards to verify that the voter registration card of a non-registered absentee voter has been correctly completed.
8. Authorize absentee ballot boards to duplicate federal and federal write-in ballots.
9. Prohibit a court from issuing an order permitting a candidate to exclude a properly completed absentee ballot return envelope from being accepted.
10. Define an "identifying mark" as a written or signed name or an identification number.
11. Provide a mechanism for an absentee voter to correct an unintended vote without overvoting

12. Define area of vote target coverage needed to have a vote counted.
13. Authorize the canvassing board to count absentee ballots that have been identified as improperly rejected
14. Reduce margin requiring automatic recounts in state and federal races.
15. Permit the delegation of recount responsibilities to any recount official who agrees to accept them.
16. Prohibit a recount official from presiding over a recount for any race in which a spouse, parent, child or sibling is a candidate.
17. Provide for counting only duplicate ballots in a recount, not original ballots.
18. Require manual inspection of each ballot to be recounted, but restricted to the side of the ballot on which the race in question appears.
19. Provide for challenges to the recount official's determination during the inspection phase of the recount.
20. Provide for a single count of the ballots, if the count agrees with the summary statement, and a maximum of one additional count of ballots, at the request of a candidate.
21. Limit the number of candidate observers in the room where the recount takes place.
22. Permit recount official to review challenged ballots with candidates.
23. Permit the inspection of ballot boxes, ballot counters and transfer cases for ballots, with the approval of both candidates.
24. Permit recount official to use the voting system to obtain a count of the ballots once the inspection of ballots has been completed.
25. Provide training for candidate observers.

26. Provide penalty for obstructing or interfering with a recount.
27. Provide additional time to conduct canvasses.