



MEMORANDUM

To: Sheri Muehlfelt, Douglas County Elections Manager
Re: Determination of Mandatory Recount

How to Determine if a Mandatory Recount is Required

Section 1-10.5-101(1)(b), C.R.S., identifies when a recount is required:

1-10.5-101. Recounts required - expenses. (1)(b) A recount of any election contest shall be held if the difference between the highest number of votes cast in that election contest and the next highest number of votes cast in that election contest is less than or equal to one-half of one percent of the highest vote cast in that election contest. If there is more than one person to be elected in an election contest, a recount shall be held if the difference between the votes cast for the candidate who won the election with the least votes and the candidate who lost the election with the most votes is less than or equal to one-half of one percent of the votes cast for the candidate who won the election with the least votes. A recount shall occur only after the canvass board certifies the original vote count.

Example

Two candidates running for the same office received the votes identified below:

Candidate #1 200 votes
Candidate #2 198 votes

$200 \text{ votes} - 198 \text{ votes} = 2 \text{ votes}$
 $2 \text{ votes} \div 200 \text{ votes} = .01 \text{ or } 1\%$, which is more than 0.5%

In this example, a mandatory recount is not required because 1% is larger than 0.5% (one-half of one percent).