








Recounts and Audits in Seven 2024 Swing States

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Recounts

State	Automatic recount?	Requested recounts?	Deadlines for requests ¹	Completion deadline ²	Recount counting method
Arizona 	Yes, if vote margin less than 0.5%	No	N/A	No completion deadline in state law	Mix of hand counting and re-running the ballots through the voting machines
Georgia 	No	A candidate may request a recount when there is a vote margin of 0.5% or less	November 26 - within 2 business days after the certification of results	No completion deadline in state law	Re-running the ballots through the voting machines. A hand count of a sample of ballots is required before ballots are rescanned.
Michigan 	Yes, when the vote margin is 2,000 votes or less	Any defeated candidate may apply for a recount	November 27 - within 48 hours of the state canvass of votes	30 days after the deadline for filing counter petitions or the first day recounts may begin	Re-running the ballots through the voting machines and/or by hand counting. The method is chosen by election officials.
Nevada 	No	Any defeated candidate may apply for a recount	November 20 - within 3 business days after the certification of results	Within 10 days of the request	Re-running the ballots through the voting machines, and re-running the electronic records from touchscreen (DRE) devices
North Carolina 	No ³	Any defeated candidate may apply for a recount if the specified close vote margin is met for their contest ⁴	November 19 - by noon on the second business day after the county canvass	No completion deadline in state law	Re-running the ballots through the voting machines and hand counting only for ballots that cannot be retabulated
Pennsylvania 	Yes, if vote margin less than or equal to 0.5%	No candidate-requested recounts, but voters may request a recount for an office	Varies by county, and is 5 days after a county completes its vote computation	For automatic recounts, by November 26 . For voter-initiated recounts, no set deadline.	Hand counting and re-running the ballots through the voting machines
Wisconsin 	No	A vote margin of less than or equal to 0.25% entitles a candidate to a taxpayer-funded recount. A vote margin greater than 0.25% but less than 1% entitles a candidate to a paid recount.	At the latest, by November 20 ⁵	Not more than 13 days after the order directing the recount	Hand counting and re-running the ballots through voting machines. The method is chosen by election officials.

¹ The listed recount request deadlines relate to statewide contests. In some states, the deadline to request a recount of a county-level contest may differ from the one listed in the table.

² Note there are federal and constitutional time constraints for the selection of a state's presidential electors.








³ If election officials discover substantial error while conducting a requested recount, statute requires a subsequent automatic recount.

⁴ For contests under the jurisdiction of the State Board of Elections, the specified close vote margin for a nonstatewide contest is 1% of the total votes cast, or in the case of a multi-candidate contest, 1% of the votes cast for those two candidates; for a statewide contest, the close vote margin is the lesser of 0.5% of the votes cast or 10,000 votes.

⁵ If all counties submit their canvass reports earlier than required, the recount petition deadline might be earlier. Also note that this is the recount petition filing deadline for the presidential contest; for other contests, candidates have two additional business days to file a recount petition.



Audits

State	Audit type	Contests audited	Completed before results finalized?	Can the audit expand to a full hand count?	Is the audit binding on the outcome? ⁶	Audit counting method
Arizona 	2% of precincts or two precincts (whichever is greater), and 1% of early votes or 5,000 early ballots (whichever is less)	Up to five races, including the presidential contest	Yes	Not statewide. Only to a full hand count in a county.	Binding only if it results in a full hand count	Hand count
Georgia 	Risk-limiting audit ⁷ (RLA)	Contest at the top of the ballot and one randomly selected federal or statewide contest	Yes	Yes	No guidance on whether the audit is binding	Hand count
Michigan ⁸ 	Randomly selected precincts for county level auditing and additional precincts for auditing of statewide contests; RLA pilots ⁹	Countywide and statewide contests	No	No statutory guidance	No	Hand count
Nevada ¹⁰ 	VVPATs from 2% of voting machines or at least 20 devices, whichever is greater; for smaller counties, 3% or at least four devices, whichever is greater, and an RLA	VVPAT: All contests RLA: One randomly selected statewide contest and countywide contest	VVPAT: Yes RLA: No statutory guidance	VVPAT: No RLA: No statutory guidance	No guidance on whether either audit is binding	VVPAT: Hand count or by rescanning ballots RLA: Hand count ¹
North Carolina 	Hand-to-eye manual counts of two samples ¹² in each county	Presidential contest in presidential election years	Yes	Yes	Yes	Hand count
Pennsylvania ¹³ 	2% of ballots or 2,000 ballots (whichever is less) and an RLA	2%: All contests are audited RLA: At least one statewide contest	Both: Yes	2%: No guidance RLA: Yes	No guidance on whether either audit is binding	2%: By rescanning ballots or by hand RLA: Hand count
Wisconsin 	10% of reporting units statewide (the number of reporting units per municipality is capped depending on the municipality's size)	Presidential contest and three other contests	No statutory deadline ¹⁴	No	No	Hand count

6 An audit is binding when the results of the audit become the official results.

7 A risk-limiting audit (RLA) manually examines a sample of paper ballots to provide statistical confidence that an incorrect election outcome is not certified.

8 Michigan's audit statute authorizes but does not require a post-election audit.

9 Administrative pilots which are conducted after the election results are finalized. Nevada is phasing in RLAs while maintaining its longstanding post-election audit of VVPATs, resulting in two separate auditing requirements.

10 The VVPAT audit exclusively checks votes cast in person on direct recording equipment (DRE) machines; Nevada became a universal mail balloting state in 2022.

11 Nevada conducts ballot comparison RLAs which entail the manual examination of individual ballots to verify machine counts, rather than manually counting the votes for a set of ballots.

12 In practice, a sample might be an Election Day precinct, an early voting site, or all of the county's absentee ballots.

13 Like Nevada, Pennsylvania has two auditing requirements: a statutorily required 2% or 2,000 ballot audit and an RLA, which is mandated by a Department of State directive.

14 In practice, prior to state certification on December 1, though audit timing could shift later if any statewide contests are eligible for a recount.