

Partial Manual Count

Texas Secretary of State – Elections Division



Partial Manual Count

- The partial manual count is a **post-election audit** of our electronic voting system.
- It is conducted to “ensure the accuracy of the tabulation of electronic voting system results.”
- This makes sure that equipment tabulated the votes properly.



Partial Manual Count Requirement

- Pursuant to Section 127.201(a) of the Texas Election Code, to ensure the accuracy of the tabulation of electronic voting systems, the general custodian of election records in an election in which an electronic voting system is used **must conduct a partial manual count.**
 - This affects all counties and local political subdivisions that use an electronic voting system for the counting of ballots.



Partial Manual Count Requirement

- This means that all counties and local political subdivisions that tabulate their voting system ballots electronically are required to conduct the partial manual count.
 - The partial manual count has to be conducted after every election that uses paper ballots that are counted with an electronic voting system. **This includes voter marked paper ballots and paper ballots generated by a ballot marking device.**
 - It includes all ballots that were counted with a precinct or central scanner and reported as part of your unofficial results on election night. It also includes:
 - Early voting in person ballots that were counted with a precinct scanner or central scanner
 - Early voting by mail ballots that were counted with a precinct scanner or a central scanner
- Ballots cast on a paperless DRE are exempt from the partial manual count.



Determining What Precincts are Included

- **General Rule:**
 - The General Custodian of Election Records shall conduct a manual count of all races in at least one percent of the election or three precincts, whichever is greater.
- **General Election for State and County Officers, Primary Election, or Constitutional Amendment Elections:**
 - The SOS shall designate not more than three offices and not more than three propositions to be counted in the selected precincts.
 - The SOS shall notify the General Custodian of Election Records of the selected races/precincts.



Partial Manual Count

- Entities will receive a separate email prior to election day with specific instructions about logging into the SOS system to obtain information specific to the partial manual count.
 - The election official must begin the manual count within seventy-two (72) hours after the polls close.
 - The count must be completed no later than the 21st day after Election Day. (127.201(b)).



Partial Manual Count and Notice Requirements

- **Notice Requirements**

- The General Custodian of Election Records must post in the custodian's office a notice of the date, hour, and place of the count.

- **Candidates and Poll Watchers**

- Each candidate is entitled to be present at the count and is entitled to have a representative present. The representative must deliver a certificate of appointment when they report for service.



elections@sos.texas.gov

