

Wisconsin County Clerks Association

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AB-24/SB-14

Empowering Election Officials to Optionally Use Tabulators at a Recount

The WCCA supports giving the option to the Board of Canvassers to hand count ballots that were otherwise electronically tabulated on Election Day for the following reasons:

1. Containing and minimizing the cost of elections:

- Recounts are mandated, unbudgeted expenses. When they occur, the county board or municipal boards/councils must find the money they don't have from somewhere.
- The mandated expense of programming memory cards is expensive, and sometimes recounts affect a very small numbers of voters in a municipality.
- Thorough yet efficient recounts simply save money. This bill would save money on both programming costs and labor costs.

2. Maintaining confidence in electronic tabulators:

- There are groups of people with little to no confidence in electronic tabulating equipment. Counting votes by hand provides a second method of vote tabulation, and confirms with the public that electronic tabulators are functioning well.

3. Ensuring a fair and accurate result:

- Electronic tabulators don't count votes where the voter filled out the ballot incorrectly. Voters sometimes circle names instead of filling in the oval/connecting the arrow. Hand counting accounts for voter intent and increases the accuracy of the final result.