



PRESS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE LARAMIE COUNTY CLERK

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Small vote margins trigger mandatory recounts for HD41 and SD6 County Canvassing Board to meet Friday to certify election results

The Laramie County Clerk's Office will recount votes cast for Republican candidates Bill Henderson and Patrick Fitzgerald in HD 41 and candidates Anthony Bouchard and David Zwonitzer in SD 6 since unofficial results indicate less than a 1% difference between candidates. The vote differences trigger a mandatory recount under state law.

Preliminary results released last night indicate a one-vote difference between the two HD 41 candidates and an overall four-vote difference between Bouchard and Zwonitzer in SD6.

"HD41 involves just Laramie County, while SD6 involves 13 precincts in Laramie County and four in Goshen County," said Laramie County Clerk Debra Lee. "Wyoming law requires a recount of all votes cast in a district when there is less than 1% difference between candidates."

Lee said the affected candidates have been contacted and invited to observe the recount which will take place tomorrow at the county complex.

Lee said her staff are also compiling names of the 523 Democratic write-ins for county commissioner to see if one or more candidates have garnered enough votes to be placed on the ballot for the General Election.

“Our office will tabulate and submit these names for the County Canvassing Board’s consideration to see if any of the write-ins have at least 25 or more votes,” she said.

Under W.S. 22-5-215, a write-in candidate on a party ballot has to have at least 25 valid write-in votes. The canvassing board will determine the validity of those votes. Should the board determine that a candidate or candidates is to be offered the Democratic nomination for County Commissioner, the county clerk must notify the write-in candidate within 48 hours after the canvassing board meeting. A write-in candidate is then given five days in which to accept the nomination by filing an application and paying the \$25 fee for a county office. Acceptance of the nomination means that the candidate’s name will appear on the General Election ballot.

The canvassing board, composed of Clerk Lee, Peter Froelicher, and David Marcum, meets Friday at 10:00 a.m. in the commissioners’ board room to certify results of the 2016 Primary Election. Froelicher and Marcum are appointed as electors of different political parties. Both have served on the board for several years.

On Friday, the board will review a reconciliation of ballots by precinct, will consider any provisional ballots that may have been cast, and review and officially accept votes cast for any successful write-in candidate before certifying the official abstract for the election.

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