

The Contoocook Valley School District Recount
March 18, 2021 - 4:00 p.m.
Contoocook Valley Regional High School Gymnasium

SUMMARY OF PROCEDURES FOR RECOUNT

The Recount will be presided over by the School District Moderator and his Assistant Moderator. Any member of the public who wishes to attend and observe the Recount is encouraged to do so. Due to COVID-19, these Observers will be stationed behind a plexiglass “Sneeze Guard” separating them from the Counting Teams who will be performing their counting duties. Any individual who petitioned for the recount will be given a preferential position in the front row. All individuals present at the Recount will be required to wear a mask and practice social distancing.

The Recount will proceed via the “Sort and Stack” method. At the commencement of the Recount, the Counting Teams will be provided a stack of ballots, which they will separate into three piles representing: (1) Ballots which have been marked “Yes”; (2) Ballots which have been marked “No”; and (3) Ballots which are neither marked “Yes” or “No”, which should be in an “Other” pile. In discerning which pile a ballot should be placed in, the Counters have a duty under State law to attempt to discern the intent of the voter. See RSA 40:4-g. Therefore, even if a voter did not follow the instructions on the ballot, if it the voter’s intent is clear from the face of the ballot, this vote will be counted accordingly. If the intent of the voter is not clear from the face of the ballot, the Moderator and/or Assistant Moderator will review the ballot and make a determination, if possible. If a ballot is blank, or the Moderator and/or Assistant Moderator is unable to discern the voter’s intent, the ballot will be placed in the “Other” pile.

Importantly, Observers and/or Petitioners will be permitted to view any ballot and/or raise a protest to any determination made by Counters and/or the Moderator/Assistant Moderator. Any individual making a protest must do so by immediately notifying the Moderator and/or Assistant Moderator and outlining the bases for the protest. The Moderator and/or Assistant Moderator will then consider the protest and make a final determination. If the individual makes further protest, the Board of Recount will evaluate the protest and either uphold or overrule the determination of the Moderator/Assistant Moderator. Following this determination (and any other questionable ballot where the Moderator/Assistant Moderator is involved), the ballot in question will be appropriately flagged in anticipation of a potential appeal.

After the ballots have been sorted into the three separate piles, these piles will be further counted, then divided and stacked into piles of 50, if possible. Each stack must only consist of one of the three categories (Yes, No, Other); therefore, it is likely that there will be some stacks with less than 50. Every time a stack is complete, it shall be bound together and be accompanied with a “Tally Sheet” that summarizes important information related to the ballots, and which will contain the signature of the Counting Team. After each stack of ballots has been counted and signed, it will be moved to the table designated for counted ballots.

In addition to Counters, there will be an Aggregation Team, overseen by the school district clerk, who will compile the recounts from each tally sheet and input the results into an Excel Spreadsheet, entitled the “Final Tally Sheet.” This spreadsheet will be projected on a screen facing the Observers and, if possible, the Board of Recount.

Once the recounting process is complete and all data is entered into the Final Tally Sheet, the Board of Recount shall publicly declare the results and certify such declaration to the school district clerk.