

CLERK AND RECORDER'S NOTES

By Susan L. Bailey

Morgan County Clerk and Recorder

ELECTION NEWS:

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2016 ELECTIONS:

- January 4, 2016 – Last day to affiliate with a major or minor party to run as a party candidate in the primary (either through nomination or petition). **What this means is if you would like to run as a candidate affiliated with a political party, you must be registered with that party by January 4, 2016.**
- January 4, 2016 – Last day to register as unaffiliated to access the ballot by petition as an unaffiliated candidate. **What this means is if you want to petition on the ballot as an unaffiliated candidate, you must be registered as unaffiliated by January 4, 2016.**
- January 4, 2016 – Last day to affiliate with a political party (Republican or Democratic Party) in order to vote in the precinct caucus if held on March 1st. (2 months prior to the precinct caucus) **What this means is if you are not registered at all or you wish to change your affiliation, and would like to register with a political party to support a candidate in that parties' caucus, this is your deadline to do so in order to participate in that parties caucus.**

General Election Tidbits:

Is Election over on Election Day? No it is not; the results that come out on election night are preliminary unofficial results.

Why?

- According to Colorado Revised Statues 1-8.3-113(2), 1-1-106(4) Ballots cast by military and overseas electors can be received by the county clerk and be counted as long as received within 8 days of election day;
- Colorado Revised Statues 1-7.5-107(3.5) (d); 1-7.5-107.3(2) (a); 1-8.5-105(3)(a); 1-1-106(4) Electors have 8 days after the election to cure signature discrepancies or missing signatures or to provide missing ID for mail and provisional ballots.
- Colorado Revised Statues 1-8.5-105(5) within 14 days after Election Day verification and counting of provisional ballots to be rejected or counted is done.

After all of those deadlines have passed and Canvass is complete then final numbers can be released.

What is Canvass?

- Colorado Revised Statues 1-10-101.5(a) Reconcile number of ballots cast to the number of ballots counted confirm that the number of ballots counted in the election does not exceed the number of ballots cast and;
- Colorado Revised Statues 1-10-101.5(b) reconcile the number of voters who voted to the number of ballots counted to confirm that the number ballots cast

does not exceed the number of ballots counted does not exceed the number of registered eligible electors.

- Account and balance the election and certify the official abstract of votes.
- Observe the post-election audit in accordance with section 1-7-514(4).

Who does the Canvass?

- For a partisan election, each major party may have no more than two representatives on the canvass board. The board must include an equal number of representatives from each major party, unless a major party fails to certify representatives for appointment.
- Each major party representative on the canvass board must be registered to vote in the county where the representative will serve and affiliated with the party he or she represents.
- The designated election official may appoint canvass workers to help prepare and conduct the canvass.

What is a Post-election audit?

- Comparing manual hand count tallies of voter-verified paper records by each voting device selected for audit by the Secretary of State with the corresponding ballot tallies recorded directly by each device in the original election tally. These results of the manual hand count and the machine count are then reported to the Secretary of State.

Canvass reporting and reporting of the Post-election audit deadline to the Secretary of State is no later than the 17th day after the election pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes 1-10-102(1) and Rule 11.3.3(m)

The Election Department can be reached at 542-3521, option 5 for voter and election questions. The Recording Department can be reached at 542-3521, option 4 for marriage licenses and recording information. The Motor Vehicle Department can be reached at 542-3521, option 2 for license plates/renewals or titling a vehicle. You can also reach our office by email at sbailey@co.morgan.co.us .

Morgan County Clerk & Recorder/Motor Vehicle Offices will close at noon on Thursday, December 24 and will remain closed Friday, December 25, 2015 as well as Friday, January 1, 2016 to allow our employees time to spend with their families for the holidays!