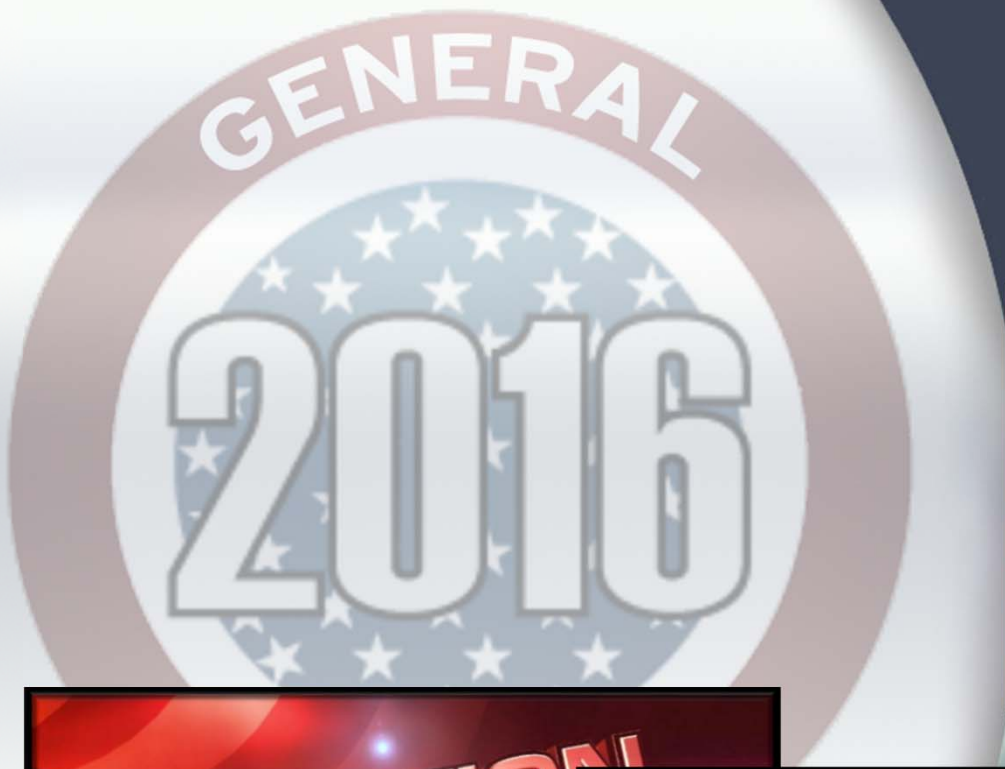


# Wisconsin Presidential Recount Experience

Ross Hein,  
Elections Supervisor,  
Wisconsin Election Commission

Technical Guidelines Development Committee  
February 13-14, 2017



Technical Guidelines Development Co  
February 13-14, 2017

Election Commission

# Recount Timeline



Jill Stein campaign for President of the United States requests statewide recount stating there is evidence of voting irregularities that indicate potential tampering with electronic voting systems.

Cyberattacks?

Hand Count?





# Recount Timeline



WEC determined the recount petition fee to be sufficient and received confirmation that the estimated recount fee of nearly \$3.5 million was deposited by the Stein campaign.

## Recount Costs?

2nd statewide recount since the 2011

## Votes

Trump 1.4M  
> 22,000  
win over Clinton  
Stein 31k



# Recount Timeline



WEC staff conducted a webinar teleconference with county and municipal clerks, candidates, candidate representatives, interested members of the public and the press to ensure policies and procedures would be implemented uniformly across all 72 counties conducting the recount.

The image shows two overlapping presentation slides. The front slide is titled "Agenda" and lists the following items:

- › Convene Meeting
- › General Remarks
- › Litigation
- › Timeline
- › County Board of Canvassers
- › Election Observer Rules
- › Minutes/Cost Tracking
- › Nightly Reporting
- › Recount Resources
- › Recount Process
- › Question/Next Steps

The back slide is titled "Wisconsin Elections Commission" and "Webinar Planning Webinar for Residential Election" and is dated "November 30, 2016". Both slides feature a small Wisconsin state outline logo with "WEC" written inside.

# Recount Timeline



Recount to be conducted by the county board of canvassers were required to begin and needed to be completed by December 12 - one day before the federal safe harbor date.

LEOs Assist

County BOCs  
Needed

MILWAUKEE · WISCONSIN  
**JOURNAL SENTINEL**  
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

HOME NEWS SPORTS BUSINESS OPINION WATCHDOG TAP FRESH TRAILS GREEN SHEET OBITUARIES

This story is part of **WISCONSIN ELECTIONS**    Recount costs come at half of estimate    One contested judicial race in Milwaukee    Judge: Wisconsin recount will go forward

## Historic recount will have to move quickly

Patrick Marley and Bill Glauber, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel    Published 9:20 a.m. CT Nov. 25, 2016 | Updated 5:22 p.m. CT Nov. 27, 2016

(Photo: Mike De Sisti)

Wisconsin will begin a historic presidential recount next week and the state could risk losing its ability to have its 10 electoral votes counted if it doesn't meet key deadlines next month.

Hitting a Dec. 13 deadline could be particularly tricky if Green Party presidential nominee Jill Stein is able to force the recount to be conducted by hand, Wisconsin's top election official said.

Stein and independent presidential candidate Roque "Rocky" De La Fuente separately filed recount requests late Friday, the last day they were able to do so. Stein received about 31,000 votes and De La Fuente about 1,500 out of 3 million cast.

# Communication is Key

WEC staff developed templates for counties to use to provide daily progress reports of what reporting units (precincts) were recounted that day and requested an explanation of a change in the original results which equaled more than 10 votes in a reporting unit.

Central Template  
Daily Reports  
Red Flags



County Name	Municipality Name	Reporting Unit	Total Votes	Donald J. Trump / Michael R. Pence	Hillary Clinton / Tim Kaine	Darrell L. Castle / Scott N. Bradley	Gary Johnson / Bill Weld	Jill Stein / Ajamu Baraka	N. Lu
ADAMS	TOWN OF ADAMS	TOWN OF ADAMS Wards 1-3	618	377	207	3	22	1	
ADAMS	TOWN OF BIG FLATS	TOWN OF BIG FLATS Ward 1-2	490	300	169	4	10	4	
ADAMS	TOWN OF COLBURN	TOWN OF COLBURN Ward 1	130	85	42	0	1	2	
ADAMS	TOWN OF DELL PRAIRIE	TOWN OF DELL PRAIRIE Ward 1-3	826	478	303	3	27	10	
ADAMS	TOWN OF EASTON	TOWN OF EASTON Wards 1-2	519	334	169	5	6	1	
ADAMS	TOWN OF JACKSON	TOWN OF JACKSON Ward 1-2	562	312	224	0	15	3	
ADAMS	TOWN OF LEOLA	TOWN OF LEOLA Ward 1	138	117	18	0	2	0	
ADAMS	TOWN OF LINCOLN	TOWN OF LINCOLN Ward 1	181	98	77	1	2	1	
ADAMS	TOWN OF MONROE	TOWN OF MONROE Ward 1	237	129	102	0	4	0	
ADAMS	TOWN OF NEW CHESTER	TOWN OF NEW CHESTER Ward 1-3	401	247	138	1	14	0	
ADAMS	TOWN OF NEW HAVEN	TOWN OF NEW HAVEN Ward 1	340	177	145	3	9	4	
ADAMS	TOWN OF PRESTON	TOWN OF PRESTON Ward 1-2	694	397	270	3	9	10	
ADAMS	TOWN OF QUINCY	TOWN OF QUINCY Ward 1-3	652	358	272	3	12	6	

# Communication is Key

Posted certified recount results and board of canvassers minutes by county to the Commission website on a rolling basis to provide the public with a real time update as to which counties were done and which counties were still in progress.

Public Transparency  
Timely Updates  
Progress Reporting

WEC Canvass Reporting System  
County by County Report  
2016 General Election

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

County	Total Votes Cast	REP	DEM	CON	LIB	WGR	IND	IND	IND
		Donald J. Trump Michael R. Pence	Hillary Clinton Tim Kaine	Darrell L. Castle Scott W. Bradley	Gary Johnson Bill Weld	Ajamu Baraka Jill Stein	Monica Moorehead Liamont Lilly	Michael Steinberg	Rocky Roque Da La Fuente
ADAMS	10,130	5,966	3,745	45	216	79	8	4	0
ASHLAND	8,032	3,303	4,226	21	194	167	10	3	0
BARRON	22,671	13,614	7,889	117	727	170	17	11	1
BAYFIELD	9,612	4,124	4,953	24	197	185	4	6	0
BROWN	129,011	67,210	53,382	475	4,985	1,371	54	65	0
BUFFALO	6,981	4,048	2,525	37	218	74	6	3	0
CHANDLER	8,738	5,410	2,949	48	236	67	7	1	0
CLAY	26,595	15,367	9,642	171	1,054	204	13	10	0
CRAWFORD	31,568	17,916	11,887	175	1,219	264	16	10	4
DALTON	13,673	8,652	4,221	97	455	109	18	9	0
DODGE	29,698	14,163	13,528	138	1,092	346	15	10	0

**Wisconsin Elections Commission**  
Administering Wisconsin's Election Laws

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# Communication is Key

Developed and issued press releases, clerk communications, recount updates and social media posts to provide the candidates, clerks, the public and the press with a transparent snapshot of the recount.

More Transparency

**Latest News from the Wisconsin Elections Commission**

For more information please contact Reid at 7887, or [reid.ma](mailto:reid.ma)

Title	Date
Wisconsin Recount Proceeding on Schedule without Major Problems	December 5, 2016
Wisconsin Recount More Than 70 percent Complete, Relatively Few Totals Changed	December 7, 2016
Wisconsin Recount with Relatively Small Changes to Final Totals	December 12, 2016

**Wisconsin Elections** @WI\_Elections

Wisconsin Recount Proceeding on Schedule without Major Problems

[elections.wi.gov/node/4520](http://elections.wi.gov/node/4520)

RETWEETS: 40 LIKES: 36

10:31 AM - 5 Dec 2016

reddit **WISCONSIN** comments other discussions (1)

Politics Wisconsin Recount More Than 70 percent Complete, Relatively Few Totals Changed (elections.wi.gov) submitted 2 months ago by sixthsheik

# Communication is Key

The internal recount team met twice daily to brief on issues that arose, devising strategy to address those issues, and communicate this news to the county board of canvassers, candidates and the public.

**Briefings**  
**Strategies**  
**Communications**

County BOCs  
Candidates  
Public



# Communication is Key

Worked extra hours & extra days to provide county boards of canvass a resource if an issue arose. They were provided after-hours phone numbers which were monitored by staff members throughout the recount period.



# Litigation

## Jill Stein v. Wisconsin Elections Commission, et al. (Case. No. 16CV3060)

On November 28, 2016, Jill Stein filed a lawsuit in Dane County Circuit Court, requesting a hand recount of all ballots cast. Under Wis. Stat. § 5.90(1).

Following a hearing on November 29, 2016, the Court denied Jill Stein's request, which allowed each county board of canvass to choose their method of tabulation for the recount. Jill Stein did not appeal the Court's decision.





# Litigation

Jill Stein v. Wisconsin Elections Commission, et al.  
(Case. No. 16CV3060)



# Litigation

## Great America PAC, et al., v. Wisconsin Elections Commission, et al. (Case No. 16CV0795)

On Dec. 1, 2016, Great America PAC, Stop Hillary PAC and Ronald R. Johnson lawsuit alleged the recount would be conducted in a manner that violates the requirements set forth in *Bush v. Gore*, 531 U.S. 98 (2000) for recounts in presidential elections.

Additionally, they alleged that the recount could extend beyond the federal “safe harbor” deadline of Dec. 13, 2016. Plaintiff’s sought an emergency temporary restraining order to halt the recount.



# Litigation

## Great America PAC, et al., v. Wisconsin Elections Commission, et al. (Case No. 16CV0795)

On Dec. 2, 2016, the motion for an emergency temporary restraining order was denied.

On Dec. 9, 2016, the preliminary injunction motion was also denied. Great America PAC voluntarily dismissed their lawsuit on Dec. 19, 2016



The screenshot shows the top portion of a news article from the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. The header includes the newspaper's name and navigation links. The article title is 'Judge: Wisconsin recount will go forward', and the byline is 'Jason Stein, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel'. The lead paragraph states that a federal judge has cleared the way for the Wisconsin presidential recount to proceed.

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HOME NEWS SPORTS BUSINESS OPINION WATCHDOG TAP FRESH TRAILS GREEN SHEET

This story is part of **WISCONSIN ELECTIONS**    Recount costs come in at half of estimate    One contested judicial race in Milwaukee    Donald Tru

## Judge: Wisconsin recount will go forward

Jason Stein, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel    Published 10:30 a.m. CT Dec. 9, 2016 | Updated 7:16 p.m. CT Dec. 9, 2016

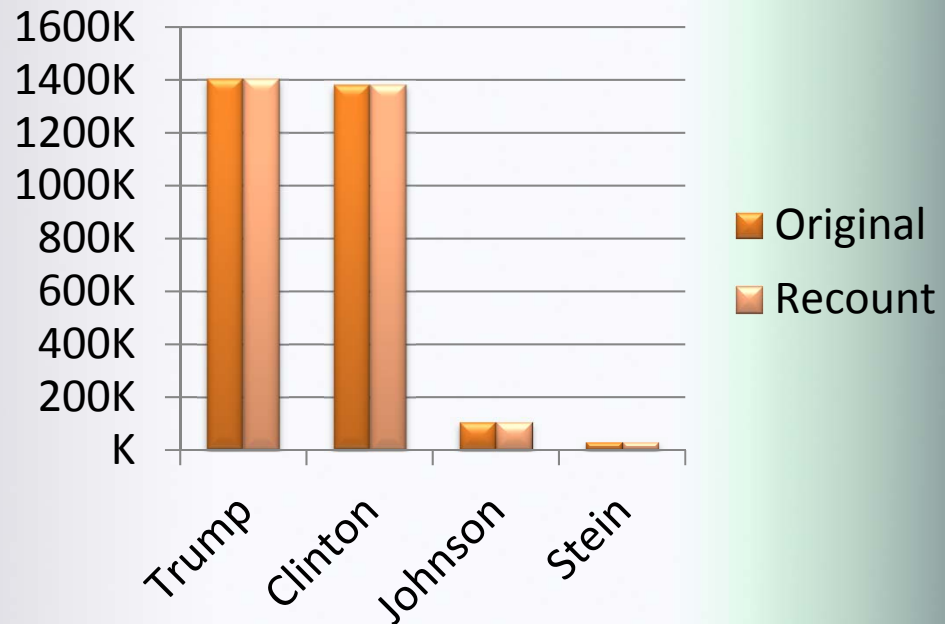
 A federal judge declined to stop Wisconsin's presidential recount Friday, clearing the way for the tally to finish here on Sunday or Monday and to meet a federal deadline.

# Recount Findings

Ultimately, the certified results following the recount changed very little from the original results – with Donald Trump gaining 844 votes, Hillary Clinton gaining 713 votes for a net gain of 131 votes for Donald Trump. Jill Stein gained 66 votes.

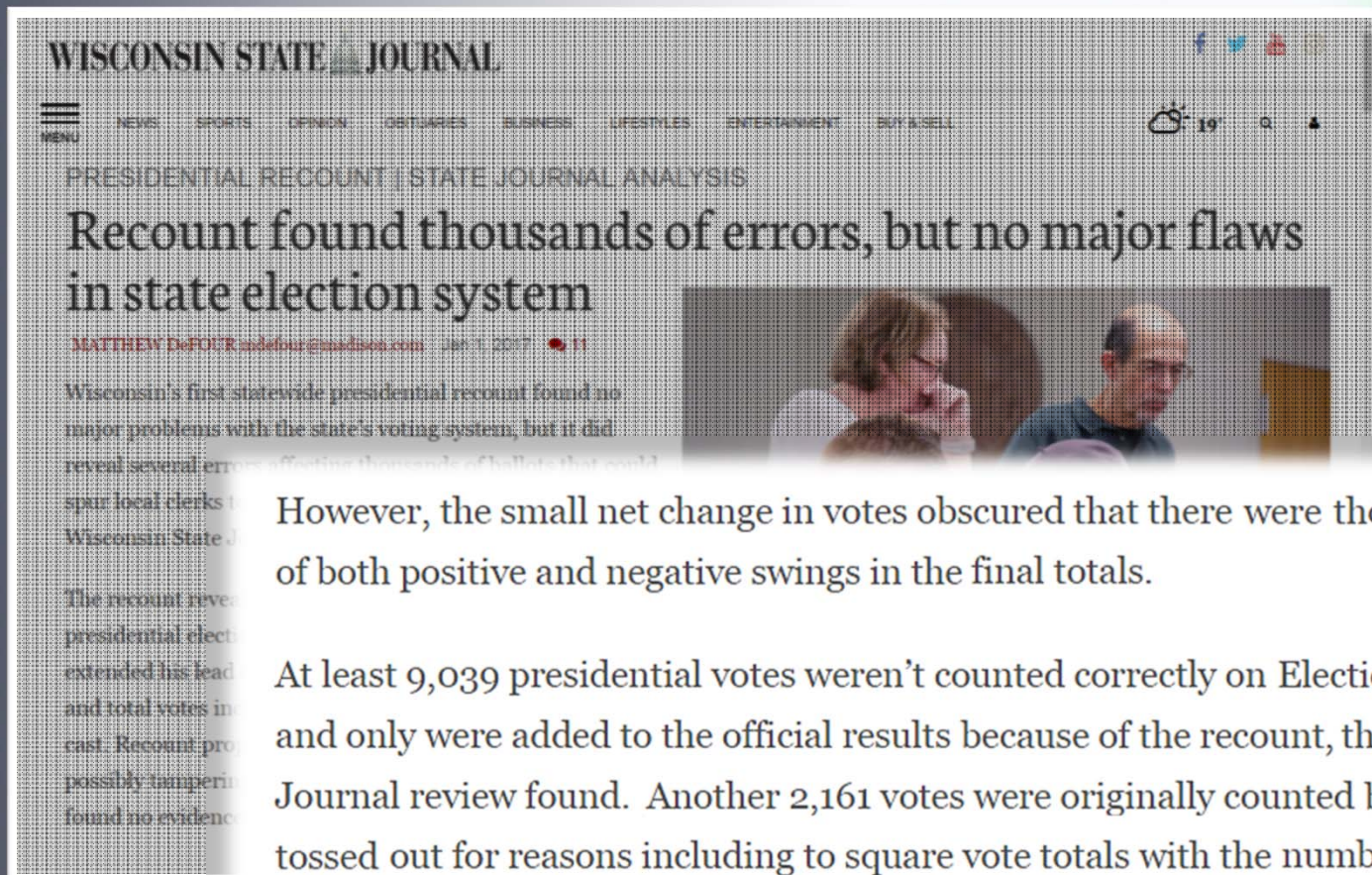
## Stein Campaign Refund

Estimated Collected from Campaign	\$ 3,499,689,00
Actual Costs as Submitted to Date	\$ 2,005,603,09
Under/Over Provided Estimate	<b>Returned</b> <b>\$ 1,494,085,91</b>





# Recount Findings



However, the small net change in votes obscured that there were thousands of both positive and negative swings in the final totals.

At least 9,039 presidential votes weren't counted correctly on Election Night, and only were added to the official results because of the recount, the State Journal review found. Another 2,161 votes were originally counted but later tossed out for reasons including to square vote totals with the number of voters who signed the poll book.

# Recount Findings

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WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL

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PRESIDENTIAL RECOUNT | STATE JOURNAL ANALYSIS

## Recount found thousands of errors, but no major flaws in state election system

MATTHEW D'FOUR [mdefour@madison.com](mailto:mdefour@madison.com) July 7, 2017 11

Wisconsin's first statewide presidential recount found no major problems with the state's voting system, but it did reveal several errors affecting thousands of ballots that could spur local clerks to...

Wisconsin State J...

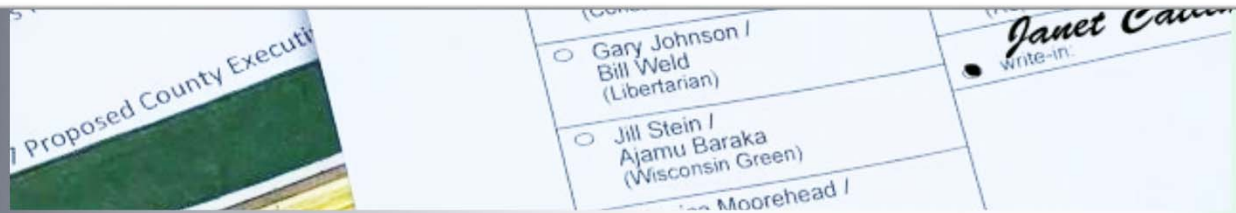
The recount reve...

presidential elect...

extended his lead over Democrat Hillary Clinton by 131 votes and total votes increased by about 400 out of nearly 3 million cast. Recount proponents had raised concerns about Russia possibly tampering with election results, but the recount found no evidence to support such claims.

d

The more than 11,000 changes to the original vote total represent a minor 0.38 percent error rate out of the nearly 3 million votes counted.





# Recount Findings



The screenshot shows the top portion of a news article. The header includes the 'WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL' logo, a navigation menu with categories like NEWS, SPORTS, OPINION, and BUSINESS, and social media icons. The main headline reads 'Recount found thousands of errors, but no major flaws in state election system'. Below the headline is the author's name, 'MATTHEW DeFOUR', and the date, 'JAN 11 2017'. A sub-headline states: 'Wisconsin's first statewide presidential recount found no major problems with the state's voting system, but it did reveal several errors affecting thousands of ballots that could spur local clerks to tighten procedures, according to a Wisconsin State Journal review.' To the right of the text is a photograph of several people, likely election officials, working at a table.

The State Journal review found more than 55 percent of the ballots were recounted by hand. The error rate was 0.44 percent in wards that conducted the recount by hand and 0.30 percent in wards that recounted by machine.

The difference in error rate between wards that Trump and Clinton won was negligible — 0.38 percent versus 0.37 percent.

Almost 3 million ballots in roughly 12 days

# Recount Continues

The Jill Stein campaign requested access to the various software components and designated the following persons to be granted access:

Alex Halderman	Matthew Bernhard
Dan Wallach	Harri Hursti
Poorvi Vora	Doug Jones
Philip Stark	Ron Rivest



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

[5.905\(4\)](#)

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- (4) If a valid petition for a recount is filed under s. 9.01 in an election at which an electronic voting system was used to record and tally the votes cast, each party to the recount may designate one or more persons who are authorized to receive access to the software components that were used to record and tally the votes in the election. The commission shall grant access to the software components to each designated person if, before receiving access, the person enters into a written agreement with the commission that obligates the person to exercise the highest degree of reasonable care to maintain the confidentiality of all proprietary information to which the person is provided access, unless otherwise permitted in a contract entered into under sub. (5).



# Wisconsin Presidential Recount



WISCONSIN ELECTIONS COMMISSION  
STATE OF WISCONSIN

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ELECTIONS SUPERVISOR

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