



ELECTIONS NEWS RELEASE

1415 Melody Lane, Bldg A, Bisbee, AZ 85603

www.cochise.az.gov

For Immediate Release

Contact: Katie Howard

Date: December 5, 2014

khoward@cochise.az.gov

On Monday, December 8th beginning at 8:30 a.m., Cochise County will begin the process of recounting all of the ballots cast for the Congressional District 2 (CD2) race in the recent General Election on November 4th. A recount of all votes cast for the CD2 race in both Cochise and Pima County is required by law to determine the outcome between Democrat Ron Barber and Republican Martha McSally. Since the margin (difference in number of votes received) between the two candidates at the General Election was fewer than 200 votes, an automatic recount is required. After the Secretary of State certified the election on December 1st, the matter was brought before the Superior Court in Maricopa County, and the recount was officially ordered.

Cochise County will begin counting ballots at the tabulation room upstairs at the Elections Department (1415 W. Melody Lane, Building A (Bisbee, Arizona) at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, December 8th, and will tabulate ballots continuously until 4:30 p.m. on Monday, and during those hours each day thereafter until all ballots have been recounted. The process will take place in the presences of designated observers from both parties, who will be able to view every operation during the recount, including the transfer of ballots from the ballot room, the unsealing of each batch of ballots, their tabulation, and their subsequent resealing and return to the ballot room.

Per a directive from the Secretary of State, results will not be released by the County. The County is required to certify the recount, when complete, to the Secretary of State who in turn will certify to the court, no later than December 17th. The court will declare the results official and release them at that time.

In preparation for the recount, the tabulation machine was tested by the Secretary of State and Cochise County Election Officials in what is called a Logic and Accuracy Test on December 3rd. This simply means that test ballots were run through the tabulating machine to verify the accuracy of the tabulating equipment and reporting systems. The Logic and Accuracy test was successful.

Once the results of the recount have been tallied and verified by Election personnel, a Hand Count will convene within 24 hours of the completion of the recount. Actual ballots from randomly selected precincts will be counted manually by a hand count board, consisting of participants selected by both party chairmen. This will provide a second verification of the accuracy of the tabulation.