HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Beard and others

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Analyst: Matt Gehring, 651-296-5052

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Overview

This bill modifies certain procedures and thresholds for instituting an election recount. Recounts for a federal or state office would no longer be "automatic," but would be instituted upon the affirmative request of a losing candidate for that office.

1   **Publicly-funded recounts; federal and state offices.** Eliminates the concept of "automatic recounts" in elections for federal or state offices, and instead provides for publicly-funded recounts to be conducted only upon request of a candidate.

For all federal and state offices, except state legislative office, the threshold for a candidate to request a publicly-funded recount would be a difference in votes between the top two candidates of 0.25 percent of the votes counted for that office or 3,000 votes, whichever is less.

For state legislative offices, the current threshold would remain in place: a difference of 0.5 percent or ten votes or less if the total number of votes cast is 400 or fewer would permit the candidate to request a publicly-funded recount.

The appropriate filing officer must notify any candidate with an option to request a recount after the results of the election have been canvassed. To request a recount, the candidate would be required to notify the filing officer of that request within 48 hours of the canvass.

This section also eliminates language referencing a candidate's right to waive a recount, as all recounts would be initiated by a candidate, rather than automatic.

2   **Filing officer.** Specifies the official required to act as the filing officer for purposes of notifying candidates and receiving requests for a recount.

3   **Publicly-funded recounts; local elections.** Modifies the thresholds that permit a losing candidate for a county, municipal, or school district office to request a recount at the expense of the local unit of government. A recount could be requested by a candidate if the difference in votes is 0.25 percent. A recount could also be requested using current 0.5 percent threshold standard, if the total number of votes cast for that office is between 400 and 50,000.