

Missoula County Media Release

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County Canvass Board Calls for Recount of House District 92

After conducting the official canvass of the primary election yesterday, the County's Canvass Board is calling for a recount of the ballots cast in House District 92. As provided in MCA 13-15-403 (4): If during a canvass the board finds an error in a precinct or precincts affecting the accuracy of vote totals, the board immediately may petition for a recount of the votes cast in the precinct or precincts, as provided in 13-16-201, or for an inspection of ballots, as provided in 13-16-420.

The spread between the top two candidates on the republican ballot in HD 92 is four votes. The board is opting for a recount because six voters received the wrong ballot on election day. While extremely rare and despite receiving hours of mandated training, election judges sometimes make mistakes.

In many elections, polling places have different ballot styles. This occurs when a polling place has multiple house districts for a polling place. Some voters at their polling place vote one ballot while other voters at the polling place vote a different ballot. In this case six voters voted the Clinton 89 ballot style instead of voting the Clinton 92 ballot style. The recount is only happening in House District 92 because the difference in votes for House District 89 does not prompt a recount. House District 92 comprises six polling places. The error issuing ballots was made at only one polling place.

The recount will take place at the County Records Center at 2147 Ernest Avenue at 10 a.m. June 20, 2018. The recount is open to the public and will be conducted by the Board of County Commissioners (another elected official may substitute if a county commissioner is unavailable).

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