

Secretary of State Mark Ritchie discusses 2010 election results; possible recount in Governor's race

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Secretary of State Mark Ritchie reviewed election night 2010 and discussed the potential recounts in the governor's race and other legislative races. "More than 55 percent of Minnesota's eligible voters went to the polls to cast ballots in federal, state and local races," said Ritchie. "While the results of yesterday's election will not be official until the state canvassing board certifies the election, it now appears that three legislative House races and the governor's race could potentially trigger automatic hand recounts."

An automatic recount is triggered by Minnesota Law (Minnesota Statutes M.S. 204C.35) when the margin between state, judicial and federal candidates is less than one-half of one percent. The legislative House District races that may trigger a recount include the race between King Banaian (R) and Carol Lewis (DFL) in district 15B; Kelby Woodard (R) and David Bly (DFL) in 25B and Rich Murray (R) and Robin Brown (DFL) in 27A.

Should a recount in the governor's race between Tom Emmer (R) and Mark Dayton (DFL) be triggered and the outcome not declared before the current term expires in January, the Minnesota Constitution provides in Article 5. Sec. 2 that, "The term of office for the governor and lieutenant governor is four years and until a successor is chosen and qualified."

County election officials will now begin proofing the unofficial results that have been submitted to this office. County canvassing boards will be meeting to certify county results Nov. 5 through Nov. 12. The State Canvassing Board will convene Nov. 23 at 10 a.m. to certify the election results in the State Office Building, room 10. The board is comprised of two Minnesota Supreme court justices, two district court judges and is chaired by the Secretary of State. The members of the State Canvassing Board are: Secretary of State Mark Ritchie; Minnesota Supreme Court Associate Justice Paul H. Anderson; Minnesota Supreme Court Associate Justice David R. Stras; Assistant Chief Judge Denise Reilly, Fourth Judicial District; and Judge Gregg E. Johnson, Second Judicial District.