

## **Fact Sheet: HB25-1155 - Modifications to Watchers at County, State, and Congressional Recounts**

### **Overview:**

HB25-1155 proposes modifications to the existing law regarding the role and authority of political candidate watchers during recounts as amended by L.004.

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### **Bill Analysis**

- ❖ **Application to Recounts:** The same provisions for selecting watchers in general and congressional vacancy elections (as modified by Section 2) will apply to recounts for the offices of federal, state, and county.
  - ❖ L.004 was developed with assistance from county clerks and representatives from America Votes.
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### **Impact of the Bill in Recount Situations:**

- **Candidate-Nominee Influence:** Provides candidates nominated by participating political parties with greater authority over selecting watchers in central count facilities during a recount.
  - **Consistency in Recounts:** Extends the same rules regarding watchers to recount processes, ensuring consistency across different election stages.
  - **Election Integrity:** Strengthens the integrity of elections by establishing clearer procedures and responsibilities for the appointment of watchers during elections and recounts.
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### **Implications for Political Parties and Candidates:**

- **Increased Control for Nominated Candidates:** Nominated candidates of participating political parties gain more control over the election process, particularly in overseeing central count facilities.
    - We are changing the law to apply the same candidate watcher law to include recounts, which is currently left out. This closes the loophole and creates an equal playing field.
  - **Recount Transparency:** By extending these provisions to recounts, the bill ensures that the election process remains transparent and well-monitored throughout.
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### **Potential Concerns:**

- **Implementation:** The bill may require additional training or guidance to ensure election officials and candidates understand the new processes and requirements for selecting and certifying watchers.
  - It is fair to assume that the candidate will not select someone who has no idea what they are doing.