

**From:** Scott McDonell <samcdonell@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2018 12:58 PM  
**To:** Wolf, Megan – Megan.Wolf@wisconsin.gov  
**Subject:** County Clerk Position on Post Election Audit Item on 9-25-18 WEC agenda

Commission members-

The County Clerks Association discussed post election audits which is on your September 25, 2018 agenda. The Clerks have concerns about the recommendation that will be before you, although we do support increasing the number of audits conducted.

Based on our meeting on Monday September 24<sup>th</sup> at the Wisconsin Counties Association meeting, the County Clerks (46 present) unanimously recommended to:

- Support increasing the number of general election machine audits that WEC currently requires.
- Oppose recommendations to encourage other post election audits. Several clerks are doing their own audits after each election and others are currently considering it. However, those decisions should be decided at the local level.
- If additional audits are suggested the County Clerks recommend:
  - No audits should be conducted during the window of a potential recount. Election material in this instance should be treated like evidence and remain undisturbed.
  - Audits should be limited to one race which is the highest contested race on the ballot due to cost and time restraints.
  - Clerks should be given adequate time to complete the audits. For some elections that may be after the county certifies the results but before the state certifies the results.
  - Any audits either ordered or suggested should be reimbursed by WEC at the actual cost.
  - The Board of Canvass may delegate the audit to qualified and deputized personnel following pre-determined procedures.
- WEC should reiterate the finding by UW Madison (Learning from Recounts 2018, Burden, Mayer, Stewart and others) that hand counts of election results are inherently inaccurate and that machines are critical for an accurate count. Problems that have been found have been caused by human error.

Thank you for your consideration.