



Recount Policy

Northern Territory Legislative Assembly and local government elections

Updated: 18 December 2020

Purpose

To provide guidance in addition to the recount clause in [section 130](#) of the *Electoral Act 2004* and [section 55](#) of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2008.

This policy applies to an authorised officer to recount all or a particular class of the ballot papers.

Guidance on formality

The following guidance should be considered and applied in the training and conduct of ballot scrutinies.

- Ballot papers should be read and construed as a whole, with one or more poorly formed numbers to be deciphered in the context of a consecutive series of numbers rather than as single numbers in isolation.
- Poorly formed numbers must bear a reasonable resemblance to identifiable numbers.
- Unconventional but recognisable numbers such as 1s and 7s are accepted.
- Initials annotated on a ballot paper will not usually identify a voter and therefore does not provide a basis for rejecting a ballot paper.

Recount policy

- A request for a recount needs to identify specific ballot papers and associated significant counting process errors or irregularities that could change the result of an election within a division or council area.
- If the margin of votes on the initial count is 100 or less, a recount will be undertaken at the commission's initiative as stated in section 130 (2)(b) of the Electoral Act or on the authorised officer's own initiative as stated in section 55 (2)(b) of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations.
- A recount may be undertaken, approved or directed at any time before the result of an election is declared. It should not be confused with the routine re-check (fresh scrutiny) of all votes.
- In the absence of specifically alleged errors it is unlikely that a recount would be required except where the vote margin is 100 or less.

Senior officers will closely monitor progress in close seats, ensuring support and resources are made available where required.

Approved by Iain Loganathan
Electoral Commissioner