



May 27, 2025

The Honorable Kim Reynolds  
Office of the Governor  
Iowa State Capitol  
1007 East Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Governor Reynolds,

We<sup>1</sup> write to you to urge you to veto HF 928,<sup>2</sup> a bill that would substantially limit the ability for Iowans to seek recounts in contested elections, and would prevent hand-recounts in most cases.

Iowa's elections are verifiable and recountable because votes are recorded primarily on hand-marked paper ballots that provide a durable, voter-verified physical record of voter intent that can be recounted. Current laws allow for recounts in races with a margin of 50 votes or 1%, whichever is greater and allows that ballots be counted by hand, a reasonable and practical provision.

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<sup>1</sup> Free Speech For People is a non-profit, non-partisan public interest legal organization that works to renew our democracy and our United States Constitution for the people. As part of our mission, we are committed to promoting, through legal actions, secure, transparent, trustworthy and accessible voting systems for all voters. We are not parties or counsel in the civil litigation referenced in this letter.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=91&ba=HF928>

HF 928 would lower the threshold to request recount significantly, requiring a margin of less than 0.15% or 50 votes, whichever is lesser, for all statewide contests and federal offices.

Limiting the ability to seek recounts of the paper ballots by hand recounts will make Iowa's election results almost entirely reliant on computerized tabulators. But tabulators are not infallible and can miscount votes due to software bugs, programming errors, misconfigurations or even malicious tampering. Significant or subtle miscounts have occurred even when machines have passed pre-election testing.<sup>3</sup> Ensuring candidates and citizens can seek recounts in close elections is an essential element to the integrity of the election process.

We urge you to protect Iowans' right to know that their elections were counted accurately and the outcomes determined correctly and to veto HF 928.

We welcome any questions you may have. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan Greenhalgh

Senior Advisor for Election Security  
Free Speech For People

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<sup>3</sup> See for example: Tomco, Brigham. "Counties Delay Maloy-Jenkins Recount Certification because of Voter Equipment Error." *Deseret News*, 2 Aug. 2024, [www.deseret.com/utah/2024/08/02/utah-2nd-district-recount-software-error/](http://www.deseret.com/utah/2024/08/02/utah-2nd-district-recount-software-error/). Accessed 7 Feb. 2025; MacAulay, Jessica. "Pennsylvania County Reports Voting Machine Issues That Swapped Votes for Superior Court Candidates." *Cbsnews.com*, CBS Philadelphia, 7 Nov. 2023, [www.cbsnews.com/philadelphia/news/election-2023-northampton-county-pennsylvania-superior-court/](http://www.cbsnews.com/philadelphia/news/election-2023-northampton-county-pennsylvania-superior-court/); Sullivan, S.P. "Election Officials Double-Counted Votes, Declared Wrong Winner in N.J. County, AG Probe Finds." *Nj*, 6 Sept. 2023, [www.nj.com/monmouth/2023/09/lack-of-safeguards-led-to-double-counted-votes-in-nj-county-ag-probe-finds.html](http://www.nj.com/monmouth/2023/09/lack-of-safeguards-led-to-double-counted-votes-in-nj-county-ag-probe-finds.html); Vigdor, Neil. "Georgia Candidate Who Appeared to Get Few Votes Was Actually in 1st Place." *The New York Times*, 6 June 2022, [www.nytimes.com/2022/06/06/us/politics/michelle-long-spears-georgia.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2022/06/06/us/politics/michelle-long-spears-georgia.html); Corasaniti, Nick. "A Pennsylvania County's Election Day Nightmare Underscores Voting Machine Concerns." *The New York Times*, 30 Nov. 2019, [www.nytimes.com/2019/11/30/us/politics/pennsylvania-voting-machines.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/30/us/politics/pennsylvania-voting-machines.html).