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## 19 counties require vote recount in the very close race for U.S. House, Fla. Dist. 2, 2016 Democratic Primary



This map was created by The Florida Senate Committee on Reapportionment and is from Congressional Plan SC14-1905 by The Florida Supreme Court.

Story and Photo By Jeff M. Hardison © Sept. 3, 2016 @ 3:27 p.m.

**BRONSON** -- Levy County Supervisor of Elections Tammy Jones, like 18 of her counterparts in Dixie, Gilchrist, Marion (because it is partly in the district), Columbia (because it is partly in the district), Suwannee, Lafayette, Taylor, Jefferson (because it is partly in the district), Leon (because it is partly in the district), Wakulla, Franklin, Liberty, Gulf, Calhoun, Jackson, Washington, Bay and Holmes (because it is partly in the district) had to conduct a recount.

Florida Secretary of State Ken Detzner has called for a recount of the U.S. Representative, District 2 race between Democratic Party candidates Steve Crapps and Walter Dartland.

The Levy County Canvassing Board hereby ordered a recount to take place at the Levy County Supervisor of Elections, 421 S. Court St., in Bronson, at 9 a.m. tomorrow (Saturday, Sept. 3). This meeting was open to the public.

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**Pausing for one moment before starting the logic and accuracy test of computerized voting machines in the work area of the Office of Levy County Supervisor of Elections Tammy Jones on Saturday morning (Sept. 3) are (from left) Mary Beth Vallario, Jordan Lindsey, Carole Weins, Supervisor of Elections Jones, Kearston Andrews and Levy County Commissioner Lilly Rooks. Not pictured, but appearing for their duties as Canvassing Board Members later, were Levy County Judge J.T. ‘Tim’ Browning, and Levy County Commissioner Rock Meeks.**

At 9 a.m. on Saturday, Jones explained that the process will take hours to complete as she, her staff for this job -- Mary Beth Vallario, Jordan Lindsey, Carole Weins, and Kearston Andrews; and the Levy County Canvassing Board, which is comprised of Supervisor of Elections Jones, Levy County Judge J.T. “Tim” Browning, Levy County Commissioner Lilly Rooks and Levy County Commissioner Rock Meeks complete mandatory tasks to assure the accuracy of the voting machines.

The first part of the job was a two-hour logic and accuracy test of 10 of the 15 machines used in the election.

The recount, which is mandated in each 19 counties (part or whole) of this district for the United States House of Representatives, is in accordance with Florida Statute 102.141, which states that “if the unofficial returns reflect that a candidate for any office was defeated or eliminated by one-half of 1 percent or less of the votes cast for such office a recount shall be ordered of the votes cast with respect to such office or measure. The Secretary of State is responsible for ordering recounts in federal, state, and multicounty races.”

The second unofficial results will be reported on or before Sunday (Sept. 4).

If the second set of unofficial returns submitted for the 19 counties in the district indicates that a candidate for office was defeated or eliminated by one-quarter of a percent or less of the votes cast for such office, a manual recount will be ordered by the Secretary of State.

After the machine recount the canvassing board will set a tentative date for the manual recount.

Supervisor of Elections Jones on Saturday morning said she was thankful that the office had electricity, because that meant the work could be completed in an air-conditioned environment.

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If there was no electricity, she said the required count using the voting machines would happen. She and the other team members, however, would be working without electricity.

The propane-powered generator would create enough electricity for the testing of machines, Jones said, but it would not provide the power needed for the air-conditioning units.

Jones posted public notices in conspicuous places on the door of the Levy County Supervisor of Elections Office in Bronson, and on the front doors of city halls in Bronson, Chiefland and Williston. She also provided a notice to HardisonInk.com, which published the information on the Home Page before the start of the event.

She went beyond the mandatory minimum notice requirements for the recount.

First thing Saturday morning, Judge Browning was needed for first appearances and Commissioner Meeks had not arrived yet. However with Supervisor of Elections Jones and Commissioner Rooks present, the logic and accuracy tests of the machines, with staff members' help, was possible to start.

After the winner of this primary race in the Democratic Party is decided, that man will be running against the Republican Party's winner in this primary – which is Neal Dunn – in the Nov. 8 General Election.

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## **Manual recount shows the same numbers for *U.S. Representative, Florida District 2 in the 2016 Democratic Primary Election***

**Published Sept. 4, 2016 @ 4:17 p.m.**

**Updated Sept. 6, 2016 @ 11:07 p.m. On the Home Page of *HardisonInk.com***

**FLORIDA** -- Florida Secretary of State Ken Detzner called for a manual recount of the U.S. Representative, District 2 race between democratic candidates Steve Crapps and Walter Dartland.

Today (Sept. 6) the Levy County Canvassing Board met to conduct a manual recount of over and under voted ballots for the democratic runoff in U.S. Representative in Congress, District 2. After careful review of over 400 ballots the results remained the same. The U.S. House of Representatives, Florida District 2 includes all or part of 19 counties

The recount was in accordance with Florida Statute 102.166 which states that if the second set of unofficial returns reflects that a candidate for any office was defeated or eliminated by one-quarter of 1 percent or less of the votes cast for such office a recount, be conducted of the overvotes and undervotes cast in the referenced race

The Secretary of State is responsible for ordering recounts in federal, state, and multicounty races.

As a result of litigation, the congressional districts of Florida have been redrawn for the 2016 elections. This new Congressional district covers 19 districts as far south as Marion county and running north up the coast to Bay County. All of Levy County is represented in Congress by this district.