

Dear Chair Shanley and Members of the House State Government and Elections Committee,

I write in support of H5384 which would increase from 7 days to 9 days the period of time in which a request for a recount of the votes cast can be made to the Board of Elections.

In the November 2024 election, we had a tight Town Council race in Barrington. Due to the delayed tallying of overseas military votes, the 7 day deadline for requesting a recount passed before the final vote count was tallied. In this case, the person in 3rd place when the recount deadline ended (Republican Brian Hughes) moved into 4th place and had no recourse to recount a very close vote tally. Extending the deadline to align with when votes are actually counted would ensure fairness and greater trust in the system.

Thank you,
Nicole Jellinek