



ERN RESEARCH

POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE MAJOR INFLUENCE ON WHO CERTIFIES ELECTIONS IN NEARLY EVERY STATE, ERN ANALYSIS FINDS

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September 6, 2022

In Brief:

- **The certification of election results has recently become contentious and politicized in some states, a trend that threatens voter confidence and civil peace.**
- **At the root of the problem: States give political parties a major role in deciding who certifies election results.**
- **Some states use less partisan approaches to certification, providing potential models for reducing risk during this vulnerable election phase.**

A new ERN analysis of the election certification processes of all fifty states finds that political parties have significant influence over who certifies election results. This finding underscores the growing risk that highly partisan actors given responsibility for certification may create disturbances and undermine confidence in fair election results.

ERN's research found:

- Every state except Hawaii gives officials with ties to political parties some role in **state-level certification**, either through boards representing the parties or through partisan-elected or -appointed officials.
- Thirty-nine states — including swing states like Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Ohio, and Pennsylvania — give politically-tied officials *exclusive* control over **state-level certification**.
- Forty-five states, including every swing state except New Hampshire and Maine, give officials with ties to political parties a role in **local-level certification**, either through party-controlled election boards or through partisan-elected local administrative commissions.

- Thirty-six states — including swing states like Pennsylvania, Arizona, Nevada, and Virginia — give politically-tied officials *exclusive* control over **local-level certification**.

[See Appendices A and B for detailed information on the certification processes used in all 50 states.]

After votes are tabulated at the precinct level, election laws give government officials the ministerial job of reviewing (or “canvassing”) results, confirming the totals add up, and certifying the winner. This process happens at both the local and state levels. Most state laws make clear that certification is not designed for judging allegations of fraud, administrative error, or other problems — such concerns must be weighed in courts of law.

U.S. states use a combination of three systems that give political parties control or influence over who certifies results:

1. In many states, appointed election boards, canvass boards, or similar bodies have responsibility for certification, and the members of these bodies usually represent the two largest parties. Some board members are appointed directly by the parties, while others are appointed by elected officials from lists of party nominees.
2. Many states rely on elected officials for certification, such as the secretary of state, governor, or a combination of officials at the state level. Likewise, at the local level, some states give the responsibility to elected county commissioners, sheriffs, or other elected officials. Elections for these positions are mostly conducted on a partisan basis, with candidates running under the banner of a political party and relying on party funding and infrastructure.
3. Lastly, in some states, partisan-elected officials directly appoint the people responsible for state or local certification.

Political parties play similar roles in many aspects of U.S. election administration, but their influence on certification deserves particular attention because of recent incidents of partisans using certification to advance their side’s interests. Since 2020, party-affiliated or -nominated officials in charge of local-level certification in Michigan, New Mexico, and Pennsylvania have refused to certify results, based either on unfounded conspiracies or on legal claims that had already failed in court. In each case, the officials eventually relented or complied with court orders to complete the certification required by law.

Some election law experts warn that U.S. states could see more such confrontations during the midterm elections and in 2024. While such challenges are very unlikely to actually change election results, prolonged showdowns over certification could pose a threat to democracy regardless. Partisan exploitation of the poorly understood presidential certification process helped drive the events of January 6 — one reason both parties are now working to fix that process. The same dynamic could unfold during state or local certification, potentially damaging trust in elections and provoking violence.

This risk exists even in states where results certification has been designed intentionally for bipartisanship. In Michigan, for example, local-level certification is the responsibility of county canvassing boards, each comprised of two Democrats and two Republicans, appointed from lists of party nominees. The even balance of this system did not prevent a near crisis in the 2020 presidential election, when Republican members of the Wayne County board created a temporary deadlock by refusing to vote in support of certification.

The U.S. reliance on party-connected officials to certify results is at odds with global democratic practice. A parallel ERN analysis [\[link\]](#) of election administration in 12 peer democracies found that none has a separate election certification phase and only two give political parties any role at all in the finalization of results. Like several states in the U.S., these two countries employ a bipartisan model, sometimes referred to as “mutual policing” — an approach whose use is in decline internationally.

The international analysis found that the key role for political parties in the results process is to observe every phase and to submit any challenges to courts of law. U.S. states likewise provide for court challenges to results and enable party monitoring and poll-watching to ensure transparency.

To reduce the risk of future damaging showdowns over election certification, election officials and the media should make clear that the courts, not certification, are the appropriate venue to consider challenges to results. In addition, states should consider reforms to certification processes that reduce the emphasis on party representatives.

A handful of states use less partisan approaches to certification that could provide models for other states. For example:

- In Missouri, judges selected by a nonpartisan judicial nominating commission make up the majority of the State Canvassing Board.
- In Hawaii, certification is overseen by a nonpartisan chief election official, who is appointed by the state elections commission, an evenly split bipartisan body with a nonpartisan tiebreaking member agreed to by members of both parties.
- Arizona and Nevada both give prominent roles in certification to elected, nonpartisan state supreme court justices.
- In Kentucky, the county clerks’ association plays a role alongside the political parties in naming members of the state’s Board of Elections, which is responsible for certification.

These approaches have the benefit of involving institutions in certification that have relevant knowledge of elections but do not have direct interest in the outcome, as political parties do.

States should also consider taking steps to ensure the positions that are central to certification — and to elections more broadly — such as the secretary of state, are in the hands of unbiased election professionals, not people with deep ties to political parties.

APPENDIX A:

Appendix A explains each state’s process for state-level canvassing and certification:

State	Entity/ies Responsible for <u>State Certification</u>	Role of Political Parties	Reference(s)
Alabama	State Canvassing Board	The Governor, the Secretary of State, and the Attorney General (or two of them) comprise the State Canvassing Board. Each of these positions are elected in statewide, partisan elections.	AL ST § 17-12-17
Alaska	Director of Elections and State Ballot Counting Review Board; Lieutenant Governor	<p>The position primarily responsible for certification is the State Director of Elections, a position within the Division of Elections, which is an office overseen by the Lieutenant Governor. The Lieutenant Governor runs in statewide, partisan elections.</p> <p>The State Director of Elections also convenes a bipartisan State Ballot Counting Review Board. Members of this board are submitted by the political parties in the state.</p> <p><i>Note: The Lieutenant Governor is the authority for certification of ballot question results specifically.</i></p>	AK Stat § 15.15.410–15.15.450
Arizona	Secretary of State; Governor; Chief Justice; Attorney General	The Secretary of State canvasses statewide results, and certifies in the presence of the Attorney General, the Governor,	A.R.S. § 16, Chapter 4

		<p>and the Chief Justice of the state Supreme Court.</p> <p>The former two offices are elected in statewide, partisan races. The latter is elected in a statewide, nonpartisan election and selected by the other members of the court to serve as Chief Justice.</p>	
Arkansas	Secretary of State; Governor; State Legislature	All of these offices are elected in partisan races.	AR Code § 7-5-703–7-5-705; AR Code § 7-8-305
California	Secretary of State	The Secretary of State is elected in a statewide, partisan race.	CA ELEC § 15501
Colorado	Secretary of State	The Secretary of State is elected in a statewide, partisan race.	C.R.S. § 1-10-105
Connecticut	State Canvassing Board; State Legislature	<p>The Treasurer, the Secretary of State, and the Comptroller comprise the State Canvassing Board. All of these offices are elected in statewide, partisan elections.</p> <p>The partisan state legislature is involved in certifying the results of statewide officeholders.</p>	CGS § 9-315 – Sec. 9-319
Delaware	County Superior Courts; Governor; President of the Senate; State Legislature	<p>The County Superior Courts are appointed by the Governor, and may have a majority of members of the same party.</p> <p>The Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Delaware State Legislature are elected in partisan races.</p>	Source: Bolts Magazine
Florida	Elections Canvassing Commission	The Elections Canvassing Commission consists of the Governor and two members of the Cabinet selected by the	FL ST § 102.111

		<p>Governor, all of whom serve ex officio.</p> <p>Depending on which offices are selected or available to serve on the commission, the members may be appointed by the Governor or themselves elected in statewide races.</p>	
Georgia	Secretary of State and Governor	Both offices are elected in statewide, partisan races.	GA Code § 21-2-499
Hawaii	Chief Election Official	<p>The Chief Election Official, who is responsible for certification, is selected by the Hawaii Elections Commission, which consists of an equal number of Republicans and Democrats, and a nonpartisan tiebreaker agreed upon by the commission members.</p> <p>The commission members themselves are appointed equally in groups of two by the President of the Senate, the Senate Minority Leader, the Speaker of the House, and the House Minority Leader.</p>	Haw. Rev. Stat. § 11-155
Idaho	State Canvassing Board	The Canvassing Board is comprised of the Secretary of State, the Controller, and the Treasurer. Each of these offices are elected in partisan, statewide races.	ID ST § 34-1211
Illinois	State Board of Elections	<p>The State Board of Elections is an evenly split bipartisan body appointed by the Governor.</p> <p>Four members are of the Governor's party and four are of the party which last came in</p>	10 ILCS 5/22-7

		<p>second place in a gubernatorial election.</p> <p>Four members must be residents of Cook County and the other four must reside elsewhere in the state.</p>	
Indiana	Secretary of State and Elections Division; Governor; State Legislature	<p>The Secretary of State (who is elected in a statewide partisan race) and the Elections Division of the secretary's office are involved in the certification of all statewide results.</p> <p>The Governor's signature is required for some federal-level races.</p> <p>The partisan elected State Legislature canvasses votes for Governor.</p>	IN ST 3-12-5
Iowa	Iowa Executive Council; State Legislature	<p>The Iowa Executive Council, consisting of the Secretary of State, the Governor, and other officials elected in statewide partisan races, is responsible for most results.</p> <p>The partisan elected State Legislature is responsible for certifying abstracts for races for Governor and Lieutenant Governor.</p>	IA ST § 50.30, 50.31; IA ST § 50.38
Kansas	State Canvassing Board	The State Canvassing Board consists of the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the Governor, all of whom are elected in statewide, partisan races.	K.S.A. 25-3206
Kentucky	State Board of Elections	The appointed State Board of Elections consists of four Democratic members and four	KY ST § 118.425; Correspondence

		<p>Republican members, and is chaired by the Secretary of State, who is elected in a partisan race.</p> <p>The other eight members are appointed by the Governor from lists supplied by the two political parties in the Commonwealth and the Kentucky County Clerks Association.</p>	with Secretary of State's office
Louisiana	Secretary of State	The Secretary of State alone is responsible for results certification. This position is elected in a partisan race.	LA R.S. 18:574
Maine	Secretary of State; Governor	The Governor is elected in a statewide partisan race. The Secretary of State, usually identifying with either the Republican or Democratic party, is appointed by a vote of the partisan elected State Legislature.	M.R.S. 21-A § 724
Maryland	State Board of Canvassers; Governor	<p>The State Administrator of Elections (hired by the State Board of Elections, a party-nominated body with the majority reflecting the party in control of the State Legislature) serves as the Secretary of the Board of Canvassers.</p> <p>Active members of the board include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Attorney General (elected in statewide partisan elections); • The Comptroller of Treasury (elected in statewide partisan elections); 	MD Election Code § 11-501 through 11-503

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The State Treasurer (appointed by State Legislature); • The Secretary of State (appointed by the Governor); and • The Clerk of the Court of Appeals (appointed by the state Supreme Court). <p>The Governor is involved for certain federal-level races.</p>	
Massachusetts	Governor; Secretary of the Commonwealth; Executive Council	The Secretary of the Commonwealth and the Governor are elected in statewide, partisan races. Together with the Governor's Executive Council (eight members who are elected to two-year terms from different districts of the states), they certify results.	MA ST 54 § 115–117
Michigan	State Board of Canvassers; Governor	An evenly split, bipartisan Board of Canvassers is nominated by the two largest parties in the state and confirmed by the Governor. The Governor is also involved in certification duties.	MCL § 168.22
Minnesota	State Canvassing Board	This duty is split between the Secretary of State (elected in partisan, statewide elections) and the State Canvassing Board (two or more of the judges of the Minnesota Supreme Court, as well as two disinterested judges of the district courts selected by the Secretary, all of which are elected in nonpartisan races).	MN Const. § 8
Mississippi	Secretary of State; Governor; State Legislature; State Board of	All positions are elected in partisan elections. The State Board of Election Commissioners consists of the Secretary of	Source: Bolts Magazine

	Election Commissioners	State, Governor, and Attorney General (or two of them).	
Missouri	Board of Canvassers	<p>The Board of Canvassers consists of the Secretary of State, who is elected in statewide, partisan elections. and two disinterested judges appointed by the Secretary.</p> <p>State judges in Missouri are appointed with the assistance of a nonpartisan judicial nominating commission.</p>	Mo. Rev. Stat. 115.511
Montana	Board of Canvassers; Governor	The Board of Canvassers consists of the State Auditor, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Attorney General; the Secretary of State acts in a ministerial role; the Governor also serves a role in certification. Each of these offices are elected in partisan, statewide elections.	MCA § 13-15-501; 13-15-502
Nebraska	Board of State Canvassers	<p>The Board of State Canvassers includes: the Governor, the Secretary of State, the Auditor of Public Accounts, the State Treasurer, and the Attorney General.</p> <p>Each of these offices are elected in partisan, statewide elections.</p>	N.R.S. § 32-1037
Nevada	Secretary of State; Governor; Nevada Supreme Court	<p>The Secretary of State and the Governor are elected in statewide, partisan elections.</p> <p>Members of the Nevada Supreme Court are elected in statewide, nonpartisan elections.</p>	Nev. Rev. § 293.395

New Hampshire	Secretary of State; Governor	The Governor is elected in a statewide partisan race, whereas the Secretary of State is appointed by a vote of the elected State Legislature and generally identifies with either the Republican or Democratic party.	RSA 659.81
New Jersey	State Board of Canvassers	The board is composed of the Governor, plus four members of the State Legislature selected by the Governor (equally representing the two parties). <i>Note: The Secretary of State, an appointee of the Governor, may take the Governor's place if the Governor is not available. Otherwise, the Secretary serves a ministerial role.</i>	NJ Rev Stat § 19:6-27
New Mexico	State Canvassing Board	The Secretary of State, the Governor, and the Chief Justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court constitute the State Canvassing Board. All are elected in partisan, statewide races.	Source: NM SOS website
New York	State Board of Elections	The Board has four commissioners, all appointed by the Governor. For the first two seats, the chairs of the two major political parties each submit a list of two or more recommended candidates, from which the Governor appoints one Commissioner. For the remaining two seats, each major political party's state legislative leadership submits a recommended candidate, which the Governor appoints as Commissioner; but if the governor declines or rejects appointing that candidate to a vacancy, the legislative	NYCRR § 9-214

		leadership can either appoint the recommended candidate directly, or recommend another person to the Governor instead.	
North Carolina	State Board of Elections	The state board is appointed by the Governor (who is elected on the presidential cycle), who selects from candidates nominated by the two major parties. The board has five members serving four-year terms, and no more than three of the five can be members of the same party.	Source: Bolts Magazine
North Dakota	State Canvassing Board	The Clerk of the Supreme Court (appointed by the court), the Secretary of State (elected in a partisan statewide race), the Treasurer (elected in a partisan statewide race), and the chairman, or chairman's designee, of the state committee of the two political parties which cast the highest vote for Governor at the last general election at which a Governor was elected constitute the State Canvassing Board.	N.D.C.C. § 16.1-15-33
Ohio	Secretary of State	The Secretary is elected in a statewide, partisan race.	O.R.C. § 3513.22; 3505.39
Oklahoma	State Board of Elections	The Board is composed of three members, two alternate members (who may attend if a regular member is absent), and one Secretary, who also serves as Secretary of the Senate. The members and alternate members are appointed to four-year terms by the Governor from lists provided by the political parties with the largest and second-largest number of	Source: Article

		registered voters. The appointments require the advice and consent of the State Senate.	
Oregon	Secretary of State and Governor	Both the Secretary of State and the Governor are elected in statewide, partisan races.	ORS 254.555
Pennsylvania	Secretary of the Commonwealth and Governor	The Governor appoints the Secretary of the Commonwealth. The two are both responsible in part for results certification.	25 Pa. Stat. § 2621
Rhode Island	State Board of Elections	The State Board of Elections, made up of staggered appointees of current and/or former Governors (with the advice and consent of the Senate), is solely responsible for certification of results.	R.I. Gen. Laws § 17-7-5
South Carolina	State Election Commission	The State Election Commission is made up of five members, at least one of whom is a member of the majority political party and at least one of whom is a member of the largest minority political party represented in the General Assembly. Members are appointed by the Governor for four-year terms.	SC Code § 7-17-210
South Dakota	State Board of Canvassers	<p>The State Board of Canvassers consists of the Governor, the Secretary of State, and the Chief Justice of the South Dakota Supreme Court.</p> <p>The Governor and the Secretary of State are elected in statewide, partisan races.</p> <p>Members of the Supreme Court in South Dakota are appointed by the Governor with the</p>	SDCL § 12-20-38

		assistance of a judicial nominating commission.	
Tennessee	State Canvassing Board	The State Canvassing Board consists of the Secretary of State (appointed by the elected, partisan State Legislature), the Governor (elected in statewide, partisan races), and the Attorney General & Reporter, who is appointed by the state Supreme Court.	Tenn. Code § 2-8-110
Texas	Governor; Secretary of State; State Legislature	<p>The Governor, who is elected in partisan statewide races, certifies federal races.</p> <p>The elected, partisan State Legislature certifies results for Governor and Lieutenant Governor.</p> <p>The Secretary of State (an appointee of the Governor) is considered to be the presiding officer when the final canvassing authority is the Governor (for statewide races).</p>	TX Statutes Title 6, Ch. 67
Utah	State Board of Canvassers	<p>The State Board of Canvassers consists of the State Auditor, the State Treasurer, and the Attorney General, all of whom are elected in statewide, partisan races.</p> <p>The Lieutenant Governor, who is selected the same way, is involved ministerially.</p>	Utah Code Annotated § 20A-4-306
Vermont	State Canvassing Committee	For statewide and national elections, the Secretary of State (elected in partisan, statewide elections) and the chair of the state committee of each major	17 V.S.A. § 2592

		political party constitute the State Canvassing Committee — state legislators are canvassed by district clerks and chairs of party county committees [see Appendix B].	
Virginia	State Board of Elections	<p>The Board, which has a majority of members reflecting the party of the Governor, is responsible for canvassing and certification at the state level. Members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the state Senate.</p> <p><i>Note: The state General Assembly recently considered legislation which “would have removed the Governor’s power to appoint the state elections commissioner and given the two major parties equal representation on the State Board of Elections.” Though the bill had support in the Virginia Senate it was not considered by the lower chamber. (Source)</i></p>	VA Code § 24.2-675
Washington	Secretary of State and Governor	The Secretary of State and the Governor are elected in statewide, partisan races.	RCW 29A.60.230
West Virginia	Secretary of State; Governor; State Legislature	The Governor, the Secretary of State, and state legislators are elected in partisan elections.	WV Code § 3-6-11
Wisconsin	Chairperson of State Election Commission; Secretary of State; Governor	The chairperson of the Wisconsin Election Commission, or a designee of the chairperson, certifies results. (The chairperson is an appointee of the evenly split bipartisan commission, which is made up of six members, two of which are appointed by the Governor, and one each by the President of the Senate, the Senate Minority Leader, the	Wis. Stat. § 7.70

		Speaker of the Assembly, and the Assembly Minority Leader) The Governor and the Secretary of State, both elected in statewide, partisan races, have a role in some federal races.	
Wyoming	State Canvassing Board	The Governor, the Secretary of State, the State Auditor, and the State Treasurer, all of whom are elected in statewide, partisan races, constitute the State Canvassing Board.	Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 22-16-115 through 22-16-117

APPENDIX B:

Appendix B explains each state's process for local-level canvassing and certification:

State	Entity/ies Responsible for <u>Local</u> Certification	Role of Political Parties	Reference(s)
Alabama	County Canvassing Board	Boards are made up of local officials, most or all of whom are elected in partisan elections. There are conditions for bipartisan membership, but boards do not necessarily have to be balanced equally between the two parties.	AL ST § 17-12-15
Alaska	Local Election Board	Regional Election Supervisors, appointed by the State Director of Elections (who is hired by the Lieutenant Governor, an officer elected in partisan statewide elections), appoint a three-person board, made up of one person of each party (the Governor's party and the most recent second place gubernatorial candidate's party) as	AK Stat § 15.10.120

		well as a chairperson, who may or may not be partisan.	
Arizona	Local Governing Body	County boards of supervisors, which are elected in local partisan elections, are the Arizona analog of a County Commission and act as the canvassing/certification authority.	A.R.S. 16-647
Arkansas	County Board of Election Commissioners	Members are appointed by their respective county party committees (two of the majority party in the State Legislature, one of the minority party).	A.C.A. § 7-4-102
California	County Clerk or Registrar of Voters	Some counties have a Registrar of Voters, some have a County Clerk, some have a combination of the two. Depending on the county, they are appointed as nonpartisans or elected in nonpartisan races.	Source: California Association of Code Enforcement Officers
Colorado	County Canvassing Board	County party chairs nominate one member each; the County Clerk (usually elected in a partisan race) has some say over manner of appointment and serves as chair. Third parties and independents may nominate observers to watch the board.	C.R.S. 1-10-0101
Connecticut	Town Clerks	Local clerks are either appointed by the local governing body, elected in partisan races, or elected in nonpartisan races, depending on local rules.	CGS 9-320
Delaware	County Superior Courts	Members of the courts are appointed by the Governor to represent the two parties. The courts are odd-numbered, and one party may have a bare majority.	Del. C. Title 15 Elections § 5701; Additional Source: Delaware Courts
Florida	County Canvassing Board	The county canvassing boards are composed of the Supervisor of Elections (sometimes elected in partisan races, sometimes appointed); a County Court Judge (elected in nonpartisan races), who	FL ST § 102.141

		acts as chair; and the chair of the Board of County Commissioners (elected in a partisan race).	
Georgia	Election Superintendent	<p>This position varies greatly depending on the county.</p> <p>In many counties, the Superintendent is either hired by or appointed to a county board of elections, if such a board is created for a county by the General Assembly. Such boards are generally bipartisan, but may either be evenly split or structured in favor of one party depending on the county.</p> <p>Otherwise, Election Superintendent is a title designated to a county official, who may be elected or appointed, and may have other duties.</p> <p>In some counties, an elected or appointed county official may hire an employee to serve as Election Superintendent.</p>	GA Code § 1-2-492; GA Code § 21-2-493
Hawaii	County Clerk	Clerks in Hawaii, who are responsible for certifying results, are nonpartisan appointees of city or town councils, which are elected in partisan races.	Haw. Rev. Stat. § 11-155
Idaho	Local Governing Body	Each county must have a Board of County Commissioners consisting of three members. These Commissioners are elected in partisan races and serve as the County Canvassing Board.	ID ST § 34-1205

Illinois	Varies	Depending on the county, certification is either the responsibility of a County Clerk (elected in partisan races) or, in some areas, a Municipal Election Commission (evenly split between members of the two major parties).	10 ILCS § 5; Art. 22 of the IL Constitution
Indiana	County Election Board	Each County Election Board is composed of the Circuit Court Clerk (elected in partisan races) and two persons appointed by the Clerk, one from each major political party.	IC 3-12-4-13
Iowa	Local Governing Body	The County Board of Supervisors (five members, elected in partisan races by district) is responsible for the canvassing/certification process.	IA ST § 50.24
Kansas	Local Governing Body	The Board of County Commissioners of each county (elected in partisan races by district) is the Board of Canvassers for elections occurring within the county.	K.S.A § 25-3101
Kentucky	County Board of Elections	The County Board consists of the County Clerk (elected in partisan races), the County Sheriff (who is elected in partisan races; may not serve on the Board in re-election years), and one Democrat and one Republican appointed by the state election board.	KRS § 117.035
Louisiana	Varies	Depending on the county, canvassing is the responsibility of a Parish Clerk of Court (elected in partisan races), a Parish Registrar of Voters (optional, an appointee of the Clerk of Court), or a Parish Board of Election Supervisors (or its designees).	Source: Bolts Magazine

		In counties with a Board of Election Supervisors, the board consists of the Parish Registrar (if there is one), the Parish Clerk of Court, and one member appointed by the Governor.	
Maine	Municipal Clerks	Local clerks are responsible for local vote counts and submission to the state. Dependent on the municipality, they may be elected in partisan races, or nonpartisan appointees of the local governing body.	M.R.S. Title 21-A, Chapter 7: Election Officials
Maryland	County Election Board	Local election boards in Maryland have a 3-2 makeup, with the majority of members representing the Governor's party.	MD Election Code § 11-301-11-308
Massachusetts	Clerk or Election Commissioner	Most municipalities elect clerks. 95 percent are elected in nonpartisan races and five percent in partisan races. Some cities appoint an Election Commissioner.	MA Title VIII § 95
Michigan	County Board of Canvassers	Each Board of Canvassers is made up of two members of each major party (four in total). Board members are nominated by the parties and approved by county commissions.	MCL § 168.24a
Minnesota	County Canvassing Board	County canvassing boards consist of five members: the County Auditor (partisan or nonpartisan, elected or appointed depending on county); the Court Administrator of the District Court in that county (appointed); the Mayor or Chair of the town board of the most populous municipality in the county (elected in partisan races); and two members of the county governing body (elected in partisan races).	MINN. STAT. 204C.33

		All told, three or four members of the five-member board may be partisan.	
Mississippi	County Election Commission; County Party Exec. Committees	The county election commissioners, who are themselves elected in partisan races, are responsible for local canvass and certification. Party county executive committees canvass and certify election results for their respective party primaries.	Sources: Correspondence with Miss. Secretary of State's Office; Miss. Code Ann. 23-15-597
Missouri	County Verification Board	Where the election authority is a Board of Election Commissioners, the Board of Election Commissioners is the verification board. This bipartisan body is appointed by the Governor in certain counties. Where the election authority is a County Clerk (elected in partisan races), the County Clerk and two verification judges, one from each major political party, is the verification board. The County Clerk may, as they deem necessary, designate an even number of additional verification judges, one-half from one major political party and one-half from the other major political party.	Mo. Rev. Stat. 115.499
Montana	Local Governing Body	The governing body of a county or consolidated local government is <i>ex officio</i> a Board of County Canvassers. These bodies are elected by district in partisan races.	MCA § 13-15-401
Nebraska	County Canvassing Board	The Election Commissioner (appointed by the Governor or the county governing body in some counties) or the County Clerk (elected in partisan races in most	N.R.S. § 32-1028

		<p>counties) appoints two or more registered voters to constitute a County Canvassing Board. The Election Commissioner or County Clerk is a member of the County Canvassing Board.</p> <p><i>Note: Boards may include third parties and/or independents as long as equal representation is maintained.</i></p>	
Nevada	Local Governing Body	County Commissioners are elected in districts in partisan races.	Nev. Rev. § 293.387
New Hampshire	Local Clerks	Some clerks are elected by voters; others are voted upon by local governing bodies. Regardless of the method of selection, clerks in are nonpartisan.	N.H. RSA 659:71
New Jersey	Board of Elections	<p>The four- or six-member Board of Elections, equally representing Republicans and Democrats, receives results from the County Clerk and determines results and/or submits the totals to the state.</p> <p>Board members are nominees of the state committees of both major parties.</p>	NJ Rev Stat § 19:6-17; 19:6-18; 19:19-8
New Mexico	Local Governing Body	The county-level governing body, elected by district in partisan races, constitutes the county canvassing board.	N.Mex. § 1-13-1
New York	County Board of Elections	The four-member County Board of Elections, split evenly between nominees of the two parties, is also the Board of Canvassers for the county. All (or a majority of) board members certify the canvass count.	NYCRR § 9-100; § 9-204; § 9-210

North Carolina	County Board of Elections	The board is composed of members of the two parties, with the Governor's party in the majority by one vote. The State Board of Elections (with the same partisan structure) selects the first four members for each County Board, and the Governor appoints a fifth.	N.C.G.S. § 163-33 (9)
North Dakota	County Canvassing Board	<p>The County Canvassing Board must be composed of the County Recorder (nonpartisan, elected or appointed), the County Auditor (nonpartisan, elected or appointed), the chairman of the Board of County Commissioners (elected in partisan races), and a representative of each of the two political parties that received the highest number of votes cast for Governor at the most recent general election at which a Governor was elected.</p> <p>The district chair of the political parties from each legislative district within the county appoints the respective political party representative.</p> <p>The County Canvassing Board must be composed of at least five members, and both political parties must be represented.</p>	N.D.C.C. § 16.1-15-15
Ohio	County Board of Elections	The two major parties submit nominees to constitute the evenly split four-member board of elections. Nominees are confirmed by the Secretary of State. By a vote of at least three members, they pick a director and a deputy director who are residents of the county. The boards canvass results. Political party members	O.R.C. 3501.06–3501.09

		and interested parties can observe the process.	
Oklahoma	County Election Board	Boards consist of one member from each of the major parties, plus a secretary. Members are appointed by the State Board of Elections.	O.S. § 26-2-111
Oregon	Clerk	In each county, either an elected nonpartisan clerk or an appointed nonpartisan director of elections oversees certification/canvassing.	ORS 254.485
Pennsylvania	County Board of Elections	<p>In each county, the County Board of Elections consists of the County Commissioners of such county <i>ex officio</i> (elected in partisan races), or any officials or board who are performing or may perform the duties of the County Commissioners, who serve without additional compensation as such.</p> <p>Except in counties of the first class, in counties which have adopted home rule charters or optional plans the board of elections consists of the members of the county body which performs legislative functions unless the county charter or optional plan provides for the appointment of the board of elections.</p> <p>In either case, there must be minority representation on the board.</p> <p>Board members who are running for office are replaced by a judge.</p> <p><i>Note: Counties have many different systems for tallying and certifying</i></p>	25 Pa. Stat. § 301, 302(k)

		<i>votes, and counties in which the board members are not part of the county governing body have a variety of methods for selecting members, though there must always be minority party representation.</i>	
Rhode Island	Municipal Bipartisan Canvassing Authority	The Canvassing Authority is a three-member board appointed by the town legislative body, with the majority party receiving two members and the minority party receiving one.	R.I. Gen. Laws § 17-8-1
South Carolina	Local Board of Elections	A majority of members represent the party in the Governor's office. Depending on the county, there may be anywhere from five to nine members. Members are appointed by the Governor upon recommendation of the county legislature (governing body).	SC Code § 7-17-10
South Dakota	Local Governing Body	Partisan elected officials canvass and certify votes.	SDCL § 12-20-36
Tennessee	County Election Commission	A 3–2 split reflects the two parties in control of the state legislature; with the majority party in the State Legislature in the majority of the Election Commission at the local level as well. Members are appointed by the State Election Commission.	Tenn. Code § 2-8-101; Tenn. Code § 2-12-101
Texas	Local Governing Body; Local Clerk (or equivalent)	The Commissioner's Court, an elected local governing body, is the canvassing authority in any county election or election ordered by the Governor.	TX Statutes § 67.002

		The County Clerk (or equivalent) is also involved in gathering vote totals and submitting them to the Secretary of State. This position is elected in partisan races in some counties, and its equivalent is appointed by the local governing body in others.	
Utah	Local Governing Body (with exceptions)	<p>A quorum of the county legislative body (elected in partisan races) is the Board of Canvassers for the county; absent members can be replaced by certain other officials, like the Sheriff. The County Clerk (elected in partisan races) is the clerk of the canvassing board.</p> <p>The mayor and the municipal legislative body are the board of municipal canvassers for the municipality.</p>	Utah Code Annotated 20A-4-301
Vermont	Varies	Generally, the Clerk (usually elected in nonpartisan races) is the authority for whichever district is being canvassed; plus the chairs of the county political parties. Partisan balance is maintained "as far as possible."	17 V.S.A. § 2592
Virginia	Local Electoral Board	<p>These are three-member boards with the Governor's party serving in the majority.</p> <p>The members are appointed by the Chief Judge of the judicial circuit for the county or city or that judge's designee.</p> <p>Each political party and each independent candidate on the ballot, or each primary candidate, is entitled to have representatives</p>	VA Code § 24.2-106; VA Code § 24.2-671

		present when the local electoral board meets to ascertain the results of the election.	
Washington	County Canvassing Board	<p>Members of the county canvassing board are the County Auditor (elected, sometimes nonpartisan), who is the chair, the County Prosecuting Attorney (elected, sometimes nonpartisan), and the chair of the county legislative body (elected in partisan races).</p> <p>If a member of the board is not available to carry out the duties of the board, then the Auditor may designate a deputy Auditor, the Prosecuting Attorney may designate a deputy Prosecuting Attorney, and the chair of the county legislative body may designate another member of the county legislative body or, in a county with a population over one million, an employee of the legislative body who reports directly to the chair.</p>	RCW 29A.60.010; 29A.60.140
West Virginia	Local Governing Body	Members of county commission, who are elected by district in partisan elections, canvass and certify results.	WV Code § 3-6-9
Wisconsin	Varies	There are municipal boards of canvassers and county boards of canvassers which differ in structure based upon the size of the district; Milwaukee has its own election commission model. All include some element of partisans on the board.	Source: Bolts Magazine
Wyoming	County Canvassing Board	The board consists of the County Clerk (elected in a partisan race) and one appointee from each major party selected by the Clerk.	Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 22-16-101