

CHAPTER 85
ADMINISTRATION OF ELECTIONS
S.F. 415

AN ACT related to elections administration.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Section 1. Section 43.45, Code 2015, is amended by adding the following new subsection:
NEW SUBSECTION. 3. Notwithstanding any requirement to the contrary in [subsection 1](#) and [subsection 2](#), paragraph “c”, the commissioner of a county using digital ballot counting technology may direct the precinct election officials to tally and record write-in votes at the precincts after the closing of the polls or may direct the precinct election officials to sort the ballots by¹ write-in votes for delivery to the special precinct board to tally and record the write-in votes on any day following election day and prior to the canvass by the board of supervisors under [section 43.49](#). For the purposes of [this subsection](#) “digital ballot counting technology” is technology in which digital images of write-in votes are printed by the precinct election officials at the polling place after the close of voting.

Sec. 2. Section 50.24, subsection 2, Code 2015, is amended to read as follows:

2. Upon convening, the board shall open and canvass the tally lists and shall prepare abstracts stating the number of votes cast in the county, or in that portion of the county in which the election was held, for each office and on each question on the ballot for the election. The board shall contact the chairperson of the special precinct board before adjourning and include in the canvass any write-in votes tallied and recorded by the special precinct board or any absentee ballots which were received after the polls closed in accordance with [section 53.17](#) and which were canvassed by the special precinct board after election day. The abstract shall further indicate the name of each person who received votes for each office on the ballot, and the number of votes each person named received for that office, and the number of votes for and against each question submitted to the voters at the election. The votes of all write-in candidates who each received less than five percent of the votes cast for an office shall be reported collectively under the heading “scattering”.

Sec. 3. Section 53.20, subsection 1, Code 2015, is amended to read as follows:

1. There is established in each county a special precinct to be known as the absentee ballot and special voters precinct. Its jurisdiction shall be conterminous with the borders of the county, for the purposes specified by [sections 53.22](#) and [53.23](#), and the requirement that precincts not cross the boundaries of legislative districts shall not be applicable to it. The commissioner shall draw up an election board panel for the special precinct in the manner prescribed by [section 49.15](#), having due regard for the nature and extent of the duties required of members of the election board and the election officers to be appointed from the panel, including, if directed by the commissioner, the tallying and recording of write-in votes.

Approved May 1, 2015

¹ See chapter 138, §13 herein