



## Representation in a Recount

Dykema's Political Compliance Team includes a dedicated group of professionals with extensive experience in federal and state elections law, lobbying requirements and limitations, and campaign finance regulations. Members of the firm were involved in the original passage of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act, and have experience counseling a wide range of clients, including candidates, business political action committees, corporations, ballot question committees and others. We advise clients on a full range of election-related issues, including advice regarding political advertisements, reporting aspects of campaigns, election-related litigation, and recounts.

Our attorneys and compliance professionals have extensive experience in providing legal and compliance services related to recounts. In 2005, Dykema undertook one of the largest recounts in Michigan's history, with a proposed re-counting of nearly 250,000 votes in 720 precincts. Team members are heavily involved in the Republican National Lawyers Association and have made presentations related to election law and recounts to train election lawyers around the country. The Political Compliance Team's vast experience allows us to provide unparalleled services in the following areas related to recounts:

- **Oversee Board of Canvassers Process.** Small mistakes at the Board of Canvassers' certification can mean a lot in a recount. Our Team oversees the process to ensure there are no irregularities.
- **Initiating a Recount.** If our client seeks a recount, our Team prepares the petition pursuant to Michigan Election Law. If our client is the projected election winner, our Team is often called on to prepare and file objections or counter-petitions for recount with the Board of Canvassers.
- **Training Volunteers.** A recount is only as strong as its volunteers. Our Team is experienced training volunteers, most of whom likely have never been involved in a recount. Because we have done many recounts before, our training material is ready so our Team can hit the ground running to ensure volunteers are trained before the recount begins. Effective and timely training of volunteers can save clients significant legal costs.
- **Counting.** During the recount, our Team will assist volunteers by being present at the recount tables throughout the process. Our familiarity with the ballot security and all applicable voting systems allow us to intervene in the process if something is amiss.

- **Challenges.** As a recount progresses, each party typically makes a number of challenges to ballots on which they identify problems. Each candidate then submits their legal arguments to the Board of Canvassers explaining why specified ballots should or should not be counted. Our Team has participated in these “mini-trials” many times and is prepared to brief and argue both factual and legal arguments to support or defend against challenges.
- **Litigation.** The combined election related litigation experience of our Team is unparalleled. We have litigated issues in all levels of State and Federal Courts through the trial courts to the Michigan and United States Supreme Courts. In fact, one or more of our current Team of election lawyers have participated in most reported Michigan election decisions over at least the past 20 years.

Our Political Compliance Team members participate in Republican causes and represent Republican candidates. We run the Michigan chapter of the Republican National Lawyers Association and our lawyers provide legal services for the Michigan Republican Party. Dykema has a deep bench for its Political Compliance Team, including senior litigators, regulatory and compliance specialists, and two full-time political organization administrators.

We hope our candidates win in a landslide, but, if they do not, given Dykema’s significant expertise and strong Republican ties, please consider retaining our Political Compliance Team to assist with a recount. Primary members of the Dykema Gossett PLLC Political Compliance Team for campaign finance, election law, and ballot matters are:

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The Dykema website has more general information at [www.dykema.com](http://www.dykema.com).