



# OSAGE COUNTY

## Osage County Proves Hand Counting Success

By Linda Rantz, Author, *Missouri Elections: Return to Hand Counting*

### The Myth: Osage County's Hand Count Failed

A May 2023 opinion piece by Osage County's former Clerk claims the April 2023 hand-counted election was inefficient and costly, alleging it didn't go well. Published in the "Mailbag" section of the [Unterrified Democrat](#), this unverified piece — lacking fact-checking or opposing views — was emailed to clerks and Secretaries of State nationwide, amplifying its reach. It is the **sole** critique, unsupported by evidence, suggesting an agenda to discredit hand counting.

### Finding: Osage County Election Was a Success

The hand count saved \$16,000, as confirmed by a county commissioner, despite the clerk's unverified cost claims (no financial reports provided). Westphalia's team counted 481 ballots in 5 hours, delivering same-day results. Judges called it "fun" and efficient, with built-in checks ensuring accuracy.

Post-election, the clerk and staff of the former SOS unsealed ballots, ran them through tabulators, and re-hand-counted them, trying to prove inaccuracies — they found none. A sheriff's investigation later identified administrative violations in these post-election actions, not the hand count, yet the former SOS took no action, raising questions about the opinion piece's motive.

### Demand Transparency in Election Claims

Challenge objections: ask if the clerk's assertions were fact-checked. My rebuttal at [ReturntoHandCounting.com/ShowMeMore](https://ReturntoHandCounting.com/ShowMeMore) provides evidence of Osage's success, countering the apparent efforts to protect machine-based systems.

### Action for Elected Officials

Osage County proves hand counting works — don't let myths derail it. Support hand counting for transparent, cost-effective elections. For more, including my rebuttal, scan the QR code or visit [ReturntoHandCounting.com/ShowMeMore](https://ReturntoHandCounting.com/ShowMeMore), or email [ContactUs@ReturntoHandCounting.com](mailto:ContactUs@ReturntoHandCounting.com).

[ReturntoHandCounting.com](https://ReturntoHandCounting.com) ©2025 Linda Rantz. All Rights Reserved.

