

Post-Election Audits

*Manual Audit Process and a new optional
Automated, Independent Audit*

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How 'Bout Them Noles!!



2012 - FS101.591

○ Key Points

- Immediately following the certification of each election...
- public manual tally of the votes cast in one randomly selected race...
- include election-day, absentee, early voting, provisional, and overseas ballots...
- in at least 1 percent but no more than 2 percent of the precincts...
- must be completed... on the 7th day following certification of the election...
- Within 15 days after completion of the audit... provide a report with the results of the audit to the DOS...

Manual Audit - Current Practices

◉ Common Features:

- Voted Ballot Security / Chain of Custody
- Ballot Inventory and Storage
- Ballot Sorting and Counting (some counties perform this before tabulation)
- Selection of Race and Precincts to Audit
- Counting Votes
- Looking for Missing Ballots
- Report the Results

Leon County 2012 General Audit

- 2 Page Ballot, 135 Precincts, 2% Audit = 4 Precincts
- Human Hours Involved
 - Performed by teams and work rechecked
 - Absentee Ballot Sorting and Counting
 - Ballot Card 1: 30,316 Ballot Card 2: 29,088
 - 13 People x 50 hrs = 650 hrs (approx - EDay through Certification of Results)
 - Early Voting Ballot Sorting and Counting
 - Ballot Card 1: 45,110 Ballot Card 2: 44,368
 - 10 People x 48 hrs = 480 hrs (approx time spread out during the EV period)
 - **10 People x 24 hrs = 240 hrs (approx)
 - Gather and Sort Election Day Ballots, DRE Ballots, Provisional Ballots, Manual Vote Counting, Prepare Forms and Reports, and Other Tasks
 - Guesstimated 50 hrs

Leon County 2012 General Audit (cont)

○ Approximate Cost

- Absentee: \$11,500
- Early Voting: \$14,000
- Other: \$ 1,200
- _____
- Total \$26,700

- Note: The Other Category could have been much greater if a different race had been selected.

Leon County 2012 General Audit (cont)

- Audit race randomly selected
(Our LUCKY DAY!!)
 - Piney-Z CDD 2
 - Found in Only 1 Precinct, 1046 Ballots

Leon County 2012 General Audit (cont)

◉ Lessons Learned

- Its great to randomly choose a “single precinct race” from a small precinct, but...
 - we performed over 1300 hours of preparation work to look at 1046 ballots in an inconsequential race.
- ◉ Did we verify the accuracy of the election?!?
- ◉ Were our results really perfect?

Audits Are NOT Going Away

- 2013 - FS101.591
- Immediately following the certification of each election, the county canvassing board or the local board responsible for certifying the election shall conduct a manual audit...

But New Options May Improve the Process

- ◎ 2013 - FS101.591 (continued)
- ◎ ... or an automated, independent audit of the voting systems used in randomly selected precincts.

Automated, Independent Audit

- ◉ In development since 2009, and tested and refined in several counties as part of a pilot project.
- ◉ Independent of Voting System
 - Audit system election definition is based on ballot artwork.
- ◉ Allowed as option instead of Manual Audit.
- ◉ Currently one vendor in Florida, but no reason more cannot enter the game.
- ◉ Similar but separate automated independent audit projects being conducted at University of Connecticut and elsewhere.

Automated, Independent Audit (cont)

● Much Less Paper Handling – Scan to Retention

- As ballots are retrieved daily from EV sites, they are removed from sealed transfer containers, and scanned by the audit system. Ballot quantities are compared to expected quantities immediately.
- As ballots are tabulated during AB canvassing, they are taken from the voting system tabulators, and scanned by the audit system. Ballot quantities are compared to tabulated quantities immediately.
- Immediately after scanning into audit system, ballots are boxed and sealed for retention.
- No repetitive, error prone handling, sorting, and counting of ballots required.

● Much Less Time

- 290,000 ballots scanned in 12 hrs with 10 scanners

Automated, Independent Audit (cont)

- Much more thorough audit
 - All races in at least 20% of precincts
 - However, since all ballots are scanned, 100% audit requires little additional effort.
- Reports are completed and generated automatically. After the election is certified, tabulated results are introduced into the audit system for automatic comparison of results.
- Actual audit vote comparison is proven fast and accurate, with intuitive visual display of marked vote positions that highlight areas of possible vote discrepancies.

Summary and Questions

- New FS 101.591 does not require any changes to your current procedures.
- Automated independent audit is optional. If it does not work for your county, you can continue to use the manual audit process.

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