



OFFICE OF THE IDAHO

SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE OF IDAHO

2024 Primary Post-Election Audit Report

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Background

In 2022, Idaho passed Senate Bill [1274](#), which requires the Secretary of State to conduct a post-election audit after each primary and general election in even-numbered years. The Secretary of State's office composed [S1274](#) in collaboration with legislators and county election administrators to preserve open, honest, and fair elections. As public concern and scrutiny over elections increases, implementing the audits is a tool to increase public confidence in Idaho's elections while also ensuring continual process improvement among county election administrators.

Idaho Code § [34-1203A](#) outlines the process of conducting post-election audits. This section of the code works in tandem with directives issued by the Secretary of State to provide the required procedural information to county elections administrators and the public. The post-election audit procedures are developed to validate the accuracy of election results, ensure election voting tabulators are operating properly, and determine if election policies and practices have been complied with.

Following the 2024 Primary Election, the Board of Canvassers oversaw the random selection of eight (8) counties across the state and the precincts within those counties. Due to a county-wide recount, Bingham and Butte County were excluded from the selection process since counties were already subject to post-election review.

To ensure all counties receive an audit over multiple elections, counties with less than twenty-five thousand (25,000) registered voters will be removed from the selection process once they have been audited. They will be returned to the audit draw once all counties under that threshold have received an audit. Counties with twenty-five thousand (25,000) or more registered voters will continually be eligible for audit in the future.

Following the random selection, the Secretary of State's office sent teams of auditors to each of the eight (8) selected counties. To fill the additional auditor roles for this audit cycle, the Secretary of State utilized members of the accounting community for the audit teams. The audits involved a hand-count review of all ballots within each of the precincts and batches selected. Additionally, the teams compared the number of ballots audited to the number of voters recorded as having voted in each precinct. This manual review compared what the counties reported as part of their official county canvass of results to what the auditors found during their independent review.

A summary of the audit findings for the 2024 Primary Election follows.

Overview

On May 28, 2024, the State Board of Canvassers randomly selected eight (8) counties and specific precincts within those counties for the post-election audit. The counties and their precincts that were chosen are as follows:

Bannock

- Precincts Pocatello 1, Pocatello 3, Pocatello 4, Pocatello 6, Pocatello 15, Pocatello 21, Pocatello 23, Pocatello 30, Pocatello 37, Pocatello 41, Chubbuck 51, Downey 62, Inkom 63 and Swan Lake 68.

Boundary

- Precincts Copeland, Moyie Springs, N Bonners Ferry, and Naples.

Canyon

- Precincts 1811, 2011, 2111, 2311, 2411, 2912, 3112, 4513, 4613 and Batches 3, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 34, 39, 44, 45, 47, 53, 57, 58, 61, 69, 74, 76, 78, 81, 89, 90, 91, 92, 97, 109.

Cassia

- Precincts 104 Burley 4, 105 Burley 5, 106 Burley 6, 107 Albion, 108 Almo, 109 Bridge, 110 Declo, 114 Jackson, 115 Malta, 118 Parsons, 120 Springdale, 121 Starrh's Ferry, and 124 View.

Fremont

- Precincts 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13.

Madison

- Precincts #1 Plano, #3 Hibbard, #6 Sugar City, #7 Adams, #8 Pioneer West, #9 Pioneer East, #10 Porter Park, #12 4th South, #13 University, #14 Rexburg Hill, #17 Moody, and #21 6th South.

Payette

- Precincts 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10.

Valley

- Precincts 1- Alpha, 2- Cascade, 3- Donnelly, 4-McCall, 5-Payette, 6- Roseberry, 8- Yellowpine, Absentee 1- Alpha, Absentee 2- Cascade, Absentee 3- Donnelly, Absentee 4- McCall, and Absentee 7- West Mountain.

The following is a listing of each county and a summary of the findings made during the audit. A complete copy of the audit results is attached.

Bannock County

On May 31, 2024, Bannock County was audited by the Secretary of State's office. The contest chosen to be audited was the United States Representative contest in Congressional District 2. For the election night results, Bannock County reported a total amount of 2,264 ballots cast within the selected precincts audited. The audited results compared to election night results for the selected contest are as follows:

Findings:

County Canvass Ballots Reported	2,264
Ballots Audited	2,265
Total Voters Recorded	2,264

<i>Party</i>	Candidate Names/ Type of Votes	Hand Count Audit Tally	Election Night Reporting
<i>REP</i>	Mike Simpson	873	872
<i>REP</i>	Scott Cleveland	611	611
<i>REP</i>	Sean Higgins	195	195
<i>DEM</i>	David Roth	421	421
<i>LIB</i>	Todd Corsetti	7	7
<i>CON</i>	Idaho Law	3	3
<i>CON</i>	Pro Life	2	2
<i>N/A</i>	Undervote	80	80
<i>N/A</i>	Overvote	3	3
<i>N/A</i>	Ballots w/o audited race	100	100
Total Votes		2,265	2,264

Notes:

During the audit, a ripped ballot was discovered in precinct "Downey 62." The total ballots reported on election night in that precinct showed 109 ballots were cast. However, due to the ballot being ripped, it was not tabulated correctly on election night. The voter's intent was still discernable on the ripped ballot, which added an extra vote during the hand count audit of that precinct. This put the county audit total at 2,265 and the election night reporting at 2,264.

Recommendations:

The Secretary of State's office has no recommendations.

Boundary County

On June 3, 2024, Boundary County was audited by the Secretary of State's office. The contest audited was the State Senate Race in Legislative District 1. For the election night results, Boundary County reported a total amount of 2,239 ballots cast within the selected precincts audited. The audited results compared to election night results for the selected contest are as follows:

Findings:

County Canvass Ballots Reported	2,239
Ballots Audited	2,239
Total Voters Recorded	2,239

Party	Candidate Names/ Type of Votes	Hand Count Audit Tally	Election Night Reporting
<i>REP</i>	Scott Herndon	1,201	1,201
<i>REP</i>	Jim Woodward	938	938
<i>N/A</i>	Under Vote	38	38
<i>N/A</i>	Over Vote	0	0
<i>N/A</i>	Ballots w/o audited race	62	62
Total Votes		2,239	2,239

Notes:

During the audit, it was determined that the total ballots issued matched the total ballots audited and reported. The only differences found related to poll books. The poll book differences can be attributed to nine (9) identifiable voters being issued ballots without completing the check-in process by signing their names within the poll books. This is considered poll worker error due to not having the voter sign the poll books.

Recommendations:

The Secretary of State's office recommends that the county emphasize the importance of obtaining voters' signatures at poll worker training.

Canyon County

On Friday, May 31st, 2024, Canyon County was audited by the Secretary of State’s office. The contest audited was United States Representative contest in Congressional District 1. For the election night results, Canyon County reported a total amount of 4,870 ballots cast within the selected precincts and batches audited. The audited results compared to election night results for the selected contest are as follows:

Findings:

County Canvass Ballots Reported	4,870
Ballots Audited	4,870
Election Day Voters Recorded*	2,542
Election Day Precincts Audited*	2,542

*Pursuant to I.C. §34-1203A, Canyon County reported early voting and absentee votes by batch. Therefore, only Election Day voting records could be audited among the sample selected.

<i>Party</i>	Candidate Names/ Type of Votes	Hand Count Audit Tally	Election Night Reporting
<i>REP</i>	Russ Fulcher	3,443	3,443
<i>DEM</i>	Kaylee Peterson	541	541
<i>CON</i>	Brenda Gomez	5	5
<i>LIBER</i>	Matt Loesby	17	17
<i>N/A</i>	Under Vote	657	657
<i>N/A</i>	Over Vote	0	0
<i>N/A</i>	Ballots w/o audited race	207	207
Total Votes		4,870	4,870

Notes:

Canyon County reported their absentee ballots by batch as allowed in Idaho Code 34-1203A. Due to the format reported in Canyon County, the audit teams were only able to verify the number of check-ins for precinct-level results. Batch-level reporting is not included in the check-in number, which explains the difference above. As far as precinct-level reporting and check-ins are concerned, there was a difference of five (5) check-ins versus the number of ballots audited. This appeared to be due to poll worker error and not recording spoiled ballots properly in the poll book.

Precinct 4613 had one hand-marked ballot with very small marks in the intended boxes for each race. The voter cast the ballot with small marks. The tabulator did not read the small marks because the voter did not follow the ballot instructions on how to mark the ballot properly. This

put the hand count audit over by one (1) due to discernable voter intent on that ballot during the hand audit process.

Precinct 2411 showed that eighty-nine (89) ballots were cast and reported on election night. During the hand audit of Precinct 2411, only eighty-eight (88) ballots were found in that precinct. Canyon County, after looking into it, reported that a poll worker issued a Precinct 2411 ballot in Precinct 2511 to a voter after that voter spoiled their ballot. That voter was issued a Precinct 2411 ballot and cast the Precinct 2411 ballot in Precinct 2511. When hand auditing precinct 2411, the count was short one (1) ballot due to that ballot being cast in Precinct 2511 and being physically sorted into Precinct 2511.

Upon arriving at the Canyon County Elections office, it was noted that the spoiled ballots had not been impounded with the voted ballots.

Recommendations:

The Secretary of State's office recommends programming precinct scanners to only accept ballot styles within individual precincts. This would prevent other precinct's ballots from being placed in the incorrect scanner.

The Secretary of State's office recommends that batches be stored in smaller boxes with labels to prevent the mixing of batches.

The Secretary of State's office recommends that spoiled ballots and all precinct materials are stored and properly impounded as required for an audit or recount.

Cassia County

On May 30, 2024, Cassia County was audited by the Secretary of State's office. The contest audited was State Representative Seat B in Legislative District 27. For the election night results, Cassia County reported a total amount of 2,138 ballots cast within the selected precincts audited. The audited results compared to election night results for the selected contest are as follows:

Findings:

County Canvass Ballots Reported	2,138
Ballots Audited	2,138
Total Voters Recorded	2,138

<i>Party</i>	Candidate Names/ Type of Votes	Hand Count Audit Tally	Election Night Reporting
<i>REP</i>	Clay Handy	1,151	1,151
<i>REP</i>	Pat Field	827	827
<i>N/A</i>	Under Vote	44	44
<i>N/A</i>	Over Vote	0	0
<i>N/A</i>	Ballots w/o audited race	116	116
Total Votes		2,138	2,138

Notes:

No differences were found during the county audit.

Recommendations:

The Secretary of State's office has no recommendations.

Fremont County

On Thursday, May 30th, 2024, Fremont County was audited by the Secretary of State’s office. The contest audited was State Representative Seat B for Legislative District 31. For the election night results, Fremont County reported a total amount of 2,127 ballots cast within the selected precincts audited. The audited results compared to election night results for the selected contest are as follows:

Findings:

County Canvass Ballots Reported	2,127
Ballots Audited	2,126
Total Voters Recorded	2,115

<i>Party</i>	Candidate Names/ Type of Votes	Hand Count Audit Tally	Election Night Reporting
<i>REP</i>	Karey Hanks	1,019	1,019
<i>REP</i>	Rod Furniss	953	954
<i>DEM</i>	Wayne Talmadge	65	65
<i>N/A</i>	Under Vote	41	41
<i>N/A</i>	Over Vote	1	1
<i>N/A</i>	Ballots w/o audited race	47	47
Total Votes		2,126	2,127

Notes:

It was reported by Fremont County that 131 ballots were cast in Precinct 12. During the hand audit, 130 ballots were counted in the precinct. The explanation for the difference was that at the beginning of election day, a voter at the polling location placed a marked ballot into the precinct scanner prior to the precinct poll worker being ready to scan ballots. Since the poll workers were not ready for the ballot to be scanned, they removed the ballot from the scanner, believing it did not tabulate, spoiled it, and placed it in their spoiled envelope. The poll workers then reissued the same voter a new ballot and allowed the same voter to vote again, believing that the precinct scanner was not ready to scan when they voted the first time. This was not the case because the tabulated results show that the voter's vote was counted twice due to poll worker error. This is why Precinct 12's count was under by one ballot.

Recommendations:

The Secretary of State’s office recommends that the county add new emphasis to the setup process of the tabulation equipment on Election Day and the importance of properly spoiling check-ins during poll worker training.

Madison County

On Thursday, May 30th, 2024, Madison County was audited by the Secretary of State’s office. The contest audited was the State Representative Seat B contest for Legislative District 34. For the election night results, Madison County reported a total amount of 2,257 ballots cast within the selected precincts audited. The audited results compared to election night results for the selected contest are as follows:

Findings:

County Canvass Ballots Reported	2,257
Ballots Audited	2,257
Total Voters Recorded	2,257

<i>Party</i>	Candidate Names/ Type of Votes	Hand Count Audit Tally	Election Night Reporting
<i>REP</i>	Britt Raybould	1,297	1,297
<i>REP</i>	Larry Golden	712	712
<i>N/A</i>	Under Vote	65	65
<i>N/A</i>	Over Vote	0	0
<i>N/A</i>	Ballots w/o audited race	183	183
Total Votes		2,257	2,257

Notes:

No differences were found during the county audit.

Recommendations:

The Secretary of State’s office has no recommendations.

Payette County

On Wednesday, May 29th, 2024, Payette County was audited by the Secretary of State’s office. The contest audited was the State Senator contest in Legislative District 9. For the election night results, Payette County reported a total amount of 2,143 ballots cast within the selected precincts audited. The audited results compared to election night results for the selected contest are as follows:

Findings:

County Canvass Ballots Reported	2,143
Ballots Audited	2,143
Totals Voters Recorded	2,144

<i>Party</i>	Candidate Names/ Type of Votes	Hand Count Audit Tally	Election Night Reporting
<i>REP</i>	Brandon Shippy	1,090	1,090
<i>REP</i>	Scott Syme	884	884
<i>DEM</i>	Rachel Buck	87	87
<i>N/A</i>	Under Vote	31	31
<i>N/A</i>	Over Vote	2	2
<i>N/A</i>	Ballots w/o audited race	49	49
Total Votes		2,143	2,143

Notes:

Precinct 4 and Precinct 6 each had an additional check-in when comparing audited precinct ballots. This was documented by the county as a result of a poll worker not properly spoiling the check-in within the system.

Precinct 10 had two (2) fewer check-ins than ballots audited. Poll workers documented that two (2) voters were unable to complete the check-in with the electronic poll book due to an address issue. The poll workers did a manual check-in for these two (2) voters, and the transactions were properly documented. With the manual check-ins included, the check-ins match the audited ballot count.

Recommendations:

The Secretary of State’s office recommends the county emphasize the importance of properly spoiling check-ins at poll worker training.

Valley County

On Monday, June 3rd, 2024, Valley County was audited by the Secretary of State’s office. The contest audited was the State Representative Seat B for Legislative District 8 contest. For the election night results, Valley County reported a total amount of 2,865 ballots cast within the selected precincts audited. The audited results compared to election night results for selected contest are as follows:

Findings:

County Canvass Ballots Reported	2,861
Ballots Audited	2,865
Total Voters Recorded	2,861

<i>Party</i>	Candidate Names/ Type of Votes	Hand Count Audit Tally	Election Night Reporting
<i>REP</i>	Faye Thompson	1,006	1,002
<i>REP</i>	Megan Blanksma	981	981
<i>DEM</i>	Jared Dawson	352	352
<i>CON</i>	Tony Ulrich	4	4
<i>N/A</i>	Under Vote	281	281
<i>N/A</i>	Over vote	1	1
<i>N/A</i>	Ballots w/o audited race	240	240
Total Votes		2,865	2,861

Notes:

Differences in the hand audit versus reported ballots were observed across several precincts, resulting in a total of 4 additional votes tallied for Thompson. These differences were partially accounted for through county documentation and ballots stored in different precinct boxes. For example, the hand tally in Precinct 1-Alpha reported 3 fewer votes for Thompson. However, Precinct Absentee 1-Alpha resulted in 4 additional ballots for Thompson. These findings would partially explain some of the differences between hand tally and the reported ballots cast. Additional differences occurred which would likely be resolved through more thorough organization and labeling practices.

During the hand tally, 2 ballots were questionably marked. While voter intent was clear, the selection area was not properly marked by the voter, which the tabulation may not have read. Because the audit team was viewing the ballot, the votes were determined and tallied based on voter intent.

A few slight differences were found during the comparison of the totals of voter records and ballots audited. These differences were partially accounted for through documentation of voters casting their ballot in the incorrect precinct's ballot box or poll worker error when handling the poll books.

Recommendations:

The Secretary of State's office recommends that Valley County work with the Secretary of State's office to conduct an additional audit of the May 2024 Primary election. Many differences found during the audit between selected precincts were due to a lack of organization and record-keeping. It is possible that through further investigation, all reported ballots could be located and accounted for.

The Secretary of State's office recommends Election Day ballots and absentee ballots be stored in separate boxes and clearly labeled.

The Secretary of State's office recommends that prior to boxing and storing election day ballots, poll workers or county staff sort through the ballots to ensure the correct precincts are properly stored together.

Conclusion

The 2024 Primary Post-Election Audit demonstrates Idaho's commitment to maintaining the integrity and transparency of its electoral process.

The findings from this audit reinforce the reliability of our voting systems and processes while highlighting areas for improvement. In counties with minor differences, appropriate recommendations have been made to address these issues and enhance future election protocols.

The Secretary of State's office and the County Clerks remain committed to conducting open, honest, and fair elections. By continuing these post-election audits, the office aims to bolster public confidence and ensure that every Idahoan's vote is accurately counted and properly recorded.