



November 2023 Post-Election Audit Summary

Purpose

Election audits are conducted to ensure that election voting tabulators are operating accurately and complying with regulations or internal policies, and to promote voter confidence in the election administration process. ([United States Election Assistance Commission](#))

Process

Timeline

According to Ohio Secretary of State [Directive 2023-31](#), if a recount is conducted, the post-election audit shall begin immediately after the board certifies the results of the recount. When the Board of Elections certified the results of the November 7, 2023, General Election on November 28, 2023, it was determined that a recount was required for Member of Board of Education for Mason City Schools and Issue 9 Ross Township Police Levy. The recount was automatically required because the margin of the declared outcome of each race was less than one-half percent (0.05%) of the total votes cast in the contest. The recount was scheduled to begin December 5, 2023. The recount was completed and then certified on Monday, December 11, 2023. On November 28, 2023, the Board members randomly selected tabulators to be audited. The post-election audit began on Monday, December 11, 2023. The audit results were certified on Monday, December 18, 2023.

Preparations for the Post-Election Audit

The official canvass of the election included 117,145 ballots. To meet the five percent requirement at least 5,857 ballots had to be included in the audit.

The Board selected the following races to audit, the results of State Issue 1, State Issue 2, and Member of Butler County Educational Resource Center. During the board meeting on November 20, 2023, it was determined that the audit would be conducted by tabulator. This means the audit will be conducted by counting the votes on individual voting machines. There are five methods a voter in Butler County can cast their ballot,



After the audit criteria was selected, election officials began to collect all the paper ballots from the selected tabulators to be hand counted.

Conducting the Hand Count

Teams of election officials composed of a member of each of the major political parties counted the votes of the selected tabulators. Teams slowly reviewed either the paper ballots or the Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) and marked each vote on a tally sheet. When the count was complete for each tabulator, the ballots were returned to the appropriate storage area and the tally sheet was given to a separate team for entry into an audit spreadsheet to compare the results of the official canvass to the hand count.

Results

The results of both the official canvass and the audit (hand count) are listed in the tables below.

State Issue 1				
Responses	Official Certification Vote Total	Audit (Hand Count) Vote Total	Difference	Explanation of difference
Yes	2,940	2,940	0	
No	2,965	2,965	0	
Over Votes	0	0	0	
Under Votes	28	28	0	
Total Votes	5,933	5,933	0	

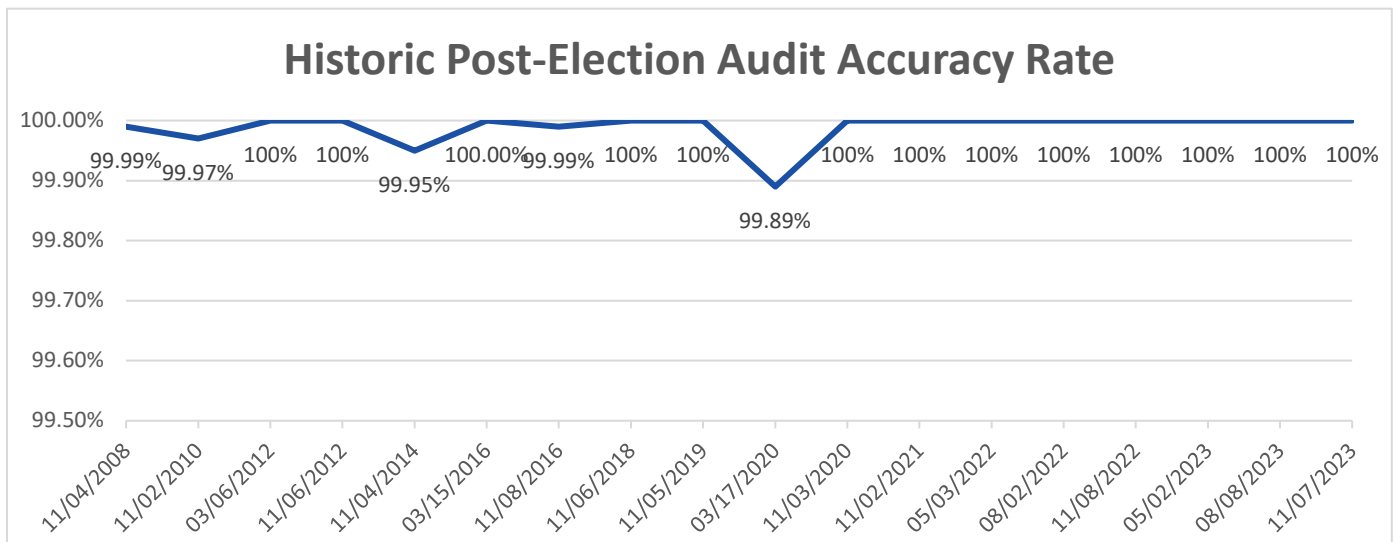
State Issue 2				
Responses	Official Certification Vote Total	Audit (Hand Count) Vote Total	Difference	Explanation of difference
Yes	3,195	3,195	0	
No	2,489	2,489	0	
Over Votes	0	0	0	
Under Votes	249	249	0	
Total Votes	5,933	5,933	0	

Butler County Educational Resource Center				
Candidates	Official Certification Vote Total	Audit (Hand Count) Vote Total	Difference	Explanation of difference
Steve Feldmann	1,207	1,207	0	

Michael Hudson	1,064	1,064	0	
Benita E. Mudd	916	916	0	
Over Votes	0	0	0	
Under Votes	2,785	2,785	0	
Total Votes	5,972	5,972	0	

Historical Results

Below is a graph providing the accuracy rate of each post-election audit conducted in Butler County beginning with the November 4, 2008, Presidential General Election.



Conclusion

Election Officials completed the post-election audit of the November 7, 2023, General Election and found no discrepancies in the data from the official canvass to the hand count. The results of the audit show the accuracy rate to be 100%.