



BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Dennis L. White, Director Matthew M. Damschroder, Deputy Director

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Franklin County Conducting Post-Election Audit

(Columbus) An independent audit of results from Franklin County's March 4 primary election begins Monday.

Representatives of the Center for Election Integrity from Cleveland State University, the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University and the Verified Voting Foundation of San Francisco, have been retained by the Franklin County Board of Elections to conduct a post-election audit.

The audit is a voluntary step by the Franklin County Board of Elections and will exceed guidelines set by Ohio Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner. In addition to following the state-prescribed method for conducting a voluntary audit, Franklin County will test additional methods to gather data to provide to the Ohio General Assembly later this year as it considers adopting mandatory post-election audits of vote tallies.

"We've hired nationally respected organizations to independently verify our vote totals from the primary to reassure the public that every valid vote was counted and to also demonstrate that we're ready to handle an even larger turnout for the presidential election in November," said board of elections Director Dennis L. White. He added that Franklin County's audit will go beyond the scope of other Ohio counties' post-election audits by examining not only votes for presidential nominees, but results from additional ballot issues at random. The audit will cover votes cast on electronic voting machines and on paper ballots.

"Post-election audits can be an important tool to build upon Franklin County's historically high levels of voter confidence," said board deputy director Matt Damschroder. "Similar to recounts, which are mandatory when the contest is won by one-half of one percent or less, post-election audits use random samples of voter-verified paper records to test the electronic records."

Previous recounts conducted by the county elections office, including the contest for Representative to Congress for the 15th District in 2006, resulted in a 100 percent level of accuracy between the paper audit trails from the electronic voting machines and the machines' electronic results. Results of the audit will be available to the public when complete.

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