



## BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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

**For Immediate Release  
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### **Post Election Audit Upholds Franklin County Vote Totals**

**(Columbus)** A team of independent auditors has examined certified results from Franklin County's March 4 primary election and confirmed the accuracy of the county's vote-counting process in an interim audit report submitted to the county. Researchers from three organizations report that no votes changed following the audit of votes cast in the primary that compared hand-counts of voter verified records to the electronic tallies.

Auditors from Cleveland State University's Center for Election Integrity, New York University's Brennan Center for Justice, and the Verified Voting Foundation of San Francisco threw dice and drew lots to select precincts for a one week audit that ended April 22. Researchers led the review of results from electronic voting machines, absentee and provisional ballots, and all 800 Election Day paper ballots cast in the primary election, finding the same totals previously certified by the board of elections. Only eight votes cast electronically were unreadable during the hand-inspection phase of the audit, due to jams on voting machine paper tapes, but were found to be fully auditable when the paper tapes were compared with other voting machine data.

"We sought out the independent auditing team because we thought it important to have an outside review of our operations and results to demonstrate the accuracy of our voting system here in Franklin County or to reveal any problems that might exist," said board of elections Director Dennis L. White. "That no discrepancies were found shows we're ready for November's general election."

"Our audit went beyond state guidelines to compare various audit methods and to gauge the time it takes to conduct an accurate and meaningful post-election audit," Deputy Director Matt Damschroder added. "An audit like this is an important tool to further strengthen the public's confidence in the voting system and to help election officials continuously improve our procedures."

Some 1,765 hours were logged by full and part time employees of the board who manually tallied the signature poll books, voting machine paper tapes, and optically scanned paper ballots under the supervision of the team of independent auditors. The auditor's interim report is available at <http://vote.franklincountyohio.gov/boe> online.

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