

# COUNTY OF EL DORADO

## REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

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## **Risk Limiting Audit & 1% Manual Hand Tally Audit Information**

The County of El Dorado will be doing a risk limiting audit of contests contained wholly within El Dorado County, and a manual 1% hand tally on the remainder contests.

The risk-limiting audit (RLA) is a procedure that provides strong statistical evidence that the election outcome is correct or has a high probability of correcting an outcome that wouldn't match a full hand count of the ballots. The audit itself requires human beings to examine and verify more ballots in close contests and fewer ballots in contests with wider margins.

In California, when a risk-limiting audit is used, it must confirm that the election results reported by the voting system are 95% likely to be accurate. Unlike the post-election 1% manual tally traditionally used to confirm election results in California, under a risk-limiting audit every ballot cast in the election—regardless of which precinct it was cast in—has an equal chance of being audited.

The El Dorado County Elections office uses a combination of permanent and full-time staff, along with citizen volunteers, to conduct all audits. The audit board shall locate, retrieve, or observe the location and retrieval of each randomly selected ballot from the appropriate storage container and the audit board shall verify the seals on the appropriate storage containers. No less than two audit board members and one observer will be present with the ballots during the process to ensure the security, confidentiality and integrity of any ballots. Audit boards take oaths to follow all laws and procedures to support the audit.

For the RLA portion of the audit, the audit board will examine each randomly selected ballot and interpret the voter markings. After each voter intent determination is made, the audit board will enter the information into the software tool supplied by the California Secretary of State. The audit will continue until the risk limit is met.

For the 1% manual tally audit, the audit board consists of five people. One audit board member will supervise the process, one will call out the vote, a second will observe that the correct vote is called, and the two additional members of the audit board will hand tally the results. The audit will continue until all precincts have been hand tallied.

Voter intent will be determined by unanimous agreement of the entire audit board and if the audit board cannot agree on intent, the elections official will arbitrate the issue following the guidelines outlined in California Code of Regulations 20123, et. seq.

All parts of the process are open to public observation. To observe, you will be asked to follow all health & safety guidelines and maintain at least 6 foot distance from others.