



Election Accuracy: Audits

NCSL's Strong Elections, Strong States: Great Plains & Western Gulf Region

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Teaming Up to Advance Election Administration Practices: An Implementation Workbook

Ballot Batch Control Sheet	Batch ID	Date Created
Voter Credit & Signature Verification		
Name:	Name:	
Beginning Count	Rejected	Final Count
Verification count verified?		
Date	Time	Initials
Ballot Preparation		
Name:	Name:	
Beginning Count	Envelope Error	Final Count
Operer count verified?		
Date	Time	Initials
Ballot Scanning		
Scanner ID:	Scanner Batch #:	
Name:	Name:	
Beginning Count	Removed for Duplication	Final Count
Scanner count verified?		
Date	Time	Initials

Signature Comparison

Think about signatures at two levels: quick analysis of the general character of the signature, then sharp focus on individual details. No threshold of minor discrepancies should outweigh your judgment that the general character of two signatures is so similar that they must have been written by the same hand.

General Analysis

The Type of Writing		Speed of Writing	
Voter Record Signature	Mail Ballot Signature	Voter Record Signature	Mail Ballot Signature
<i>Thomas Jefferson</i>	Thomas Jefferson	<i>Gerald Ford</i>	Gerald Ford
Easy difference to notice and a sign the signature should be rejected.		A forger will be more deliberate with forging a signature, leading to hesitation marks or a smoother looking signature.	
Spacing Between Names		Proportions and Size of Signature	
Voter Record Signature	Mail Ballot Signature	Voter Record Signature	Mail Ballot Signature
<i>Franklin B. Roosevelt</i>	Franklin B. Roosevelt	<i>Harry Truman</i>	Harry Truman
If the spacing between first and last name is not consistent, it may be a sign the signature should be rejected.		A signature should have consistency in terms of the size and proportion. In the example above, the proportions are different between the two signatures.	
Slant of Writing		Incorrect Spelling	
Voter Record Signature	Mail Ballot Signature	Voter Record Signature	Mail Ballot Signature
<i>John Kennedy</i>	John Kennedy	<i>John Kennedy</i>	John Kenedy
Another easy difference to notice. If the slant of writing is different, it is a sign the signature should be rejected.		This is a very straightforward issue. If the name is misspelled, the signature should be rejected.	

Anywhere County CONDUCT STANDARDS

At the Anywhere County Elections Office, our team of dedicated election workers is committed to following our office's standards of conduct.

PROFESSIONALISM Abiding by all the rules and not interfering in the election process.	INTEGRITY Abiding by all the rules and not interfering in the election process.
CIVILITY Engaging with the public constructively.	HONESTY Championing the election process, not an outcome.
TEAMWORK Providing feedback to help improve future elections.	TRUSTWORTHY Helping to stop the spread of misinformation.

<email>
<phone number>
<website>

Logo

Conducting Logic and Accuracy Testing on the Voting Equipment

All Devices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verified election data loaded onto machines
L&A Ballot Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> L&A ballots created L&A ballots marked <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - by hand - by printer - by BMD
Voting Machines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scan test ballots Compare machines results to expected results Output data file to portable memory cards (for central tabulation)
Election Management System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results uploaded and aggregated Tabulated results compared to expected results by machine and in aggregate
Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discrepancies, if any, examined, root cause determined, and corrections made as necessary. Reprogram and retest as needed.
Public Test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small-scale replay of L&A

DE-ESCALATION: Responding to Verbal Abuse

FIVE PURPOSEFUL -ACTIONS-

- REMAIN CALM**
Preventing escalation and de-escalation.
- CHANGE THE SETTING**
If possible, remove yourself from the area. The most effective parties to the conflict and exiters.
- RESPECT PERSONAL SPACE**
Reserve a safe distance and avoid touching the other party.
- LISTEN**
Ask your full attention, nod and ask questions and acknowledge the value of listening.
- EMPATHIZE**
Express genuine concern and willingness to understand without judging.

DE-ESCALATION: Responding to Verbal Abuse

VERBAL -COMMUNICATION-

Repeat respectful and courteous. Address the individual with civility and avoid phrases such as "babe" and "honey you".

VERBAL DE-ESCALATION	VERBAL DE-ESCALATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NEUTRAL TONE Avoid any tone that is hostile, sarcastic, or demeaning. SOFT VOLUME Reduce your volume and avoid raising your voice. STeady RATE OF SPEECH Avoid speaking too fast or too slow. INFLECTION Use a neutral, calm inflection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NEUTRAL TONE Avoid any tone that is hostile, sarcastic, or demeaning. SOFT VOLUME Reduce your volume and avoid raising your voice. STeady RATE OF SPEECH Avoid speaking too fast or too slow. INFLECTION Use a neutral, calm inflection.

INSTEAD OF:
"Listen damn it!"
"Honey, honey you!"
"Honey, honey you!"
"Honey, honey you!"

TRY:
"Can you see that you are angry?"
"I understand that you feel..."
"I understand that you feel..."
"I understand that you feel..."

DE-ESCALATION: Responding to Verbal Abuse

RULES OF BODY -LANGUAGE-

Be aware of your own verbal communication. Express your point, but do not overreact. Avoid phrases such as "babe" and "honey you".

GOOD BODY LANGUAGE	GOOD BODY LANGUAGE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Relax, unclench and relax your jaw. 2. Relax your hands, arms, and legs. 3. Open your shoulders, chest, and arms. 4. Maintain a neutral and calm facial expression. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Staring tightly directly in front of the person. 2. Pointing your finger. 3. Excessive gesturing or pointing. 4. Making a "V" sign.



THE ELECTIONS GROUP

SECURITY

Election Security in a Time of Disturbance



Knowing It's Right

Knowing It's Right, Part Four

Ballot Accounting Audits
Best Practices Guide

by Jennifer Morrell



Knowing It's Right, Part One

A Practical Guide to Risk-Limiting Audits

by Jennifer Morrell



Knowing It's Right, Part Three

Planning and Conducting a
Risk-Limiting Audit Pilot

by Jennifer Morrell



Knowing It's Right, Part Two

Risk-Limiting Audit Implementation Workbook

by Jennifer Morrell



Why audit elections?

- Detect voting system errors
 - Human error
 - Misconfiguration
 - Manipulation
- Provide accountability to voters
- Deter fraudulent activity
- Assure votes were issued, counted and reported accurately
- Provide feedback for process improvement



National Standards for Election Audits



Tabulation & Ballot Accounting

- Fixed Percentage
- Risk-Limiting Audits
- Transitive Audits



Voter Registration List Maintenance

- Data entered accurately
- Timely updates
- Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC)
 - National Change of Address
 - Social Security Death Index



Mail Ballot Verification

Voter Record Signature

Michael Green



Mail Ballot Signature

Michael Green

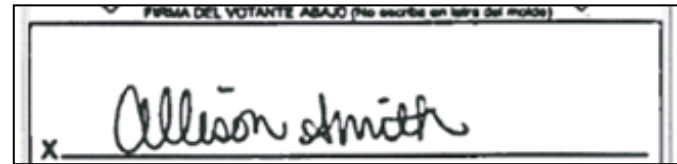


Signature: Allison Smith



FIRMA DEL VOTANTE ABAJO (No escriba en letra del molde)

x Allison Smith



District Assignments

- NSGIC Geo-Enabled Elections Project
- A Method to Audit the Assignment of Registered Voters to Districts and Precincts



GIS in Elections

BEST PRACTICES for GEO-ENABLING ELECTIONS



DETAILED
GUIDANCE



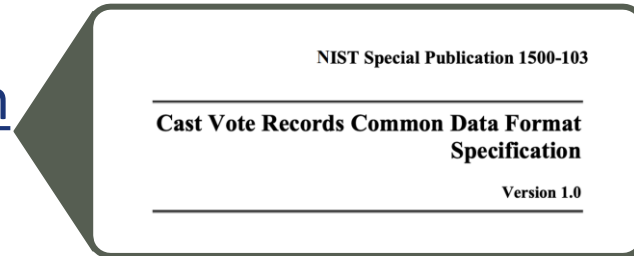
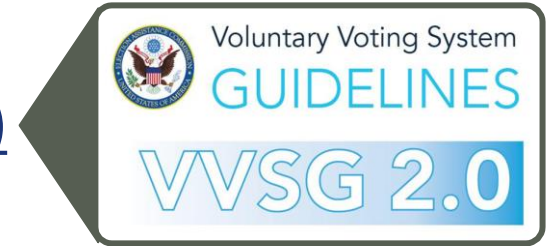
Security and Chain of Custody

- Physical Security
- Operational Security
- Cybersecurity
- Audits are a way to mature election security



Standards for Auditing are Nothing New

- Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards
- Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (2.0)
- Cast Vote Records Common Data Format Specifications



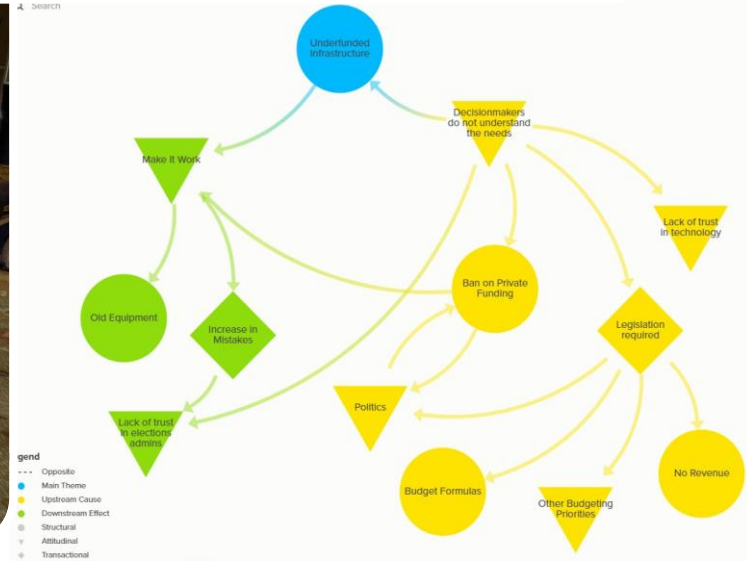
Where to Start?

When selecting a process for auditing, consider both

- **the impact of a potential issue** and
- **the likelihood of a system problem**

That is, what are the potential consequences of a particular system being broken (impact), as well as the probability that a problem exists (likelihood).

Audit Research Project



We don't know
the *destination*,
but we do know
the **direction**
we should go.



6 Impactful things to consider doing now

- Upgrade voting equipment to produce auditable paper ballots
- Review statutory dates
 - canvass/certification
 - candidate filing
- Support state audit working groups and pilot programs
- Support statewide use of GIS technology
- Enhance rules for election observers
- Join ERIC if you're not a member



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Or visit electionsgroup.com

