SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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N.J.S.A.19:61-9: AUDITS OF ELECTION RESULTS
2020 General Election
Audit Date: November 23, 2020

The Somerset County Board of Elections (SCBOE) performed an audit consistent with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:61-9.

The SCBOE conducted a hand-to-eye count of the voter-verifiable paper records for the General Election for the United States President , United States Senate, United States Congressional Districts 7 and 12, Somerset County Surrogate, Somerset County Freeholder and Municipal Mayoral contests. The Board of Education elections, fire district elections and pubic questions were excluded from the audit.

Pursuant to the statute, "the audit shall be conducted in at least 2% of the election districts (batches) in which each audited election appears on the ballot." Somerset County is comprised of the 7th Congressional District and the 12th Congressional District. 19 audit units (batches) were audited from the 7th CD and 6 audit units (batches) were audited from the 12th CD.

Audit units included: vote by mail ballots (VBMs) by municipality/ward; vote by mail ballots received within 7 days (VBM 7 days) by municipality/ward; and provisional ballots (PBs) by municipality/ward. Tally sheets were prepared in advance of the audit for each municipality/ward.

The following audit units were randomly selected for audit:

1. 7th Congressional District: Bedminster Batch #5*
2. 7th Congressional District: Hillsborough Batch #11*
3. 7th Congressional District: Hillsborough Batch #50*
4. 7th Congressional District: Montgomery Batch #11*

5. 7th Congressional District: Bridgewater Batch #14 *
6. 7th Congressional District: Branchburg Batch #25*
7. 7th Congressional District: Raritan Batch #22*
8. 7th Congressional District: Raritan Batch #23*
9. 7th Congressional District: Somerville Batch #32*
10. 7th Congressional District: Bernardsville Batch #33*
11. 7th Congressional District: Hillsborough Batch #46*
12. 7th Congressional District: Hillsborough Batch #49*
13. 7th Congressional District: Hillsborough Batch #51*
14. 7th Congressional District: Montgomery Batch #68*
15. 7th Congressional District: North Plainfield Batch #53*
16. 7th Congressional District: Branchburg Batch #18
17. 7th Congressional District: Bedminster Batch #38
18. 7th Congressional District: Hillsborough Batch #40
19. 7th Congressional District: Bridgewater Batch #26* - PBs
20. 12th Congressional District: Franklin Batch #65
21. 12th Congressional District: Franklin Batch #4*
22. 12th Congressional District: Franklin Batch #28*
23. 12th Congressional District: Franklin Batch #24*
24. 12th Congressional District: Franklin Batch #45*
25. 12th Congressional District: Manville Batch #59*

In a majority of the audited batches (identified with an asterisk), the hand to eye count revealed minor discrepancies with the scanned tally. The hand to eye count identified mostly 1 or 2 additional votes on random contests on the ballot. This was due to the hand to eye Tally

Teams identifying partially marked ovals on the ballots that showed clear voter intent but were not picked up by the scanner. However, the audit did not result in any significant change in the number of votes counted for any candidate. Any paper ballot which contained an overvote for a particular contest recorded it as an overvote, but did not count a vote. The audit did not tally undervotes.

Respectfully Submitted on December2, 2020 by:

Jerry L. Midgette
Administrator