State of Delaware
Department of Elections

December 28, 2020

Minutes

Audit of General Election Voting Machines – Rounds 2 and 3

The audit scheduled for 9 a.m. on December 17, 2020 at the Department's New Castle warehouse was delayed until 10 a.m. due of the weather. Mr. Sholl called the meeting to order at approximately 10:10 a.m. The following persons were present at the meeting: Department of Elections staff Tracey Dixon, Howard Sholl, Ron Gravola and 2 temporary employees. Two members of the public were present: Eric Branustein (New Castle County Republican Chair, and P. J. O'Dwyer (New Castle County Northern Region Chair).

In a random drawing Ms Dixon selected Election Districts 13-02 (a County ED) and 01-01 (a City of Wilmington ED) for the Round 2 audit. Mr. O'Dwyer observed and participated in the manual recounting of the ballots until he departed at approximately 11 a.m. Mr. Braunstein observed and participated in the manual recounting until he departed at approximately 1 p.m.

The meeting adjourned for lunch ata bout 1 p.m. and returned at about 2 p.m. Department staff concluded the Round 2 Audit at approximately 4:15 p.m. The manual recounts of the ballots for the 10 machines audited matched the reported results. The meeting was adjourned until 9 a.m. on Friday, December 18, 2020 at which time the Round 3 audit would be conducted.

The meeting reconvened at 9 a.m. on December 18, 2020. No members of the public were present. Ms Dixon randomly selected EDs 05-01 (a New Castle County ED) and 13-12 (a City of Wilmington ED) for the Round 3 audit and the office of Governor as the Statewide Office to audit. The team broke for lunch at approximately 12 Noon and returned at about 1 p.m. to continue the audit. The team completed the audit at approximately 3 p.m. Except for one instance discussed below, the manual counts matched the reported machine results.

The team found that there was one less physical ballot for machine NCC-0112 (XL0118090001) than the public count on the machine. After the team, Commissioner of Elections staff and ES&S examined the Audit log, it was determined that a ballot card that had been ejected from the front of the machine due to a paper jam but counted had been erroneously re-inserted into the PPM and counted again contrary to the instructions displayed on the machine. This accounted for the discrepancy. The Department will enhance training to prevent this from happening in future elections. The meeting adjourned at approximately 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Howard G. Sholl, Jr.
Deputy County Director