Post-Election Audit Landscape in the United States

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Jennifer Morrell
“A valid audit is the audit that your state is required to conduct.”
Post-Election Audits Validation

- **Arizona**: 2% of precincts or vote centers and 1% of early ballots with escalation
- **Colorado**: RLAs
- **Michigan**: Traditional and procedural audit
- **New Mexico**: Sample size based on the margin of victory with escalation
- **North Dakota**: Post-election logic and accuracy testing
- **West Virginia**: 3% of precincts; discrepancies of more than 1% lead to full manual recount
Audit

“A systematic, independent and documented process for obtaining audit evidence and evaluating the evidence objectively to determine the extent to which the audit criteria are fulfilled.”

Election Auditing: Key Issues and Perspectives, MIT Election Data + Science Lab and CalTech/MIT Voting Technology Project
Post-Election Tabulation Audits

Traditional/Fixed %
Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wisconsin

Hybrid
Arizona and New Mexico

Other
Arkansas, North Dakota, South Carolina and Wyoming

None
Alabama, Idaho, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Nebraska*, New Hampshire, and South Dakota

* Nebraska is marked as Hybrid but is included in the 'None' category.
Risk-Limiting Audit States

Implementing or Pilot Program
Indiana, Michigan, Nevada, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Virginia

Official Option (RLA or Fixed %)
California, Ohio, Oregon and Washington

Official Statewide
Colorado, Georgia and Rhode Island
Compliance Audits
Canvass & Certification

Reconciliation Overview for Canvass Process

- Distribute Ballots
- Process Ballots
- Tally Results

Reconciliation

Audit
Forensic Audits
Forensic

adjective: relating to or denoting the application of scientific methods and techniques to the investigation of crime

noun: scientific tests or techniques used in connection with the detection of crime

Oxford English Dictionary
- What are you auditing?
- Where are your audit procedures outlined?
- When will the audit take place and when will it be completed?
- Who runs the audit?
- Who can access paper ballots and voting equipment?
- Who can observe the audit?
- How are discrepancies handled?
Professional Code of Conduct

- Exercise sensitive professional and moral judgments in all activities.
- Act in a way that serves the public interest, honors the public trust, and demonstrate commitment to professionalism.
- Perform all responsibilities with the highest sense of integrity.
- Maintain objectivity and be free of conflicts of interest.
- Be independent in fact and appearance when providing auditing services.
“We are at our best when we face challenges together.”