

Why Do Audits?

A Verified Voting Overview



Why Do a Tabulation Audit?

Because we can't correct errors unless we know they happened.



Auditing can catch errors missed by other tests.

Logic and accuracy tests ensure machines are ready for election day, but intentional or accidental errors that occur after initial testing can go unnoticed.



Auditing provides a recovery plan for the vote count.

By preserving and then auditing voter-verified ballots, errors can be detected and corrected in a timely manner.



Auditing builds voter confidence.

Routine tabulation audits ensure quality control in the tabulation process. Checking samples of voter-verified ballots gives voters assurance their ballots count.



Why Do a Risk-Limiting Audit?

RLAs strategically allocate resources while providing evidence-based assurance of contest outcomes.



RLAs avoid checking ballots unnecessarily.

Risk-limiting audits base the number of ballots selected on the specifics of the contest. Contests with a wide margin can be audited with very few ballots, freeing up resources for closer contests. In general, risk-limiting audits can be conducted with a modest amount of effort.



RLAs are statistically sound.

The American Statistical Association endorses and recommends risk-limiting audits. When risk-limiting audit procedures are followed, there is only a limited chance that an incorrectly reported outcome could go undetected.



RLAs are flexible.

There are different types of risk-limiting audits, all of which provide statistical accuracy and efficiency. RLAs can adapt to various kinds of voting systems, as long as there are voter-verified ballots to audit.