

September 8, 2009 Primary Election Post-Election Audit Summary

The audit began with the random selection of precincts whose ballots cast totaled at least 5% of the total ballots cast in the election. With 47,233 total ballots cast, the target number for selection was set at 2,362. After the initial selection of 19 precincts totaling 2408 ballots cast, the precincts were grouped for auditing purposes based on the first contest appearing on each ballot. Two contests were selected including:

- Mayor of City of Cleveland
- Member of Lakewood Council at Large

After grouping the precincts by contest it was determined that the selected precincts represented at least 5% of the ballots cast in each contest so no additional selections were required.

Four bi-partisan teams of Board of Elections employees were designated as hand-counting teams. Each precinct was assigned to a hand-counting team along with a precinct-specific, contest-specific tally sheet. Teams counted the ballots in each count group- Election Day, Absentee, and Provisional separately, and recorded the results for each candidate, along with over-votes and under-votes within each count group. Results were then compared to the Official Canvass results by Ballot Department management.

A two-vote discrepancy was recorded throughout the entire audit.

In Cleveland 04 L one ballot was found in the supply bag and delivered to the ballot department after the election, but it was not included in the Official Canvass. It included 1 vote for Frank Jackson in the Mayoral race and 1 vote for Kenneth L. Johnson in the Ward 4 Council race. In Cleveland 11 H it was discovered that 1 ballot including a vote for Frank Jackson in the Mayoral race was scanned twice at the polls, and the blank ballot found in the ballot box was not scanned.

We recommend that the Board Amends the Official Canvass to include the additional vote for Johnson, bringing his total votes to 1,954. The Jackson votes cancel each other out, but the precincts to which they are assigned also should be adjusted. This Amendment will not change the outcome of either contest.