



# CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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December 11, 2008

The Honorable Jennifer Brunner  
Ohio Secretary of State  
180 East Broad Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Secretary of State Brunner:

The Cuyahoga County Board of Elections commenced the audit of the November 4th Presidential Election as per Directive 2008-113 on December 1, 2008. Sixty-eight precincts, in which 5% of the total ballots were cast in the presidential race, were selected, totaling 33,839 ballots to be audited. The outcome of the 5% phase produced a vote difference from the official count to the audit hand count of 48 votes, which represents an overall accuracy rate of 99.86%.

As a result of the vote difference being greater than the allowable two votes, we continued to the 3% phase of the audit as per the Directive. Thirty-eight precincts were selected, totaling 20,401 ballots to be audited. The outcome of the 3% phase has produced a vote difference from the official count to the audit hand count of 13 votes, which represents an overall accuracy rate of 99.94%.

Our analysis indicates that the probable causes of the variances are the result of human errors including double-bubble manual count and data entry errors, errors in attributing write-in-votes to candidates, and absentee and provisional ballots being misfiled in the wrong precinct.

In addition, we are certain that in some instances a ballot was scanned twice due to a paper jam on an M100 at the precincts or on an M650 high speed scanner for the absentee and provisional ballot counting. We have experienced this particular issue in prior elections this year.

This audit is intended to verify the accuracy of computer tabulated election results. The outcome of our audit, although being above the allowable two vote threshold, does not indicate system counting errors. We are confident in the accuracy and reliability of Cuyahoga County's vote tabulation system.

Based on the outcome of the audit, we know further administrative process and procedural changes in conjunction with improved training on the scanning equipment for our employees and poll workers can be made in order to reduce the human error factor. For example, in future elections, we will use header cards for all absentee and provisional ballot scanning in order to reduce the potential for ballots being intermingled in the wrong precinct. Additionally, further

use and training of the scanning system will enable our staff to properly resolve paper jams and eliminate double scanning of ballots.

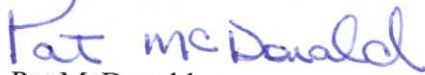
We believe that Cuyahoga County's 99.86% accuracy rate in the initial 5% of audited precincts and 99.94% accuracy rate in the additional 3% of audited precincts serve as evidence that the voting tabulation system is accurate, and therefore we have met the audit's purpose. Therefore, we respectfully request a waiver of the two or less vote difference in the audit.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Cordially,



Jane M. Platten  
Director



Pat McDonald  
Deputy Director

Enclosures

CC: Cuyahoga County Board Members  
David Farrell  
Reno Oradini