FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

2024 General Election Summary Report

Prepared by the Florida Department of State

pursuant to sections 101.591, 101.595, and 102.141, Florida Statutes

February 15, 2025

FLORIDA
★DIVISION OF★
ELECTIONS

Contents

Executive Summary

Per sections 101.591, 101.595, and 102.141(10), Fla. Stat., the Florida Department of State (Department) is required to submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives a general election summary report based on an analysis of three of the state's election processes. Specifically, the report covers: 1) the post-election voting system audit results (Part I), 2) the overvotes and undervotes data report for the top race on the ballot (Part II), and 3) the county conduct of election reports (Part III). This is the first general election cycle in which an analysis of the conduct of election report is included. This general election summary report is due by February 15 of each year following a general election.

The Department analyzed the results reported from the state's 67 county supervisors of elections' offices, encompassing the manual or automated independent audits conducted to identify any problem encountered with the accuracy of tabulation with certified voting systems, overvote and undervote data as it relates to the race for President and Vice-President to identify any problem with a voting system's design and/or ballot design for the 2024 General Election, and finally, the conduct of election reports to identify any issues or problems detailed in the conduct of election reports including but not limited to equipment or software, logic and accuracy testing, ballot printing, mailing and supplies, staffing, and procedures. While factors such as demographics, budgets, staffing levels, facilities, the county's choice of election systems, the number of registered voters, and the geography of a county vary across the state, the Department did not identify any issues or events outside the regular course of conducting an election.

The Department did not find any systemic anomaly regarding the voting system, ballot design or ballot instructions, or any unusual trends or issues not otherwise expected in the ordinary course of conducting an election. Further, there was no indication that voter confusion was a factor that may have in any way affected the results of the 2024 General Election.

Introduction

After a general election, the Department submits a report containing an analysis of three of the state's election processes to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives. The summary report is due no later than February 15 of each year following a general election, as required by sections 101.591, 101.595, and 102.141(10), Fla. Stat. The purpose of each of the analyses is defined in statute.

The three processes mentioned above are evaluated after the county has submitted results of each county's post-election voting system audit of the elections (Part I), the overvotes and undervotes for the top race on the ballot (Part II), and the conduct of election reports (Part III) for the 2024 General Election. Post-election voting system audit reports and overvote/undervote reports are due on December 15 following a general election. Conduct of elections reports are due no later than 20 business days after the Elections Canvassing Commission certifies the general election.

The intent of each of the analyses is to identify systemic anomalies, unusual trends, or issues that were encountered with the voting system, ballot design, ballot instructions, or the conduct of the election, and to ensure that there was no voter confusion that could have affected the results of the 2024 General Election.

More detailed information follows regarding the purpose of the three reports submitted by the counties. For definitions of election specific terms, please refer to the Glossary on Page 22.

Post-election voting system audit reports must include information regarding the overall accuracy of the audit, a description of any problems or discrepancies encountered, the likely cause of such problems or discrepancies, and recommended corrective action with respect to avoiding or mitigating such circumstances in future elections. There are two audit types available, namely a manual audit and an automated independent audit.

Overvotes and undervotes in the top race on the ballot are analyzed to determine possible underlying reasons voters may have marked too many or too few candidate choices for a given race. The specific charge is to evaluate whether inherent voting system design issues or whether ballot design and/or instructions may have led to voter confusion that affected the results of the election.

The conduct of elections report for each county is submitted to include information but not be limited to elections equipment and software malfunctions and various other errors encountered, such as those that could be discovered in the election definition after logic and accuracy testing, issues with ballot printing or vote-by-mail processing, or ballot supply problems. The reports must also include staffing information about unexpected/unanticipated shortages and procedural violations. Finally, if any of the above events are encountered, the county must provide a description of the steps taken to address the errors and/or problems.

General Information

Below is statistical information to assist the reader in interpreting the results of the analyses:

- Florida's Secretary of State is the chief election official in the state.[1]

- Florida provides voters three options for voting: vote-by-mail, early voting, and voting at the polls on Election Day. Florida counties prepare for and conduct elections with the expectation that voters may vote using any of the three voting methods.

- The state of Florida has 67 counties that are broken down into 5,612 precincts statewide.

- Counties are not permitted to buy, and vendors are not permitted to sell, election systems in the state of Florida until the systems have been tested and certified or approved by Florida's Secretary of State.[2] The available election systems pertinent to this report are in the table below.

Table 1 - Certified/Approved Election Systems in Florida

System Name	System Type	Vendor
ClearAudit	Approved automated independent audit system	Clear Ballot Group, Inc.
Democracy Suite	Certified voting system	Dominion Voting System, Inc.
EVS	Certified voting system	Election Systems & Software, LLC

- Voters voted on paper ballots using tabulating equipment. Between early voting and Election Day, there were 8,533 tabulators deployed throughout the state.

- There were 458 early voting sites statewide. These sites were open between 8 and 12 hours per scheduled day. The minimum mandatory period for early voting is 8 days with additional days available at the discretion of the supervisor of elections. A total of 65,442 ½ hours of early voting was held statewide.

- "Book closing" in Florida is the deadline by which a person must be registered to vote in the upcoming election. To be eligible, a person must be registered no later than 29 days before an election. For the 2024 General Election, the book closing date was October 7, 2024. The final number of registered voters for this election was 13,949,168.

- Of the nearly 14 million registered voters, 11,004,209 cast ballots, either by mail, at early voting, or on Election Day. While vote-by-mail has become increasingly popular in the last decade, early voting has also become a popular in-person voting option. For the 2024 General Election, early voting surpassed vote-by-mail and Election Day voting.

---

[1] Section 97.012, Fla. Stat.

[2] Section 101.294, Fla. Stat. and Rule 1S-5.026(2)9a, Fla. Admin. Code

Part I – Analysis of Post-Election Voting System Audits

Section 101.591, Fla. Stat., directs Florida counties to report on the results of voting system audits conducted after certification of election results in a general election. The purpose of the audits is to provide details identifying issues encountered in the election and to specify any recommended actions with respect to mitigating or avoiding such circumstances in future elections.

The voting system audit report must contain:

1. The overall accuracy of the audit;

2. A description of any problems or discrepancies encountered;

3. The likely cause of such problems or discrepancies; and

4. Recommended corrective action with respect to avoiding or mitigating such circumstances in future elections.

Each county has the option of conducting the audit by using one of the following methods:

- Manual Audit – A manual audit is a hand count of ballots of one contest chosen at random in at least one percent but no more than two percent of a county's precincts, also chosen at random; or

- Automated Independent Audit – A county may use an approved system, that is completely independent of the voting system, to audit all contests in a random selection of at least 20% of its precincts. Currently, the only approved automated independent audit system is ClearAudit™, by Clear Ballot Group.

By law, a county that undertakes a manual recount is not required to perform a voting system audit.[3]

The detailed procedures for conducting a post-election audit are contained in the "Procedures Manual for Post-Election Certification Voting System Audits" (DS-DE 410), incorporated by reference into Rule 1S-5.026, Florida Administrative Code (Fla. Admin. Code).[4] The counties use Form DS-DE 107 Voting System Post-Election Audit Report to report results, regardless of the audit method used (Appendix A). In addition, a county must summarize precinct information on a separate form based on the type of audit conducted, whether a manual audit, Form DS-DE 106 Precinct Summary – Manual Audit (Appendix B), or if an automated independent audit is conducted, a summary report listing the number of ballots and vote discrepancies computed at the lowest level of aggregation reported in the election.

The "Procedures Manual for Post-Election Certification Voting System Audits" stipulates that, if audit results show a discrepancy in any contest of half of 1% or more of the votes being audited, the canvassing

---

[3] section 101.591(6), Fla. Stat.

[4] See www.flrules.org; https://www.flrules.org/gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-14412

board must investigate the discrepancy and, in the case of an automated independent audit, the board must prepare Form <u>DS-DE 106A Discrepancy Report for Automated Independent Audit</u> (Appendix C) or equivalent system report, and further explain the discrepancy on form DS-DE 107.[5]

Methodology

The county Supervisors of Elections reported their raw audit data in a document designed for this purpose (Form <u>DS-DE 107 Voting Systems Post-Election Audit Report</u>).

The type of audit performed by the counties was nearly split with 33 doing a manual audit, 28 doing an automated independent audit, and six counties being exempt due to manual recounts.

Figure 1 - State Post-Election Voting System Audit by Type
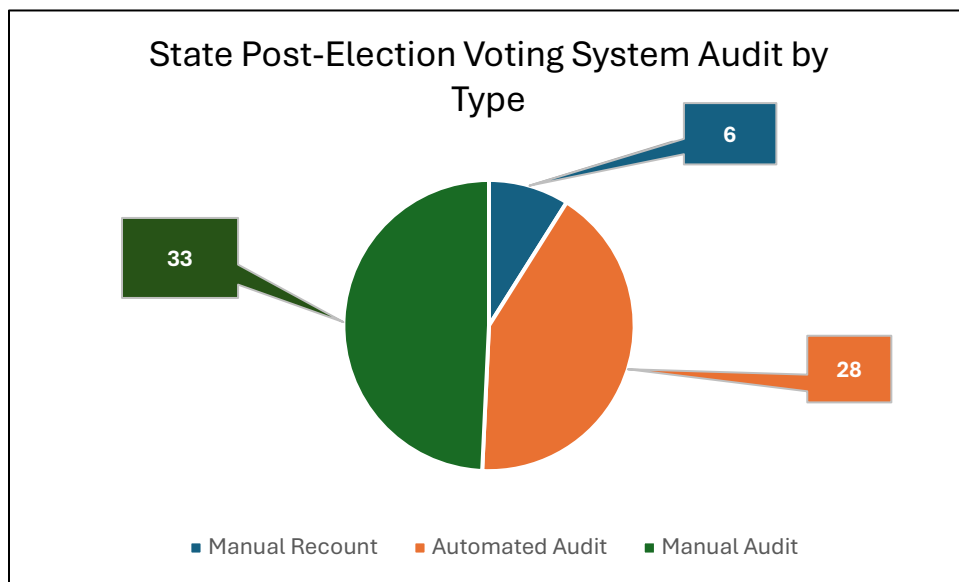
Findings

The overall average accuracy of the manual audits was 99.99%, while the overall average accuracy of the automated independent audits was 99.92%. There are distinct methodologies between the manual audit and the automated independent audit that can account for differences. The required precinct sample size for a manual audit is 1-2% of a county's precincts. In comparison, the required sample size for an automated independent audit is much larger (at least 20% of a county's precincts). In addition, the

---

[5] Sections 5(c) and 6(d). Procedures Manual for Post-Election Certification Voting System Audits (DS-DE 410) (<u>https://www.flrules.org/gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-14412</u>)

number of contest(s) to be audited differs between the two audit types. A manual audit requires the manual tally of a single randomly selected contest, whereas an automated independent audit requires the tally of every contest appearing on the ballot.

Most counties using the automated independent audit program chose to conduct an audit of 100%, or all, of their precincts. The automated independent audit's larger sample size could increase the likelihood of tallying differences between an automated independent audit system's results and the voting system's results. Most counties attributed the percentage differences to the distinct scanning technologies between the voting system and the audit system.

Some counties also attributed the differences to the number of voted ballots where the vote targets are not filled properly per ballot instructions. Depending on the calibration, an automated independent audit system may interpret ambiguous marks differently than the voting system. The numbers will vary from county to county depending on whether voters properly filled in the vote targets per the ballot instructions. This could, in turn, lead to a larger percentage of tallying differences between the automated audit program and the voting system, resulting in the appearance of a lower overall comparative accuracy rating for the automated independent audit program. For this reason, the canvassing board would conduct further manual review of the digital image and the paper ballot for a final determination. The audit results reported by county in the table below are identified by audit method (Table 2, below and following pages).

Table 2 - Post-Election Audit Results by County

County	Audit Type	Overall Accuracy
Alachua	Recount - Manual	N/A
Baker	Manual	100.00%
Bay	Automated	99.97%
Bradford	Manual	100.00%
Brevard	Recount - Manual	N/A
Broward	Automated	99.99%
Calhoun	Manual	100.00%
Charlotte	Automated	99.83%
Citrus	Automated	99.99%
Clay	Automated	100.00%
Collier	Manual	100.00%
Columbia	Automated	100.00%
Desoto	Manual	100.00%
Dixie	Manual	100.00%
Duval	Manual	100.00%
Escambia	Automated	100.00%
Flagler	Automated	99.94%
Franklin	Manual	100.00%
Gadsden	Manual	100.00%
Gilchrist	Manual	100.00%

County	Audit Type	Overall Accuracy
Glades	Manual	100.00%
Gulf	Manual	100.00%
Hamilton	Manual	100.00%
Hardee	Manual	100.00%
Hendry	Manual	100.00%
Hernando	Automated	99.99%
Highlands	Manual	100.00%
Hillsborough	Automated	100.00%
Holmes	Manual	100.00%
Indian River	Automated	99.99%
Jackson	Manual	100.00%
Jefferson	Automated	99.94%
Lafayette	Manual	100.00%
Lake	Automated	99.90%
Lee	Automated	99.99%
Leon	Automated	99.99%
Levy	Automated	99.71%
Liberty	Manual	100.00%
Madison	Automated	99.99%
Manatee	Recount - Manual	N/A
Marion	Manual	100.00%
Martin	Manual	100.00%
Miami-Dade	Recount - Manual	N/A
Monroe	Manual	100.00%
Nassau	Automated	99.08%[6]
Okaloosa	Manual	100.00%
Okeechobee	Manual	100.00%
Orange	Automated	100.00%
Osceola	Automated	99.60%
Palm Beach	Automated	99.96%
Pasco	Recount - Manual	N/A
Pinellas	Recount - Manual	N/A
Polk	Manual	99.80%
Putnam	Automated	100.00%
Santa Rosa	Automated	100.00%
Sarasota	Automated	99.99%
Seminole	Manual	100.00%
St. Johns	Automated	99.96%
St. Lucie	Automated	100.00%
Sumter	Manual	100.00%

[6] County stated that they did not include overvotes and undervotes in their audit accuracy calculation.

County	Audit Type	Overall Accuracy
Suwannee	Manual	100.00%
Taylor	Manual	100.00%
Union	Manual	100.00%
Volusia	Automated	99.99%
Wakulla	Manual	100.00%
Walton	Automated	99.99%
Washington	Manual	100.00%

Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusion of the post-election audit analysis, the Department recommends the following:

1. To elicit more objective data and a better response rate regarding likely reasons for any differences between the post-election audit results and voting system results, the Department will review and, if practicable, modify the DS-DE 107 Voting System Post-Election Audit Report Form.

2. To better account for the differences in the number of precincts required by the manual audit versus the automated independent audit, the Department will review and, if practicable, modify the method of calculating the percentage of agreement between the post-election audit and voting system results.

Part II – Analysis of Overvotes and Undervotes

Section 101.595, Fla. Stat., directs the Department to report on the performance of each type of voting system after a general election based on "…the total number of overvotes and undervotes in the 'President and Vice President' or 'Governor and Lieutenant Governor' race that appears first on the ballot or, if neither appears, the first race appearing on the ballot." Therefore, this analysis addresses only the 2024 contest for President and Vice-President (hereinafter referred to as "Presidential contest"). To do this, the Department consolidates and analyzes every county's data to determine whether there is an identifiable, systemic problem with a voting system's design and/or whether ballot design or instructions contributed to voter confusion.

An overvote occurs when a voter casts more votes than are allowed for that contest. In Florida, when tabulating ballots at an early voting site or at the precinct on Election Day, the voter is immediately alerted to the error when the tabulator rejects the ballot. The voter is then given the choice to correct the ballot or to cast the rejected ballot "as is." This remedy is provided to voters who vote during early voting or on Election Day. It is not possible to alert voters to cure one or more overvoted contests on a provisional or vote-by-mail ballot, since these types of ballots are canvassed and tabulated later at the central office.

An undervote means that the voter did not designate a choice for a contest and/or the tabulator recorded no vote for the contest. Occasionally, an undervote may be caused because the voter has not marked the ballot as directed in the ballot instructions. For example, a tabulator is likely to not read ballot contests marked with a yellow highlighter. Most often, however, an undervote reflects a voter's intent not to vote in a contest. A blank ballot (i.e., a ballot card without any selections made in any contest) is also considered an undervote. Florida law directs that voting systems are to be coded to alert the voter as to a blank ballot, but ballots with one or more undervoted contests do not trigger an alert. This remedy is provided to voters who vote during early voting or on Election Day. It is not possible to alert voters to cure one or more undervoted contests on a provisional or vote-by-mail ballot, since these types of ballots are canvassed and tabulated later at the central office.

Methodology

The Department uses Form DS-DE 40 General Election Report on Overvotes and Undervotes to collect data and other meaningful information. One section of the form also seeks the supervisors' input as to possible factors affecting overvotes and undervotes, and another section is reserved for additional comments. These sections are designed to elicit subjective county input into the possible factors driving overvotes and undervotes, and thus potential voter confusion.[7] See Appendix D.

---

[7] Form DS-DE 40 consists of 5 sections: Section I (Informational/Summary), Section II (Ballot Design), Section III (Possible Factors Affecting Undervotes and Overvotes), Section IV (Report Results) and Section

The counties' aggregate data was categorized and analyzed according to voting equipment type. Because the number of ballots cast vary greatly across Florida counties, ranging from a few thousand in some counties, to millions in others, the data collected from counties was normalized by converting raw values to percentages of an event. Converting the raw values to percentages of ballots cast makes it possible to compare events across all Florida counties. As part of the Department's continual improvement efforts, the Department routinely revises Form DS-DE 40 to better capture and quantify the factors that may contribute to voter confusion, if any. The most recent revision of the form was in February 2024.

Findings

The overvote and undervote rates for the state are both under one percent of all ballots cast in the Presidential contest.

Figure 2 - 2024 Presidential Contest Statewide Overvotes and Undervotes
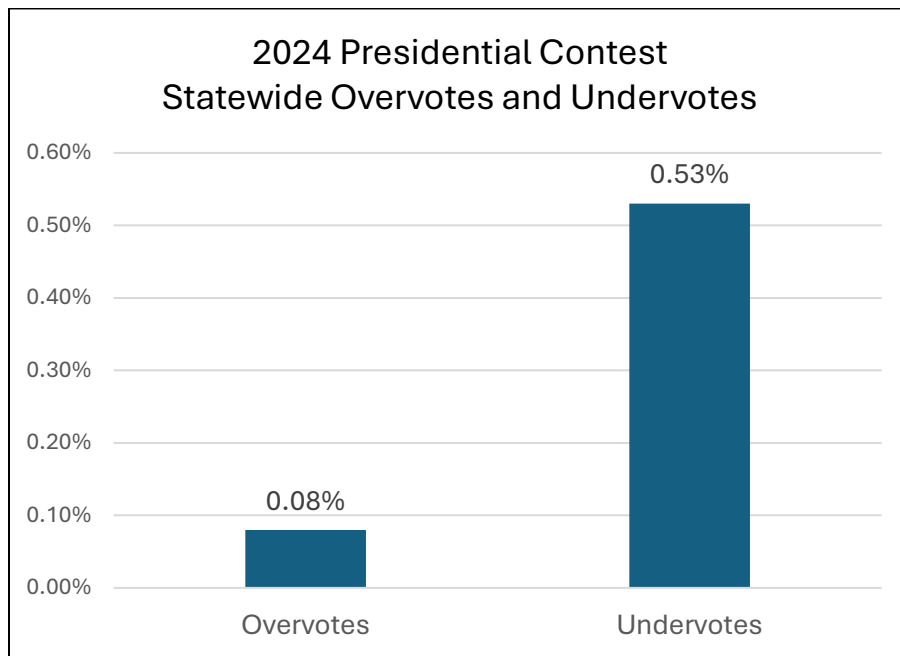
Early voting was the most popular voting method for the 2024 General Election, garnering almost half of all ballots cast. Out of 11,004,209 ballots cast statewide, 48.8% of them were cast during early voting.

V (County Comments for President and Vice President Race). Sections IV and V in the form are tailored in each general election year for the race that is under review.

Several factors, including the constituency, party affiliation, demographics, preferences in the county, or other extenuating circumstances, affect a voter's voting method.[8]

Figure 3 - 2024 General Election Distribution of Votes by Vote Method
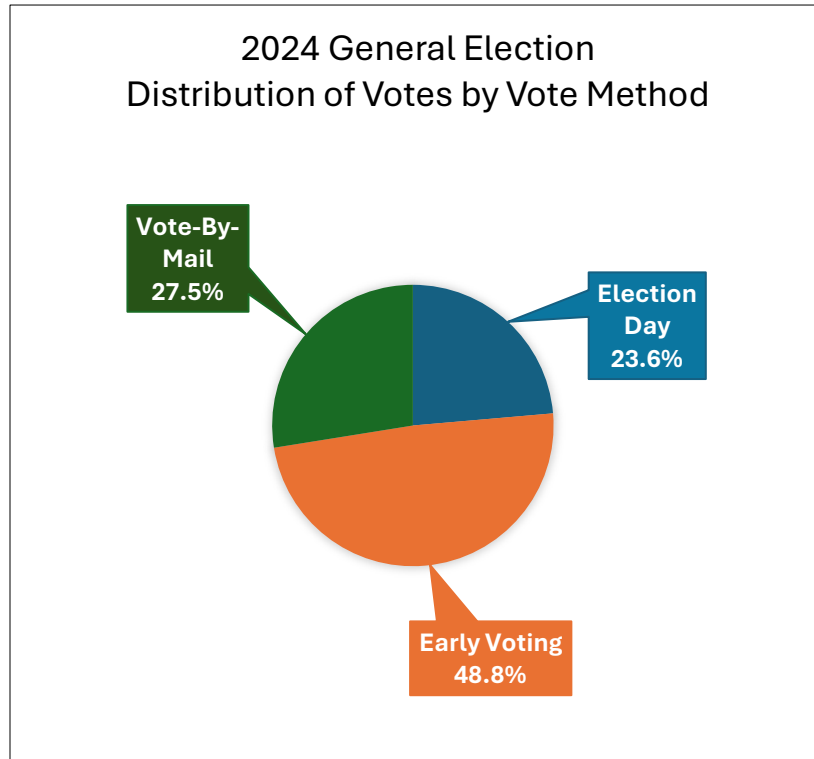
The 2024 data show that the Election Day voting method produced the highest rate of undervotes, while early voting produced the lowest rate. Voters voting on Election Day were more likely to leave the Presidential contest blank than voters voting during early voting or by mail.

---

[8] The 2020 election year, which coincided with the pandemic, showed a significant increase in vote-by-mail voting. This was normalized for the 2024 election year.
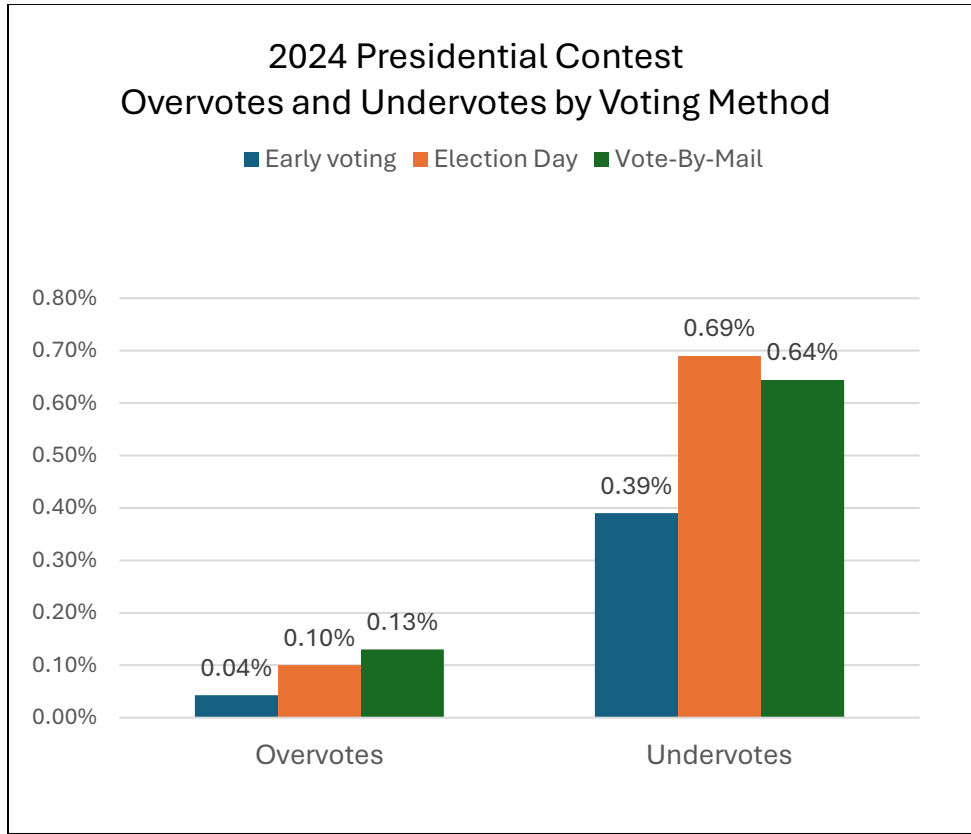
Historically, the overvote and undervote rates do not change dramatically. The top contest in the 2024 General Election had some of the lowest rates since 2012, except for the 2018 General Election, which had higher than usual numbers of overvotes.

The overvote and undervote data consistently demonstrates no correlation between ballot design and/or instructions and voter confusion. There is also no indication that the voting system manifested any design flaws or anomalies that might have led to voter confusion.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the Department recommends the following:

> To elicit more objective data, and a better response rate, regarding likely reasons for overvotes and undervotes in a contest and how voting systems or ballot design and instructions may have contributed to voter confusion, if at all, the Department will review and, if practicable, modify the data collection tool (Form DS-DE 40, <u>General Election Report on Overvotes and Undervotes</u>).

Part III – Analysis of Conduct of Election Reports

Section 101.141, Fla. Stat., directs the Florida counties to report on the conduct of the election. The report must, at a minimum, describe the following:

1. All equipment or software malfunctions in the election and the steps taken to address the issues;

2. All election definition errors discovered after the logic and accuracy test, and the steps that were taken to address the errors;

3. All ballot printing errors, vote-by-mail ballot mailing errors, or ballot supply problems, and the steps taken to address the errors or problems;

4. All staffing shortages or procedural violations by employees or precinct workers, and the steps taken to correct such issues;

5. All instances where the needs for staffing or equipment were insufficient to meet the needs of voters; and

6. Any additional information regarding material issues or problems associated with the conduct of the election.

The Department consolidates and analyzes the submitted county information and identifies whether there are potential problems that may be likely to occur in future elections. The analysis is shared with Florida's 67 county Supervisors of Elections. If recurring challenges and/or systemic problems are observed, the Department provides directives or recommendations for possible solutions and training enhancements.

Methodology

The counties reported their raw conduct of the election data in a document designed for this purpose (Form DS-DE 81, Conduct of Election Report).

The Department uses the 4M method of root cause analysis to identify the root causes of issues that may have occurred in the election. 4M is a problem-solving tool that allows us to isolate and group potential factors that cause problems in an election. The Department classifies reported issues into four categories: man, machine, materials, and method.

- The "Man" category covers human related issues such as election workers not following procedures or voters not following instructions.

- The "Machine" category includes responses about items that are software or hardware related.

- The "Materials" category encompasses shortages or issues with supplies needed to conduct the election. This ranges from ballot shortages to media failures (i.e. USB drive failures).
- The "Method" category includes events related to training or election coding issues.

Each root cause category is filtered into more detailed groups and then further refined into sub-groups, which is the lowest level of aggregation currently captured. A single incident may qualify for more than one group or sub-group. For instance, an incident of a wrong ballot issued to a voter could be reported as a "procedural error" as well as an "incorrect ballot" event.

Findings

There was a total of 2,378 reported events across the entire state during the 2024 General Election.

Of the total reported events, there were 1,295 events in the "Man" category, 1,132 in the "Machine" category, 54 in the "Materials" category, and 19 in the "Method" category.

Figure 5 - 4M Categories of Election Events by Percentage

Election Event - 4M Categories

Method
1%

Materials
2%

Machine
42%

Man
54%
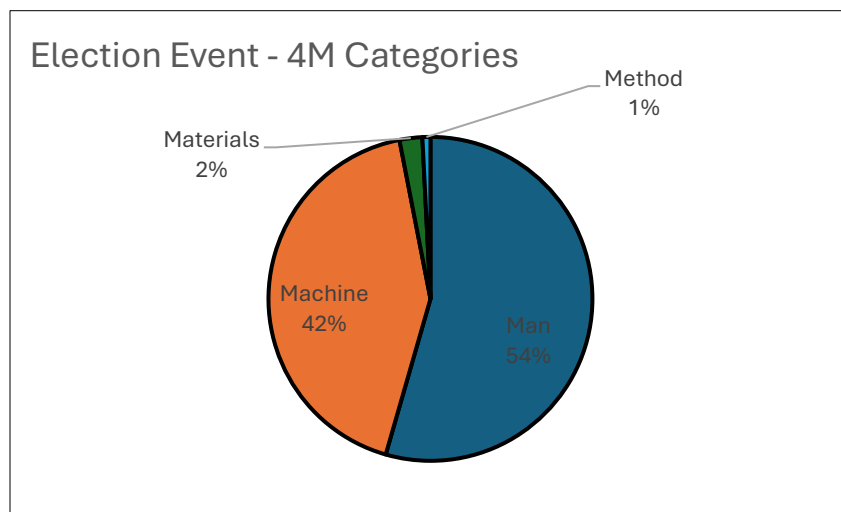
Man

The "Man" category contained the highest number of events in a single group as well as the highest number of events in a sub-group. This category is consistently the largest number within the 4M framework.

Figure 6 - "Man" Category Events

"Man" Category Events

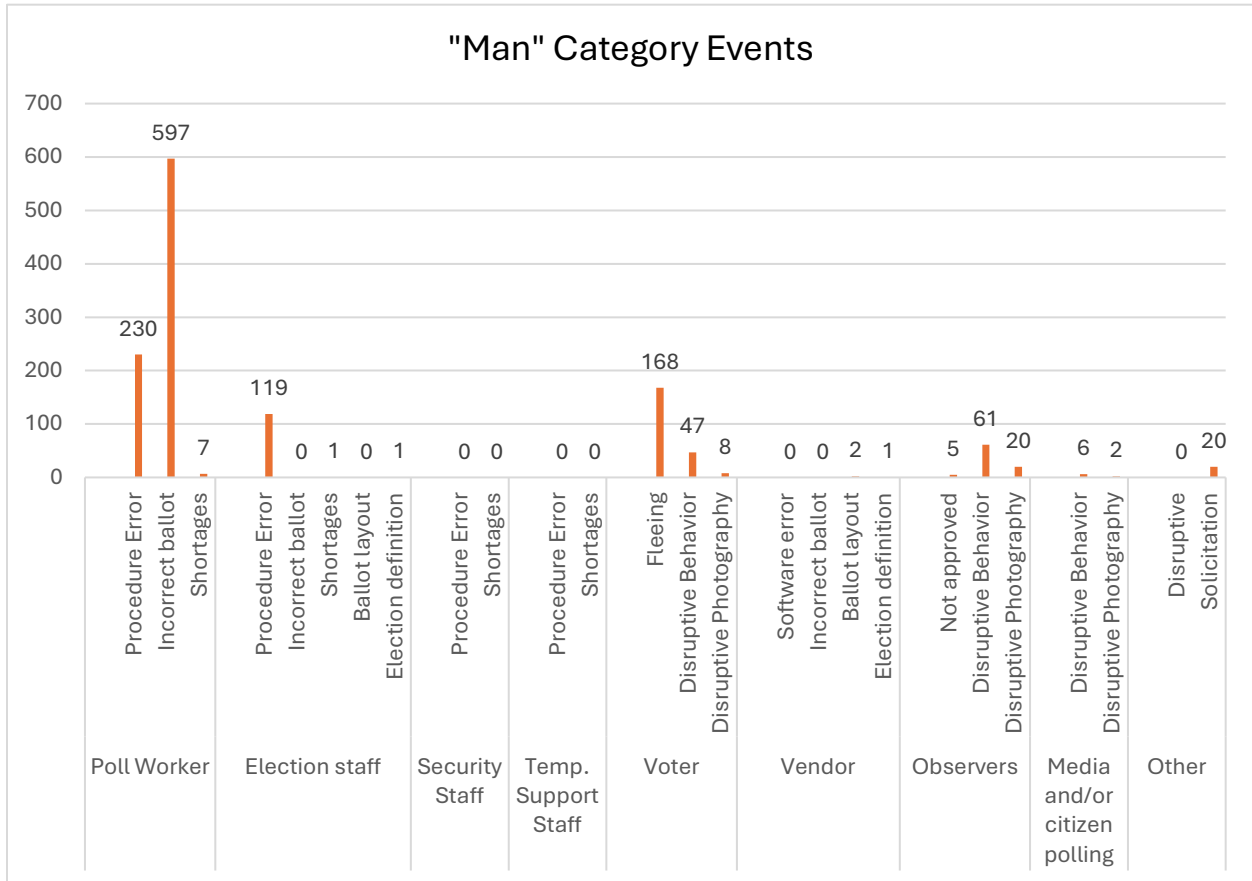| Group	Sub-group	Value
Poll Worker	Procedure Error	230
Poll Worker	Incorrect ballot	597
Poll Worker	Shortages	7
Election staff	Procedure Error	119
Election staff	Incorrect ballot	0
Election staff	Shortages	1
Election staff	Ballot layout	0
Election staff	Election definition	1
Security Staff	Procedure Error	0
Security Staff	Shortages	0
Temp. Support Staff	Procedure Error	0
Temp. Support Staff	Shortages	0
Voter	Fleeing	168
Voter	Disruptive Behavior	47
Voter	Disruptive Photography	8
Vendor	Software error	0
Vendor	Incorrect ballot	0
Vendor	Ballot layout	2
Vendor	Election definition	1
Observers	Not approved	5
Observers	Disruptive Behavior	61
Observers	Disruptive Photography	20
Media and/or citizen polling	Disruptive Behavior	6
Media and/or citizen polling	Disruptive Photography	2
Other	Disruptive	0
Other	Solicitation	20

There were 834 total reported events in the "Poll Worker" group. Within the "Poll Worker" group there were 597 instances of incorrect ballots being handed out. Most counties reported that when the poll workers were notified about the incorrect ballots, the correct ballots were issued. There were also 230 reports of poll workers not following procedures. While this is one of the higher numbers reported, it is important to note that poll workers are seasonal workers. They are vital to a county's ability to effectively and efficiently run elections. They also must successfully complete statutorily mandated training before every election (regardless of the number of times they have worked the polls)[9]. Overall, considering that

---

[9] Subsection (4) of Section 102.014, Florida Statutes, requires Supervisors of Elections to provide training for poll workers including a minimum of 2 hours for inspectors and 3 hours for clerks.

more than 42,000 poll workers were employed statewide for the 2024 General Election, counties do a commendable job training given that the percent of reported events involving poll workers is .01 of 1 percent.

The next highest number of events from the "Man" category was 223 total events in the "Voter" group, with 168 events attributed to voters fleeing or leaving the polling location without casting their ballots. The other major contributor to this overall number was 47 recorded events of disruptive behavior. The most reported cause was voters who were unaware that they hadn't registered to vote by the statutorily required book closing deadline or that they were not registered to vote at all in Florida. Eight incidents were reported of disruptive photography, which entails taking pictures or videos inside the polling location of other voters or the polling room. Other than a voter photographing his/her own ballot, Florida's law does not allow pictures or videos to be taken inside a polling location or outside a polling location with the camera or video directing its view inside the room.[10]

Machine

The "Machine" category covers those events that are associated with software and hardware, including tabulators, electronic poll books (EPollBooks), ballot-on-demand (BOD) printers, and other technology related items. With the rise and availability of new technologies that allow elections to be more efficient and, in many ways, less prone to errors, an increase in the number of reported events is not unexpected.

---

[10] See section 102.031, Florida Statutes.

Figure 7 - "Machine" Category Events
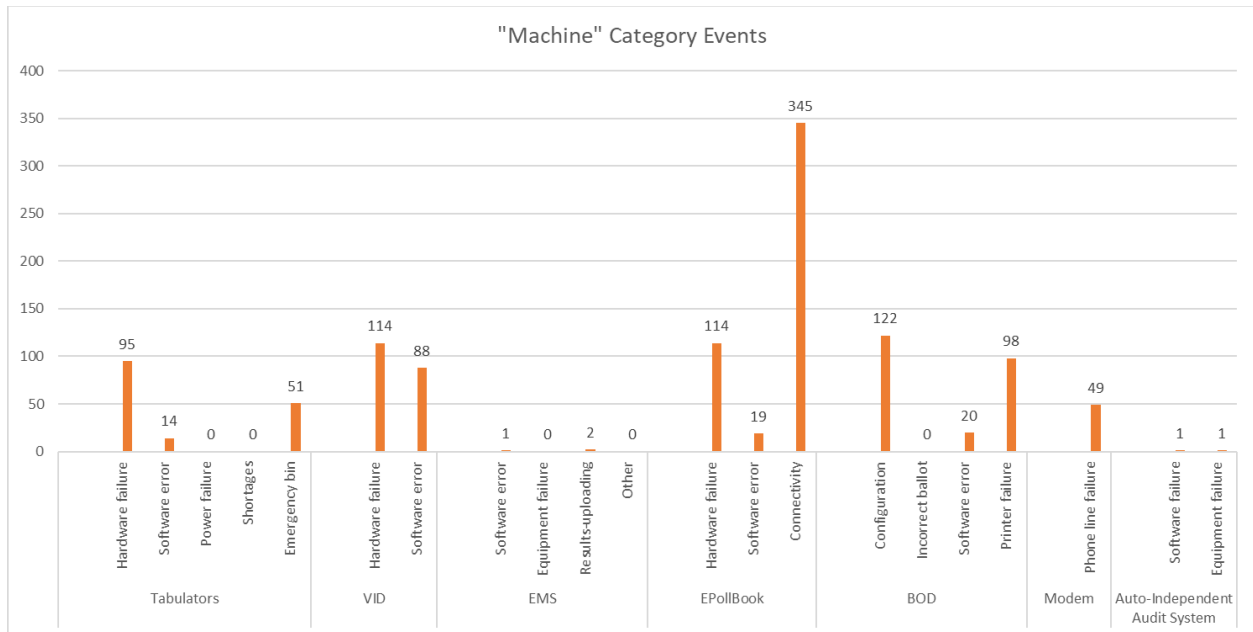
Within the "Machine" group, "EPollBook" had the highest number of reported events, at 478. Most of those events, 345, were related to connectivity issues. At least 300 of these connectivity issues originated in a small number of counties, where it was reported that a setting on the electronic poll books had to be changed to communicate with the central office. Counties reported that these connectivity issues did not prevent voters from being checked in. It should be noted that most counties have multiple electronic poll books at each polling location.

The "BOD," or Ballot on Demand, group had 240 recorded events. These events are associated with ballot on demand printer issues. BOD provides a printer solution to print a ballot at the time the voter checks in to vote. The reported issues were configuration related, or, in some instances, the printer itself stopped functioning. Several counties reported that simply rebooting the printer rectified the issues. Typically, there are multiple BOD printers available in a polling location. The counties reported that voters were minimally impacted by BOD issues.

There were 202 reported events associated with voter interface devices (VID)[11]. The greatest number of them were related to printer issues, the VID not accepting a ballot, or screen calibration issues. Of the

---

[11] Section 97.012(43), Florida Statutes: A "voter interface device" means any device that communicates voting instructions and ballot information to a voter and allows the voter to select and vote for candidates and issues. A voter interface device may not be used to tabulate votes. Any vote tabulation must be based upon a subsequent scan of the marked marksense ballot or the voter-verifiable paper output after the voter interface device process has been completed.

202 reported events, 186 of them were from just a few large counties that used the VID as their primary ballot marking method during early voting. Consequently, it was reasonable to see an increase in the number of events corresponding to when a county used VIDs more heavily.

There were 160 events involving tabulators. The tabulator is the machine that scans and tallies the votes on the ballot. There are precinct and central count tabulators. The specific events reported included ballot jams or cases where the tabulator wouldn't accept a ballot. Most counties reported that shutting down and re-powering the tabulator resolved the issue. For those instances when a replacement tabulator was needed, the emergency bin was used.

Materials

"Media Replacement" accounted for 49 out of the 54 events in the "Materials" category. The vast majority of these were attributed to the higher turnout, which caused a need for counties to replace storage media with larger capacity storage media. The "storage media" contains the information that the voting devices need to conduct the election, accumulate vote totals and, sometimes, ballot images.
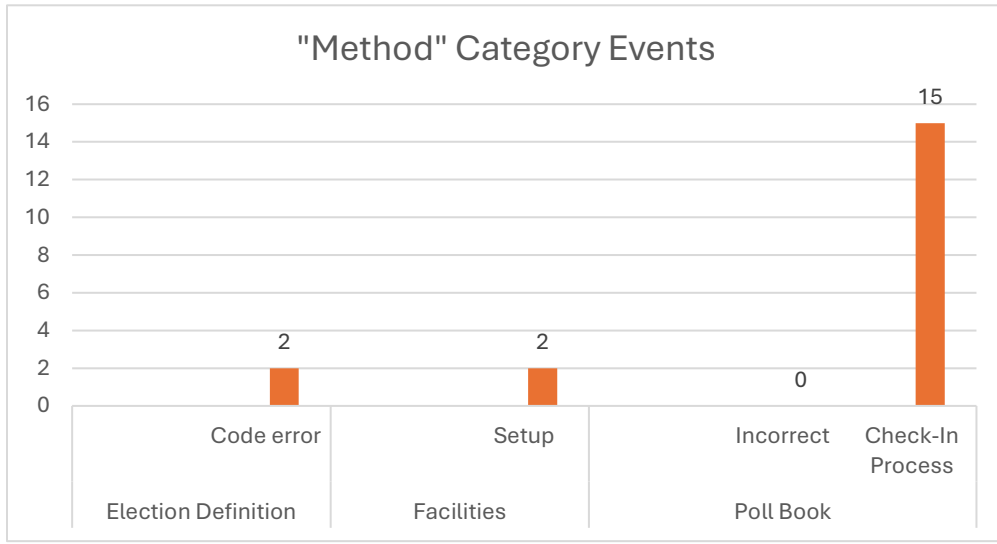
Figure 8 - "Materials" Category Events
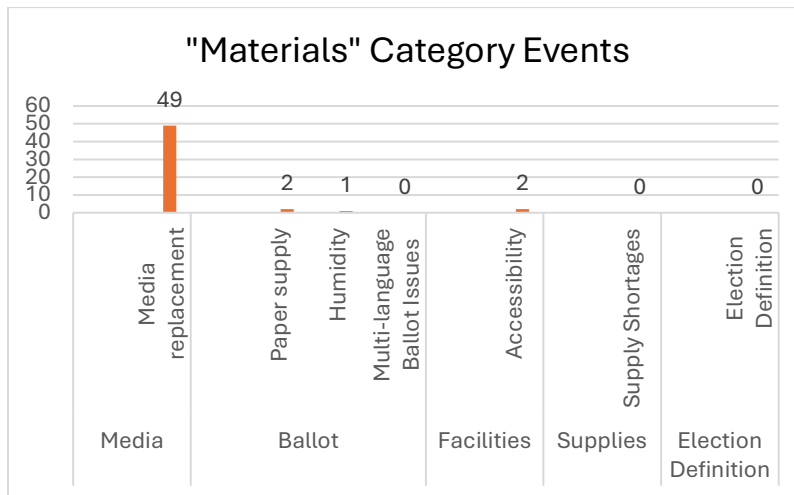
Method

The Method category includes events related to training or election coding issues. The "Method" category is continually the category with the least reported number of events, and this election is no exception.

Figure 9 - "Method" Category Events

As is shown, statewide there were only 19 reported events, 15 of which were associated with the check-in process. Most of these were related to the issue reported in the "Machine" category regarding connectivity issues with the electronic poll books. The remaining check-in related issues were because of difficulty finding the correct voter when the voter was trying to check in.

Summary

In summary, the highest number of events were reported in the "Man" and "Machine" categories. These findings are consistent with expected norms. The electoral process consists of people, machines and other technologies, and the interaction between the two. Even well-built, sturdy machines require maintenance and repair. The Division found no indication of systemic issues involving equipment, software, ballot printing, vote-by-mail ballot mailing, or ballot supply. Moreover, there were no systemic problems relating to staffing or equipment shortfalls, an overabundance of procedural violations by workers, or deficits with various materials and supplies.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the Department recommends the following:

> Counties should evaluate the events encountered during the election and determine if additional or more focused poll worker training can reduce the occurrences of those issues, particularly when checking in a voter and providing the voter a ballot. They should also collaborate with "like" counties to discuss best practices in any areas where there were opportunities for improvement.

Glossary

Term	Definition
Automated independent audit system	A combination of hardware and software technology used to independently tally the votes cast across every race that appears on all ballots cast in an election and to then be used as a comparison to the voting system results to verify that the ballots of record have been accurately adjudicated.
BOD printer (Ballot on Demand)	Printer that produces blank official ballots that are located at early voting locations and/or Election Day precincts.
Clear Ballot Group, Inc.	An audit system vendor that holds state of Florida approval of releases/versions of the "ClearAudit" automated independent audit system.
Dominion Voting Systems, Inc.	A voting system vendor that holds state of Florida certifications of various releases/versions of the "Democracy Suite" voting system.
Electronic poll book	A hardware device used by elections officials to "check-in" voters during an election. This technology takes the place of a 'paper poll register.'
Election Systems & Software, LLC	A voting system vendor that holds state of Florida certifications of various releases/versions of the "EVS" voting system.
Storage media	A piece of computer hardware on which data can be stored. For voting systems, media stores the votes on the voting system equipment (i.e., precinct and central count tabulators or ballot marking device) and is used to download votes onto the election management system.
Overvote (a.k.a. "overvoted race")	A ballot where a voter has chosen more than the maximum number of selections allowed in a contest/race. Overvoted races are not counted when they are cast into a tabulator.

Term	Definition
Polling location	The physical location where voters cast their ballot during either early voting or on Election Day.
Precinct	A precinct is a geographic subsection of a county, city, township, or village. Registered voters are required to vote at the precinct that is within the geographic boundaries of the area where their address is located.
Re-boot	An action taken to 'shut down' the voting device and then 'restart' the device.
Tabulator	A voting device that counts votes and produces aggregate results ("tabulates"). It may be a precinct scanner or a central count scanner.
Undervote (a.k.a. "undervoted race")	A ballot where the voter has chosen fewer than the maximum number of selections allowed in a contest/race.
Voter interface device	A device that communicates voting instructions and ballot information to a voter and allows the voter to select and vote for candidates and issues. A voter interface device is not used to tabulate votes. Vote tabulation is done with a subsequent scan of the marked ballot or the voter-verifiable paper output after the voter interface device process has been completed.
Vote-by-mail ballot	Formerly known as an absentee ballot. This is a term used for voters who wish to cast their vote other than at the polling place. If the eligible, registered voter is an absent uniformed service voter or an overseas voter, they are not required to submit a written request to their county Supervisor of Elections office for a ballot. All other voters, however, must submit a request for this voting method through their county Supervisor of Elections office.

List of Tables

List of Figures

Appendix A

Voting System Post-Election Audit Report, DS-DE 107

Voting System Post-Election Audit Report

County:_____   Date of Election:_____

Type of Audit (check applicable box):   ☐ Manual   ☐ Automated Independent

Precinct Number(s):_____

Race (if Manual Audit): _____

1.   Overall accuracy of the audit:

2.   Description of any problems or discrepancies encountered:

3.   Likely cause of such problems or discrepancies:

4.   Recommended corrective action with respect to avoiding or mitigating such circumstances in future elections:

Check applicable box and sign below:

☐ We hereby certify that the report of the voting system audit performed for the election is accurate and that attached are precinct summary reports for each precinct audited.

☐ We hereby certify that a voting system audit was not done because a manual recount was conducted under s. 102.166, Florida Statutes.

Signatures of County Canvassing Board members:

_____	_____	_____
Printed Name	Signature	Date
_____	_____	_____
Printed Name	Signature	Date
_____	_____	_____
Printed Name	Signature	Date

Rule 1S-5.026, F.A.C.   DS-DE 107 (eff. 01/2014)

Appendix B

Precinct Summary for Manual Audit, DS-DE 106

Precinct Summary for Manual Audit

Race Audited: _____

Precinct Number: _____

Candidate Name or Issue Choice	Voting System Total	Manual Public Tally Total	Difference (+ or −)

Number of ballots overvoted: _____

Number of ballots undervoted: _____

Number of indeterminate votes: _____

(Attach a separate Precinct Summary for each precinct audited.)

Rule 1S-5.026, F.A.C.   DS-DE 106 (eff. 01/2014)

Appendix C

Discrepancy Report for Automated Independent Audit, DS-DE 106A

Discrepancy Report for Automated Independent Audit

(**NOTE:** *This report is required only when the automated tally and official totals show a discrepancy in any contest of ½ of 1% or more of the votes being audited.*)

County: _____ Precinct: _____

Ballot type: _____

Race: _____

Candidate or Issue	Audit System Adjudicated Votes ❶	Audit Indeterminate Votes	Canvassing Board Adjustments ❷	Audit Total Votes ❶+❷=❸	Certified Results Total = ❹	Difference = ❹-❸ (+ or −)
Number of overvotes						
Number of undervotes						

Note: See definitions of terms on next page. Next page is <u>not</u> to be submitted with this page.

Rule 1S-5.026, F.A.C.   DS-DE 106A (eff. 01/ 2014)

Appendix C – cont.

Discrepancy Report for Automated Independent Audit, DS-DE 106A

DEFINITIONS FOR FORM DS-DE 106A

(NOTE: Do not submit when submitting first page of Form DS-DE 106A)

Audit Indeterminate Votes = number of votes where a marginal on a ballot caused the Canvassing Board to believe that the voting system may not have tabulated a choice in a race.

Audit System Adjudicated Votes = number of votes where the audit system assessed a valid vote.

Audit Total Votes = the sum of Audit Valid Votes and Canvass Board Manual Adjustments.

Ballot Type = the method of voting, *e.g.*, Election Day (in person) voting, Absentee (*i.e.*, Vote-by-Mail), Early Voting, Other (Military and Overseas).

Canvassing Board Adjustments = net number of votes where the canvassing board determined that the voting system should have tabulated a marginal mark as a choice in a race.

Certified Results Total = the number representing the official certified results (votes) reported for the race by ballot type and appropriate precincts.

Difference = the number representing the difference in the calculation: Certified Results Total minus Audit Total Votes.

Overvotes = the number representing those votes where the voter marks or designates more names that there are person to be elected to an office or designates more than one answer to a ballot question, and the tabulator records no vote for the office or question.

Undervotes (*i.e.*, blank votes) = the number representing those votes where the elector does not properly designate any choice for an office or ballot question, and the tabulator or audit system records no vote for the office or question.

Appendix D

General Election Report on Overvotes and Undervotes

General Election Report On Overvotes And Undervotes
(Section 101.595(1), Fla. Stat.) (Due to the Division of Elections no later than December 15th of the General Election year)

Section I

Information/Summary

The data in **Section I** pertains to this election.

General Election Year	1	2024
County Name	2	
Registered Voters	3	

Section II

Ballot Design

The data in **Section II** is for ballot design only. Please put an "X" in all boxes that apply. Refer to the Instructions worksheet, if needed.

Ballot Language

4	English only
5	Multi-Language - All languages on one ballot
6	Multi-Language - Each language on a separate ballot

Instructions

7	Ballot Instructions - Across page - Centered
8	Ballot Instructions - Across page - Flush Left
9	Ballot Instructions - Leftmost Column

Contest Title

10	Contest Title - No Background
11	Contest Title - Shaded Background

Rule Deviations

12		There were more candidates than would fit in one column or screen
13		The candidate's name was longer than would allow the party abbreviation to fit to the right of the candidat'es name
14		A candidate's name was too long to fit on one line in the minimum font size
15		The party abbreviation couldnot be printed in the minimum font size without going onto a second line
16		Printing the (Vote for X) designations in the minimum font size would have required require an additional ballot card
17		The voting system does not permit the suppression of party abbreviations when a universal primary contest exists
18		An other extraordinary circumstances which could not reasonably be accommodated except by deviation from the requirements of the rule. Describe in the Comments below:

Comments:

Appendix D – cont.

General Election Report on Overvotes and Undervotes

Section III

Possible Factors Affecting Undervotes and Overvotes

Please put an "X" in all boxes that apply. Refer to the Instructions worksheet, if needed.

Voting System

19		Voter Instruction Issue
20		Voting Equipment Issue
21		New Voting System

Ballot Length

22		Single Card
23		Multiple Card
		If multiple Cards, how many?
24		

Other

25		Natural Disaster
26		Other: Please Explain

Comments:

Appendix D – cont.

General Election Report on Overvotes and Undervotes

Section IV									
Report Results for:	**President and Vice President**								
The data in **Section IV** is for **this race** only. Please fill in all numbered boxes. Refer to the Instructions worksheet, if needed.									
NOTE: Only totals from the Election Day Database should be used. **Do Not** use totals from machine or manual recount.									

	ballots included in Group Totals (EV, ED, VBM) ↓	Votes cast including all write-ins ↓	Undervotes Do Not Include in "A" ↓	Overvotes Do Not Include in "A" ↓			Valid Write-In ↓	Invalid Write-In ↓
	Check if Yes	A	B	C			E	F
Early Voting	27 ☐	28	29	30			31	32
Election Day	33 ☐	34	35	36			37	38
Vote-by-Mail	39 ☐	40	41	42			43	44
Provisionals Accepted		45	46	47	←	G	48	49
		A	B	C		D	E	F
	Column total							

Grand Total = Sum of cells A + B + C
Grand Total =

Section V
County Comments For President and Vice President Race

Appendix E

Conduct of Elections Report, DS-DE 81

Conduct of Election Report
§102.141, Fla. Stat.

The Supervisor of Elections is required to file this report with the Division of Elections every election. **The report is due no later than 20 business days after the Elections Canvassing Commission certifies the election.** The report must be submitted via the SOE file transfer utility on the SOE portal. For assistance, please contact the Bureau of Voting Systems Certification at 850.245.6220.

1. County:_____

   Date of election: _____

   Type of election (check one):
   ☐ Presidential preference primary
   ☐ Primary
   ☐ General
   ☐ Special (specify): _____

2. Election management system used (specify system and version): _____

3. Election definition created by (check one):
   ☐ SOE staff
   ☐ Vendor name: _____
   ☐ Other (specify): _____

4. Automated independent audit system used (check one):
   ☐ No
   ☐ Yes (specify system and version): _____

5. Voter check-in device used (check all that apply):
   ☐ E-poll book (specify vendor name): _____
   ☐ Paper poll book

6. Provide a count of all voting devices used (insert applicable number) and explain the reason for removal, replacement, or addition of voting devices in the section provided.

Vote-by-mail (VBM) central count scanners (e.g. ▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓)				
Type of scanners used	Initial number of scanners deployed	How many were removed	How many were replaced	How many were added

Appendix E – cont.

Conduct of Elections Report, DS-DE 81

Precinct count scanners
(e.g., ▓▓▓▓▓▓▓)

	Type of scanners used	Number of polling locations	Initial number of scanners deployed	How many were removed	How many were replaced	How many were added
During early voting						
On Election Day						

Voter interface devices
(e.g., ▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓▓)

	Type of devices used	Number of polling locations	Initial number of scanners deployed	How many were removed	How many were replaced	How many were added
During early voting						
On Election Day						

Reason for removal, replacement, or addition of voting devices:_____

_____

_____

_____

7. Were there any equipment and/or software issues sustained at the precinct level, central count location, and/or vote-by-mail central count location?

☐ **NO** Proceed to #8

☐ **YES** Use the checkboxes below to indicate the type of issue and insert the number of times the issue occurred, during early voting and Election Day, in the appropriate columns on the right. Then, explain steps taken to resolve in the section provided.

☐ **Check box if a separate sheet is attached**

	Number of issues	
	During early voting	On Election Day
• **Precinct voting device issues** *(Check all that apply)*		
Precinct scanner - not connected to electrical power or power source issue		
Precinct scanner – battery backup issue – battery not charged		

Appendix E – cont.

Conduct of Elections Report, DS-DE 81

	Number of issues	
Precinct scanner – battery backup issue – removed from service		
Precinct scanner equipment issue – repaired – remained in service		
Precinct scanner equipment issue – removed from service		
Precinct scanner storage media issue – media replaced		
Precinct scanner software issue – repaired - remained in service		
Precinct scanner software issue – removed from service		
Precinct scanner did not reject a blank ballot		
Precinct scanner did not reject a ballot with an overvoted contest		
Precinct scanner did not accept one or more undervoted contests		
Precinct scanner ballot box diverter issue – removed from service		
Precinct scanner ballot box diverter issue – repaired – remained in service		
Used the precinct scanner ballot box emergency/auxiliary bin *(not the # of ballots)*		
Could not complete a modem upload or experienced problems with the phone lines		
Voter interface device software issue – repaired - remained in service		
Voter interface device software issue – removed from service		
Voter interface device equipment issue – repaired – remained in service		
Voter interface device equipment issue – removed from service		
Voter interface device – not connected to electrical power or power source issue		
Voter interface device – battery backup issue – battery not charged		
Voter interface device – battery backup issue – removed from service		
Voter interface device storage media issue – media replaced		
Other *(describe)*:		
• **Election management system issues** *(Check all that apply)*	**Number of issues**	
Election management system software issue - repaired - remained in service		
Election management system software issue - removed from service		
Election management system equipment issue – repaired – remained in service		
Election management system equipment issue – removed from service		
Uploading results or creating reports issue		
Other *(describe)*:		

Form DS-DE 81 (eff.02/16/2024)   Page 3 of 12

Appendix E – cont.

Conduct of Elections Report, DS-DE 81

• VBM central count location issues (Check all that apply)	Number of issues	
VBM scanner software issue - repaired - remained in service		
VBM scanner software issue - removed from service		
VBM scanner equipment issue – repaired – remained in service		
VBM scanner equipment issue – removed from service		
VBM scanner storage media issue – media replaced		
Other (describe):		

• Automated independent audit system issues (Check all that apply)	Number of issues	
Automated independent audit software issue - repaired - remained in service		
Automated independent audit software issue – removed from service		
Automated independent audit equipment issue – repaired – remained in service		
Automated independent audit equipment issue – removed from service		
Automated independent audit storage media issue – media replaced		
Other (describe):		

Steps taken to resolve: _____

_____

_____

_____

8. Were there any election definition and/or storage media issues discovered after the logic and accuracy test?
☐ No Proceed to #9
☐ Yes Insert the number of times issue occurred in the applicable fields below, and explain steps taken to resolve in the section provided.

☐ Check box if a separate sheet is attached

Election definition and/or media issue types		
Number of election definition issues	Number of precinct scanner storage media issues	Number of central count scanner storage media issues

Steps taken to resolve: _____

Conduct of Elections Report, DS-DE 81

---

9. How were ballots printed? (*Check all that apply*)

	Early voting	Election Day	VBM
Ballot-on-demand (BOD in-house)			
Ballot printing service (3rd party vendor)			

If vendor, provide vendor name:_____

10. Did any ballot printing and/or ballot supply issues occur?

☐ No   Proceed to #11

☐ Yes In the table below, provide the number of ballot type issues encountered. Use the checkboxes to indicate the type of issue and insert number of times issue occurred in the appropriate columns on the right. Then, explain steps taken to resolve in the section provided.

☐ Check box if a separate sheet is attached

Ballot printing and/or supply issues (*use all that apply*)			
Electronic ballot layout issues	Paper ballot layout issues	Paper ballot printer issues	Paper ballot supply issues

		Number of issues	
• Polling location ballot issues (*Check all that apply*)		During early voting	On Election Day
	Incorrect ballot provided to the voter – poll worker issue		
	Incorrect ballot provided to the voter – packing issue		
	Ballot moisture (humidity) issue - cannot scan ballot		
	Multi-language or minority language (e.g., Spanish) ballot issue - not available		
	Ballot-on-demand - printer configuration error issue, such as duplex		
	Ballot-on-demand software issue - printed incorrect ballot		
	Ballot-on-demand software issue – repaired – remained in service		
	Ballot-on-demand software issue – removed from service		
	Ballot-on-demand equipment issue - repaired – remained in service		
	Ballot-on-demand equipment issue - removed from service		

Appendix E – cont.

Conduct of Elections Report, DS-DE 81

Ballot-on-demand - incorrect ballot provided to voter issue – poll worker			
Other *(describe)*:			
• **VBM ballot issues** *(Check all that apply)*	**Number of issues**		
VBM software - repaired – remained in service issue			
VBM software - removed from service issue			
Incorrect ballot provided to the voter – SOE staff error issue			
Incorrect ballot provided to the voter – vendor error issue			
Multi-language or minority language (e.g., Spanish) ballot issue- not available			
Other *(describe)*:			
• **Other type of ballot issues encountered**	**Number of issues**		
Describe:			

Steps taken to resolve: _____

_____

_____

_____

11. Were there any staffing shortages and/or procedural deviations sustained by poll workers and/or staff?
☐ **No** Proceed to #12
☐ **Yes** Indicate the number of instances encountered in the applicable fields below, and explain the procedural deviations and steps taken to resolve them in the section provided.

☐ Check box if a separate sheet is attached

Types of staff	Number of shortages	Number of times procedures were deviated from
Poll worker		
SOE staff		
Security staff		
Temporary support staff		

What were the procedural deviations, and steps taken to resolve: _____

Appendix E – cont.

Conduct of Elections Report, DS-DE 81

_____

_____

_____

12. Were there instances when staffing and/or equipment were insufficient to meet the needs of the voters?

☐ **No** Proceed to #13

☐ **Yes** Specify the number of instances encountered below, and explain the steps taken to resolve, in the section provided.

☐ Check box if a separate sheet is attached

Types of resources	Number of planned resources	Number of resources available	Number of insufficient resources to meet the needs of the voters
Poll worker:			
▪ During early voting			
▪ On Election Day			
SOE staff:			
▪ During early voting			
▪ On Election Day			
Voting device:		See note below	
▪ During early voting			
▪ On Election Day			
Other equipment and supplies:			
▪ During early voting			
▪ On Election Day			

Note: *The number of 'planned resources' above is based on the Election Day estimates, and 'resources available' are the actual number of resources available at the start of Election Day. The number of 'Voting devices' is based on the initial amount deployed, including the number of 'Voter interface devices' (number you provided) in section 6, Election Day column, second page of this report. 'Other equipment and supplies' refer to the number of electronic poll books, provisional ballots, ballot boxes, transfer bags, etc.*

Steps taken to resolve: _____

_____

_____

_____

Appendix E – cont.

Conduct of Elections Report, DS-DE 81

13. Were there any issues associated with voter check-in?
- ☐ **No** Proceed to #14
- ☐ **Yes** Use the checkboxes to indicate the type of issue, and number of times issue occurred, in the appropriate columns on the right. Then, explain the steps taken to resolve, in the section provided.

  ☐ **Check box if a separate sheet is attached**

	Number of issues	
• **Voter check-in device issue** (Check all that apply)	During early voting	On Election Day
Electronic poll book equipment issue – repaired – remained in service		
Electronic poll book equipment issue – removed from service		
Electronic poll book software issue – repaired – remained in service		
Electronic poll book software issue – removed from service		
Electronic poll book media issue – media replaced		
Electronic poll book connectivity issue – repaired – remained in service		
Electronic poll book connectivity issue – removed from service		
Electronic poll book check-in process		
• **Paper poll book / precinct register issue** (Check all that apply)	Number of issues	
Paper poll book – incorrect		
Paper poll book – check-in process		
• **Other type of voter check-in issues encountered**	Number of issues	
Describe:		

Steps taken to resolve: _____

_____

_____

_____

14. Were there any additional issues associated with the conduct of election?
- ☐ **NO** Proceed to #15
- ☐ **YES** Use the checkboxes below to indicate the type of issue and input number of times issue occurred

Appendix E – cont.

Conduct of Elections Report, DS-DE 81

in the appropriate fields. Then, explain the steps taken to resolve in the section provided.

☐ Check box if a separate sheet is attached

	Number of issues	
• **Polling location issues** (*Check all that apply*)	During early voting	On Election Day
Incorrect setup issue		
Solicitation area violated issue		
Incompatible issue for ADA accessibility		
Incompatible issue for use as a polling location		
• **Voter issues** (*Check all that apply*)	**Number of issues**	
Fleeing voter issue		
Disruptive behavior issue		
Disruptive photography issue		
• **Observers (e.g. poll watchers, candidates, political party official, political committee, or designees, representatives, public) issues** (*Check all that apply*)	**Number of issues**	
Disruptive behavior issue		
Disruptive photography issue		
• **Media and/or citizen polling issue**	**Number of issues**	
Disruptive behavior issue		
Disruptive photography issue		
• **Other type of issues associated with the conduct of election**	**Number of issues**	
Describe:		

Steps taken to resolve: _____

_____

_____

_____

15. If the canvassing board conducted a manual recount of overvotes and undervotes, does the canvassing board have any suggested revisions to the law or the rules for determining a voter's choice? (*Sections 101.6952, 102.166, Fla. Stat., and Rules 1S-2.027, 1S-2.051 Fla. Admin. Code*)

☐ **N/A** Proceed to #16
☐ **NO** Proceed to #16

Appendix E – cont.

Conduct of Elections Report, DS-DE 81

☐ **YES** Provide suggested revisions in the section below. Attach copy of ballot(s) for which a determination could not be made, so to illustrate the issue and select the checkbox.

☐ **Check box if a separate sheet is attached**

Suggested revision: _____

_____

_____

_____

16. Signature

Signature: _____

Print name: _____

Supervisor of Elections for _____ County

Date: _____

NOTICE: A statutory duty exists to continually report any new or additional information regarding any of the items required to be included in this report after the report is filed. The supervisor of elections must:
1. Notify the Division of Elections no later than the next business day after the discovery of information, and
2. Submit to the Division of Elections, a signed amended conduct of election report within 10 days after discovery.

Appendix E – cont.

Conduct of Elections Report, DS-DE 81

Addendum

Services and materials provided to accommodate Spanish language voters.

1. What type of Spanish-language ballot was offered? (*Check all that apply*)

	Unilingual ballot
	Bilingual or multilingual ballot
	Voter interface device (AutoMARK, ExpressVote, or ICE)

2. How many voters requested a Spanish-language ballot (*only applicable to counties with single language ballots*)?

3. What method of language assistance was offered by SOE? (*Check all that apply*)

	Bilingual staff
	Language assistance hotline
	Professional translation services by phone
	Translated election related signage and materials
	Other (*describe*):

4. What method of language assistance was offered at the polling locations? (*Check all that apply*)

	Bilingual election worker
	Voter assistance hotline
	Professional translation services by phone
	Virtual bilingual election worker
	Translated Spanish language election related signage and materials
	Other (*describe*):

5. What form of language assistance was offered on the Supervisor of Elections' website? (*Check all that apply*)

	Fully translated website in _____ [list language(s)]
	Link to state's Spanish-language information website
	Translated language election related materials: _____ _____ [list language(s)]

Appendix E – cont.

Conduct of Elections Report, DS-DE 81

Other *(describe)*:

Please provide any additional relevant information:_____

_____

_____

_____

_____