
Post-Election Audit of the April 5, 2022 Election

Audit Date:

May 5, 2022

Room 321, City County Building
Madison, WI

Lead Auditor:

Anne Murphy-Lom

Auditors:

David Diamondstone

Anne Habel

Rosalie Powell

David Spies

Overall, the May 5, 2022 Post-Election Audit went well. The two wards randomly selected for the audits include:

- City of Madison, Ward 73
- Town of Cottage Grove, Wards 1-6

Lead Auditor, Anne Murphy-Lom, served as the ballot courier on the morning of Thursday, May 5, 2022, to collect the sealed ballot bags from the Clerk's Office for the Town of Cottage Grove, maintaining chain of custody and transported them to the Dane County Clerk's Office. The City of Madison Clerk's Office delivered ballots for Ward 73 directly to Dane County Clerk's Office, maintaining chain of custody.

Auditors Anne Murphy-Lom, David Diamondstone, Anne Habel, Rosalie Powell, and David Spies went to Room 321, City-County Building, Madison, WI on Thursday, May 5, 2022, to conduct an audit of paper ballots for City of Madison, Ward 73 and the Town of Cottage Grove, Wards 1-6, from the April 5, 2022, election. The audit was available by live stream for members of the public to attend.

Audit Preparation Timeline (Lead Auditor)

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm 4/11/22 April 5 Post Election Audit scheduling/logistics/selection of wards

11:45 pm – 12:30 pm 4/22/22 April 5 Post Election Audit scheduling/logistics

7:00 pm – 9:30 pm 5/4/22 Final audit preparations including revision and printing of materials

8:45 am – 9:30 am 5/5/22 Ballot transport from Town of Cottage Grove to Clerk's Office

9:30 am – 12:15 pm 3/1/21 Conduct Post-Election Audit of April 5 election

Audit Courier Timeline (verifying Chain of Custody) on May 5, 2022

9:30 am: Lead Auditor arrived at City-County Building to verify room set-up and accessibility.

9:35 am: Auditors met in lobby of City-County Building to discuss procedures and receive audit paperwork.

9:40 am: Auditors obtained chain-of-custody initials; received ballot bags, location-specific polling place incident reports, and election night tabulator report tapes for the County Clerk; auditors maintained chain of custody during final transport of materials from County Clerk's Office to Room 321, City-County Building.

9:47 am: Auditors entered Room 321 to conduct a public meeting regarding a post-election audit of paper ballots of select Dane County from the April 5, 2022, election for City of Madison, Ward 73 and Town of Cottage Grove, Wards 1-6. Auditors unloaded audit materials and prepared audit room.

10:00 am: Lead Auditor made introductory remarks. There were no observers or press in attendance throughout the audit. Meeting was also live streamed by the County Clerk's Office.

10:02 am: Lead Auditor assigned Auditors Anne Habel and David Spies to audit City of Madison, Ward 73; assigned Auditors David Diamondstone and Rosalie Powell to audit Town of Cottage Grove, Wards 1-6.

10:05 am: Audit commenced:

- Auditors of Town of Cottage Grove: Ballot bags #150750, 150748, 150747, 150751, and 150749 were opened and tallied. *Note: Cottage Grove counted absentees on a separate tabulator so there were 2 tabulator tapes. Counts from each tape were combined for the purpose of the audit.*
- Auditors of City of Madison, Ward 73: Ballot bag #00000867 was opened and tallied.

10:43 am: Auditors for the Town of Cottage Grove, Wards 1-6 completed the ballot count. The number of ballots matched the count provided by the County Clerk's Office.

11:01 am: Auditors for the City of Madison, Wards 73 completed the ballot count. The number of ballots matched the count provided by the County Clerk's Office.

11:51 am: Auditors for the Town of Cottage Grove, Wards 1-6 completed the audit tally. Auditors reviewed and reconciled tally sheets. The results matched the results provided by the County Clerk's Office.

12:18 pm: Auditors for the City of Madison completed the audit tally. Auditors reviewed and reconciled tally sheets. The tally of votes did not match the results provided by the County Clerk's Office. The auditors located the ballot, and it was determined the discrepancy was due to auditors recording a write-in where even though the bubble was not filled in. The tabulator counted it correctly as an undervote and not a write-in.

12:04 pm: Auditors for the Town of Cottage Grove, Wards 1-6 resealed ballots in new ballot bag.

- New ballot bag seal #008105 (contains contents of ballot bags seal #150750, 150748, 150747, 150751, and 150749)

12:25 pm: Auditors for the City of Madison, Wards 73 resealed ballots in new ballot bag.

- New ballot bag seal #008196 (contains contents of ballot bag seal #00000867)

12:35 pm: Auditors left audit room and returned all paperwork and ballot bags to Dane County Clerk's Office. Ballots were secured in the Clerk's Office. Audit was complete.

Results of Post-Election Audit

City of Madison, Ward 73

Madison Metropolitan School District – Seat 3

Post Election Audit Results: (416 total votes)

Candidate	Vote Tally
Shepherd Joyner	149
Laura Simkin	242
Write-In	5
*Undetermined	0
Blank	20

*Undetermined: ballots which the auditors could not determine intent

Publicly Reported Results provided by County Clerk: (416 total votes)

Candidate	Vote Tally
Shepherd Joyner	149
Laura Simkin	242
Write-in	4
*Undetermined	0
Blank	21

Results of Post-Election Audit

Town of Cottage Grove, Wards 1-6

County Supervisor – District 36

Post-Election Audit Results: (491 total ballots)

Candidate	Vote Tally
Andrew McKinney	188
Melissa Ratcliff	290
Write-In	1
*Undetermined	0
Blank	12

*Undetermined: ballots which the auditors could not determine intent

Publicly Reported Results provided by County Clerk: (491 total ballots)

Candidate	Tally
Andrew McKinney	188
Melissa Ratcliff	290
Write-in	1
*Undetermined	0
Blank	12

Observations

The May 5, 2022 audit of paper ballots only took about 2.75 hours, which was expected with a low turnout election. Two auditors were able to conduct the audit of each ward efficiently.

The auditors are continuing to use audit tally sheets based off one created and distributed by the WEC. All auditors agreed that the tally sheets make it easy to keep track of the overall count and to reconcile discrepancies throughout the process. The auditors are now keeping track of undetermined and blank ballots separately as well, which also makes the tally easier to reconcile.

The auditors would like to thank chief inspectors and their teams who continue to provide good information on the Inspector's Statement. The documentation on those statements make it much easier for the auditors to reconcile numbers and understand discrepancies.

City of Madison, Ward 73

- The total number of ballots counted by auditors in City of Madison, Ward 73 equaled the total number of ballots reported on the tabulator tape from election night from City of Madison, Ward 73.
- The total votes counted by auditors in City of Madison, Ward 73 for the MMSD – Seat 3 equaled the total number of votes reported on the tabulator tape from election night from City of Madison, Ward 73.
- Vote totals counted by auditors in City of Madison, Ward 73 for the MMSD- Seat 3 did not equal the candidate vote totals reported on the tabulator tape from election night from City of Madison, Ward 73.
 - Auditors tabulated a write-in vote which should have been considered blank/undervote since the bubble for the write-in was not filled in. The tabulator counted the ballot correctly as an undervote.

Town of Cottage Grove, Wards 1-6

- The total number of ballots counted by auditors in Town of Cottage Grove, Wards 1-6 equaled the total number of ballots reported on the tabulator tape from election night from Town of Cottage Grove, Wards 1-6
- The total votes counted by auditors in Town of Cottage Grove, Wards 1-6 for the County Supervisor – District 36 equaled the total number of votes reported on the tabulator tape from election night from Town of Cottage Grove, Wards 1-6.
- Vote totals counted by auditors in Town of Cottage Grove, Wards 1-6 for the County Supervisor – District 36 equaled the candidate vote totals reported on the tabulator tape from election night from Town of Cottage Grove, Wards 1-6.

Recommendation: Overall, the process went very smoothly and we would like thank election officials and the clerks for their diligence in executing an election. The inspectors statements were clear and helped us answer any questions that we had.

Creatively Marked Ballots

There were some instances of ballots which intent could be determined but were marked in a way which in another instance might not have been detected by the tabulator. Instances included:

- Lines through circle, rather than filled-in
- Marks (even small ones) in more than one circle, which causes an overvote.
- Including a write-in as well as voting for another candidate or not filling in the write in circle.

Recommendation: Voter outreach could correct these issues. Continue voter education outreach at the polling place, emphasizing the best practice **to completely fill in the oval** to indicate voter intent on the ballot. Clerks should also emphasize the importance of an election official monitoring the tabulator so they can immediately assist a voter if the tabulator identifies an overvote.

This audit illustrated one of these issues, where a voter clearly wrote in a candidate, but because they did not fill in the oval next to the write in option, it did not count. While this would have been caught in a hand recount, in this election, a vote for a potential candidate did not count due to voter error.

Action Plan:

- Lead Auditor will continue to refine audit procedures reflecting recommendations and best practices and continue to follow changes as they occur.

Addendum:

- Post-Election Audit Tally Sheet (Template), City of Madison, Ward 73, May 5, 2022, Audit
- Post-Election Audit Tally Sheet (Template), Town of Cottage Grove, Wards 1-6, May 5, 2022 Audit
- Post-Election Audit Inspectors Statement (Template), City of Madison, Ward 73, May 5, 2022 Audit
- Post-Election Audit Inspectors Statement (Template), Town of Cottage Grove, Wards 1-6, May 5, 2022