

**Post-Election Audit
of the
February 20, 2018
Election**

March 8, 2018

Room 357, City-County Building

Madison, WI

Debriefing Report

March 29, 2018

Anne Murphy-Lom, Lead Auditor

Jon Becker, Auditor

Marian Matthews, Auditor

Jeanne Thieme, Auditor

Daina, Zemliauskas, Auditor

Overall, the March 8th Post-Election Audit went very well. The two wards randomly selected for audit include:

- City of Madison, Ward 89
- City of Sun Prairie, Wards 1-5

Auditors Anne Murphy-Lom (Lead) and Claire Murphy served as ballot couriers on Wednesday, March 7, 2018 to collect ballots from the of Clerks Office for the City of Sun Prairie, maintaining the chain of custody at all times, and transported them to the Dane County Clerk's Office. The City of Madison Clerk's Office transported ballots from Ward 89 directly to the Dane County Clerk's Office, maintaining chain of custody on March 2, 2018.

Auditors Anne Murphy-Lom (Lead), Jon Becker, Marian Matthews, Jane Thieme, and Daina Zemliauskas went to Room 357, City-County Building, Madison, WI on Thursday, March 8, 2018 to conduct an audit of paper ballots for City of Madison, Ward 89 and City of Sun Prairie, Ward 1-5 from the February 20, 2018 election.

Audit Timeline:

Audit Preparation Timeline (Lead Auditor):

12:30 pm – 1:00 pm 2/12/18: February 20 Post Election Audit scheduling/logistics

7:45 am - 8:30 am 2/16/18: February 20 Post Election Audit scheduling/logistics

11:45 am - 12:30 pm 2/22/18: February 20 Post Election Audit Scheduling/logistics

8:00 pm – 8:45 pm 2/26/18: February 20 Post Election Audit Scheduling/logistics

12:30 pm – 1:00 pm 2/27/18: February 20 Post Election Audit Scheduling/logistics

4:30 pm – 5:00 pm 4/27/18: February 20 Post Election Audit Scheduling/logistics

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm 3/4/18: Revision of audit paperwork

2:45 pm – 4:30 pm 3/7/18: Ballot transport for Sun Prairie prior to audit

7:30 pm – 8:15 pm 3/7/18: Final audit preparations including revision and printing of materials

8:00 am – 12:30 pm 3/8/18: Conduct Post-Election Audit of 2/20/18 election

Audit Courier Timeline (verifying Chain of Custody)

March 2, 2018 – City of Madison

Ballots from the City of Madison were delivered to the Dane County Clerk's Office on March 2, 2018, maintaining chain of custody.

March 7, 2018 – City of Sun Prairie

2:45 pm: Met Claire Murphy at agreed on location; drove together in Lead Auditor's vehicle to City of Sun Prairie's Clerk's Office.

3:25 pm: Arrived at City of Sun Prairie Clerk's Office.

3:32 pm: Received 1 ballot box (seal number 55598006) and signed chain of custody report.

Drove ballots to City-County Building together in Lead Auditor's Vehicle with Claire Murphy, maintaining chain of custody.

4:20 pm: Arrived at City-County Building; Anne Murphy-Lom and Claire Murphy transferred 1 ballot box (seal number 55598006) to Dane County Clerk's office, maintaining chain of custody.

Audit Timeline (verifying Chain of Custody) March 8, 2018:

8:00 am: Lead Auditor arrived at City-County Building to verify room set-up/accessibility.

8:35 am: All Auditors met in lobby of City-County Building to discuss procedure and receive audit paperwork.

8:45 am: Auditors obtained chain-of-custody initials; received ballot bags, and location-specific polling place incident reports with location-specific County election night tabulator report tapes; all auditors maintained chain-of-custody during final transport of materials from County Clerk's Office to Room 357, City-County Building.

8:48 am: Auditors entered Room 357; upon entry to room, auditors publicly announced *"We are auditors with the Dane County Clerk's Office. Our purpose is to conduct a public meeting regarding a post-election audit of paper ballots of select Dane County polling locations from the February 20, 2018 election. The randomly selected wards are City of Madison, Ward 89 and City of Sun Prairie, Wards 1-5."*; Auditors unloaded audit materials and prepared audit room.

9:00 am: Lead Auditor made introductory remarks. There were no observers or press in attendance throughout the audit.

9:00 am: Lead Auditor assigned Auditors Jon Becker and Daina Zemliauskas to audit City of Sun Prairie, Wards 1-5; assigned Auditors Jane Thieme and Marian Matthews to audit City of Madison, Ward 89.

9:08 am: Audit commenced:

- Auditors of City of Sun Prairie: Ballot Box #55598006 with was opened and tallied.
- Auditors of City of Madison: Ballot Bag #74849 was opened and tallied.

11:21 am: Auditors of Madison Ward 89 encountered 1 ballot where the voter did not fill in the circle, but wrote "non partisan" on the write-in line. The Auditors counted the ballot as undetermined.

11:40 am: Auditors of City of Madison, Ward 89 completed final bag tally. Total votes for each candidate matched, however the blank and undetermined tallies were off by one. Auditors reviewed and reconciled tally sheets. They determined that the ballot which was tallied as undetermined by the Auditors was counted as blank by the tabulator. (714 total ballots).

12:05 pm: Auditors of City of Sun Prairie, Wards 1-5 completed final bag tally, arriving at totals which matched the election night tape totals (857 total ballots). Auditors reviewed and reconciled tally sheets.

11:17 am: Auditors of City of Sun Prairie, Wards 1-5 resealed ballots in new ballot bag.

- New Ballot Bag Seal #80333 (contains contents of ballot box seal #55598006)

12:00 pm Auditors of City of Madison, Ward 89 resealed ballots in new ballot bag.

- New Ballot Bag Seal #80334 (contains contents of ballot bag seal #74849)

12:20 pm: Auditors completed and verified paperwork:

- Ballot bags were signed by all Auditors and seal numbers were added to Polling Location Inspectors Statements as well as Audit Inspectors' Statements.
- Lead auditor reviewed Audit Tally Sheets and Audit Inspectors' Statements. All auditors reviewed Audit Inspectors' Statements.
- Auditors gathered all paperwork and ballots; all auditors transferred audit materials to Dane County Clerk's Office (maintaining chain of custody). Auditors left the room at 11:25.

12:22 pm: Dane County Clerk received all paperwork and ballots. Ballots were secured in Dane County Clerk's Office.

12:30 pm: Audit complete. Auditors left City-County Building.

Results of Post-Election Audit, March 8, 2018

City of Madison, Ward 89

Justice of the Supreme Court

Post-Election Audit Results: (714 total ballots)

Candidate	Vote Tally
Rebecca Dallet	358
Michael Screnock	87
Tim Burns	261
Write-In	2
*Undetermined	3
Blank	3

*Undetermined: ballots which the auditors could not determine intent

Publicly Reported Results provided by County Clerk: (714 total ballots)

Candidate	Vote Tally
Rebecca Dallet	358
Michael Screnock	87
Tim Burns	261
Write-in	2
*Undetermined	2
Blank	4

Results of Post-Election Audit, March 8, 2018

City of Sun Prairie

Justice of the Supreme Court

Post-Election Audit Results: (857 total ballots)

Candidate	Vote Tally
Rebecca Dallet	385
Michael Screnock	249
Tim Burns	222
Write-In	0
*Undetermined	1
Blank	0

*Undetermined: ballots which the auditors could not determine intent

Publicly Reported Results provided by County Clerk: (857 total ballots)

Candidate	Tally
Rebecca Dallet	385
Michael Screnock	249
Tim Burns	222
Write-in	0
*Undetermined	1
BLANK	0

Observations

The March 8, 2018 audit of paper ballots continues to take significantly less time to count than earlier audits due to a lower overall turnout, experienced auditors, and only auditing a single race. The audit took less than 3 hours from start to finish. Two auditors were easily able to conduct the audit of a ward efficiently. I would recommend 3 people for each ward when there is a presidential or other high turnout election.

The auditors used audit tally sheet based off one created and distributed by the WEC. All auditors agreed that these tally sheet was easier to keep track of the overall count and to reconcile numbers throughout the process. The auditors are now keeping track of undetermined and blank ballots separately.

City of Madison, Ward 89

- The total number of ballots counted by auditors in City of Madison, Ward 89 equaled the total number of ballots reported on the tabulator tape from election night from City of Madison Ward 89.
- The total votes counted by auditors in City of Madison, Ward 89 in the Justice of the Supreme Court race equaled the total number of votes reported on the tabulator tape from election night from City of Madison, Ward 89.
- All candidate vote totals counted by auditors in City of Madison Ward 89 in the Justice of the Supreme Court race equaled the candidate vote totals reported on the tabulator tape from election night from City of Madison, Ward 89. There was a slight discrepancy on the write-in versus blank. The auditors selected undetermined during the audit as the voter wrote “nonpartisan” on the write-in line but did not fill in the oval. The tabulator counted the voter’s selection as blank.

City of Sun Prairie, Wards 1-5

- The total number of ballots counted by auditors in the City of Sun Prairie, Wards 1-5 in the Justice of the Supreme Court race equaled the total number of ballots reported on the tabulator tape from election night from the City of Sun Prairie.
- The total votes counted by auditors in City of Sun Prairie, Wards 1-5 in the Justice of the Supreme Court race equaled the total number of votes reported on the tabulator tape from election night from City of Sun Prairie, Wards 1-5.
- All candidate vote totals counted by auditors in the City of Sun Prairie in the Justice of the Supreme Court race equaled the candidate vote totals reported on the tabulator tape from election night from City of Sun Prairie, Wards 1-5.

Recommendation: There are no explicit recommendations from this audit as overall, both wards did very well. There were no errors seen by the auditors.

Creatively Marked Ballots

There were very few 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:

- Checkmarks in the ovals; ovals not filled in
- X's in the ovals; ovals not filled in
- Lines through circle, rather than filled-in

Recommendation: Voter outreach seems to be correcting this issue. We should 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.

Action Plan:

- Lead Auditor should 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 89, February 20, 2018 Audit
- Post-Election Audit Tally Sheet (Template), City of Sun Prairie, Wards 1-5, February 20, 2018 Audit
- Post-Election Audit Inspectors Statement (Template), City of Madison, Ward 89, February 20, 2018 Audit
- Post-Election Audit Inspectors Statement (Template), City of Sun Prairie, Wards 1-5, February 20, 2018 Audit
- Day of Audit Procedure Checklist
- February 20, 2018 Post-Election Audit Staff Timesheet