
Post-Election Audit of the November 8, 2022 Election

Audit Date:

December 15, 2022

Room 351, City County Building
Madison, WI

Lead Auditor:

Anne Murphy-Lom

Auditors:

David Diamondstone

Anne Habel

TR Loon

Daina Zemliauskas

Overall, the December 15, 2022, Post-Election Audit went well. The two wards randomly selected for the audits include:

- City of Madison, Ward 109
- Town of Berry, Wards 1-2

Lead Auditor, Anne Murphy-Lom, contacted both the City of Madison and the Town of Berry to coordinate collecting the ballots from the November 8, 2022, election. Both the City of Madison Clerk's Office and the Town of Berry Clerk delivered ballots directly to Dane County Clerk's Office, maintaining chain of custody prior to the audit.

Auditors Anne Murphy-Lom, David Diamondstone, Anne Habel, TR Loon, and Daina Zemliauskas went to Room 351, City-County Building, Madison, WI on Thursday December 15, 2022, to conduct an audit of paper ballots for City of Madison, Ward 109 and the Town of Berry, Wards 1-2, from the November 8, 2022, election. This was an open meeting and members of the public could attend if they were interested. There were no members of the public who attended the audit, however.

Audit Preparation Timeline (Lead Auditor)

- 1:00 pm – 1:45 pm 12/6/22** November 8 Post Election Audit scheduling/logistics/selection of wards
- 2:00pm – 2:30 pm 12/12/22** November 8 Post Election Audit scheduling/logistics
- 8:00 pm – 10:00 pm 12/14/22** Final audit preparations including revision and printing of materials
- 8:30 am – 1:30 pm 12/15/22** Conduct Post-Election Audit of November 8, 2022, election

Audit Courier Timeline (verifying Chain of Custody) on December 15, 2022

8:30 am: Lead Auditor arrived at City-County Building to verify room set-up and accessibility.

8:40 am: Auditors met in lobby of City-County Building to discuss procedures and receive audit paperwork.

8:50 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 351, City-County Building.

8:55 am: Auditors entered Room 351 to conduct a public meeting regarding a post-election audit of paper ballots of select Dane County from the November 8, 2022, election for City of Madison, Ward 109 and Town of Berry, Wards 1-2. 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 Anne Habel and TR Loon to audit City of Madison, Ward 109; assigned Auditors David Diamondstone and Daina Zemliauskas to audit Town of Berry, Wards 1-2.

10:03 am: Audit commenced:

- Auditors of Town of Berry: Ballot bags #00142571 and #0042570 were opened and tallied.
- Auditors of City of Madison, Ward 109: Ballot bags #00152152, #00150673 and #00150674 were opened and tallied. Ballots from Ward 109 were separated from other wards at the same location.

10:05 am: Auditors for the Town of Berry, Wards 1-2 completed the ballot count. The number of ballots (742) matched the count provided by the County Clerk's Office.

10:42 am: Auditors for the City of Madison, Wards 109 completed the ballot count. The number of ballots (881) matched the count provided by the County Clerk's Office.

12:13 am: Auditors for the Town of Berry, Wards 1-2 completed the audit tally. Auditors reviewed and reconciled tally sheets. The results did not match the results provided by the County Clerk's Office. The auditors located the ballot and determined there was a mistake when they were reading the ballots. The tabulator counted the voted ballots correctly.

12:47 pm: Auditors for the Town of Berry, Wards 1-2 resealed ballots in new ballot bag.

- New ballot bag seal #008153 (contains contents of ballot bags seal #00142571, #00142570)

12:58 pm: Auditors for the City of Madison completed the audit tally. Auditors reviewed and reconciled tally sheets. The tally of votes matched the results provided by the County Clerk's Office.

1:10 pm: Auditors for the City of Madison, Wards 109 resealed ballots in new ballot bag.

- New ballot bag seal #008152, #008160 and #008156 (contains contents of ballot bags seal #00152152, #00150673, #00250674)

1:13 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 109

Governor/Lieutenant Governor

Post Election Audit Results: (881 total votes)

Candidate	Vote Tally
Tony Evers/Sara Rodriguez	653
Tim Michels/Roger Roth	216
Joan Ellis Beglinger/No Candidate	3
Write-In	1
*Undetermined	0
Blank	8

*Undetermined: ballots which the auditors could not determine intent

Publicly Reported Results provided by County Clerk: (881 total votes)

Candidate	Vote Tally
Tony Evers/Sara Rodriguez	653
Tim Michels/Roger Roth	216
Joan Ellis Beglinger/No Candidate	3
Write-in	1
*Undetermined	0
Blank	8

Results of Post-Election Audit

Town of Berry, Wards 1-2

Governor/Lieutenant Governor

Post-Election Audit Results: (742 total ballots)

Candidate	Vote Tally
Tony Evers/Sara Rodriguez	435
Tim Michels/Roger Roth	296
Joan Ellis Beglinger/No Candidate	8
Write-In	1
*Undetermined	0
Blank	2

*Undetermined: ballots which the auditors could not determine intent

Publicly Reported Results provided by County Clerk: (742 total ballots)

Candidate	Tally
Tony Evers/Sara Rodriguez	436
Tim Michels/Roger Roth	295
Joan Ellis Beglinger/No Candidate	8
Write-in	1
*Undetermined	0
Blank	2

Observations

The December 15, 2022 audit of paper ballots only took about 4.5 hours, which was expected with a high 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 109

- The total number of ballots counted by auditors in City of Madison, Ward 109 equaled the total number of ballots reported on the tabulator tape from election night from City of Madison, Ward 109.
- The total votes counted by auditors in City of Madison, Ward 109 for Governor/Lieutenant Governor equaled the total number of votes reported on the tabulator tape from election night from City of Madison, Ward 109.
- Vote totals counted by auditors in City of Madison, Ward 109 for Governor/Lieutenant Governor equaled the candidate vote totals reported on the tabulator tape from election night from City of Madison, Ward 109.

Town of Berry, Wards 1-2

- The total number of ballots counted by auditors in Town of Berry, Wards 1-2 equaled the total number of ballots reported on the tabulator tape from election night from Town of Berry, Wards 1-2.
- The total votes counted by auditors in Town of Berry, Wards 1-2 for Governor/Lieutenant Governor equaled the total number of votes reported on the tabulator tape from election night from Town of Berry, Wards 1-2.
- Vote totals counted by auditors in Town of Berry, Wards 1-2 for Governor/Lieutenant Governor did not equal the candidate vote totals reported on the tabulator tape from election night from Town of Berry, Wards 1-2.
 - The auditors reviewed the ballots and determined that they had misread a ballot while counting them. The tabulator counted the votes for each candidate correctly.

Recommendation: Overall, the process went smoothly and we would like thank election officials and the clerks for their diligence in executing an election. The inspector's 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 109, December 15, 2022, Audit
- Post-Election Audit Tally Sheet (Template), Town of Berry, Wards 1-2, December 15, 2022, Audit
- Post-Election Audit Inspectors Statement (Template), City of Madison, Ward 109, December 15, 2022 Audit
- Post-Election Audit Inspectors Statement (Template), Town of Berry, Wards 1-2, December 15, 2022 Audit