

Paper Ballot and Hand Counts

- Voting using paper ballot vs machine
- Controlling the paper ballot process
- Hand counting paper ballots
 - Nye County Experience and lessons learned
 - Tabulation and self-audit
- Questions

Paper Ballot and Hand Counts

Voting using paper ballot vs machine

	<u>Paper</u>	<u>Machine</u>
Washoe voting method 2022	53%	47%
	Mail	In-person
Overvotes	Allowed	Prevented
Counting method	Tabulator	USB
Audit trail	Original ballot (Tape, USB)	Original ballot Paper tape and USB

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Controlling the paper ballot process – Mail

- Precinct identifiers on mail ballots
- Chain of custody controls over drop box
- Signature verification and cure
- Nye County added a sequence number and separate ballot type identifier on mail ballots
 - Compensating control since there is no duplication prevention built into the paper stock
 - Ease of sorting

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Controlling the paper ballot process – Polls

- Sequential # on all ballots:
 - Type (mail, poll), Precinct, Party and Sequence #
- Control documents support sequence issued to poll
- Transport boxes with folders by precinct
- Daily accounting of beginning and ending sequence in ballot folders
 - Ending # minus beginning # = ballot issued
 - Poll workers control and verify
- Daily balancing – ballots issued to voter check-ins

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Controlling the paper ballot process – Challenges

- Vote centers need a ballot for all potential voters
- Physical ballot controls require incremental temporary staff or election workers
- Poll worker error – issuing a ballot out of sequence, issuing wrong precinct ballot
- Control over provisional ballots

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Controlling the paper ballot process – Benefits

- Reduce voter mistrust in process - increased transparency
- Lower overall cost to taxpayer
 - Paper and staff vs
 - Capital cost of machines, annual license and warranty fee, transportation, storage
- Same vote and counting method (tabulator)*
- Audit and recount efficiency

*(NOTE: NRS requires a handicap accessible machine at each polling location)

Mark F Kampf June 25, 2024

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Hand counting paper ballots

Nye County parallel hand count in 2022

- 17,000 ballots (of 22,000 total) in 8 days, 8 hrs/day
- All volunteer (over 200 individuals, avg. 70 per day)
- 3 person teams
- All three tally sheets must match – QC process
- Same accuracy as tabulator (5% sensitivity)
- Count was delayed by 13 days

Self audit in Presidential Preference Primary

8.5 % sample, randomly selected, 95% probability

5 teams of 3 completed the audit in 2 hours

Paper Ballot and Hand Counts

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