



From the Office of Secretary of State

John A. Gale

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Contact: Laura Strimple

402-471-8408

laura.strimple@nebraska.gov

Audit completed of ballots cast in Nebraska primary

LINCOLN – A recount of races in randomly selected precincts across Nebraska verifies that the equipment used to count ballots is extremely reliable and accurate says Secretary of State John Gale. Mandatory manual audits are conducted following each statewide election.

Two percent of the election precincts (26) were selected, involving 17 counties. Those county election offices hand counted a total of 5,375 ballots from the following races: U.S. Senate (Republican and Democratic), Nebraska Attorney General (Republican and Democratic) and a countywide local contest. The results were compared with those generated by the optical scanning tabulation equipment used in the May primary.

“Those scanners read the paper ballots completed by each voter,” explained Gale.

“This audit ensures that those scanners operated properly during the election.”

There were no discrepancies among any of the counties except in Boyd in which two by mail ballots received on Election Day were not counted by the tabulation equipment, but were included in the hand count.

“The machines are checked prior to any election to ensure they’re reading the ballots properly and then again afterward,” said Gale. “Over the years, the optical scanning equipment has proven to be very reliable, so we feel very comfortable in using it.”

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