



TALBOT COUNTY ELECTION BOARD

215 BAY STREET, SUITE 7

P.O. BOX 353

EASTON, MD 21601

Email: jeri.cook@maryland.gov

PHONE: 410-770-8099 ♦ FAX: 410-770-8078

From: Jeri Cook, Election Director
Talbot County Board of Elections

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Subject: Post-Election Manual Ballot Tabulation Audit

State law¹ now requires that election officials manually audit a sample of voted ballots. This audit must be performed after each general election.

The Talbot County Board of Elections will conduct the manual ballot audit of the 2018 General Election starting on Thursday, February 14, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. This audit may take up to two business days to complete and will take place at the Talbot County Board of Elections warehouse, located at 28712 Glebe Road, Easton, MD 21601. This audit is open to the public.

The Talbot County Board of Elections will manually tally a sample of votes cast for the Office of Comptroller and compare the results of the manual tally against the results from the voting system. This process will determine whether the voting system accurately counted ballots during the 2018 General Election.²

The State Board of Elections randomly selected the early voting center and precinct to be audited, and the Talbot County Board of Elections randomly selected the absentee and provisional ballots to be audited. Starting on Thursday, February 14, 2019, the Talbot County Board of Elections will manually tally the votes for Comptroller on:

1. 620 ballots cast on the one scanning unit on the 1st day of early voting at the Easton Firehouse.
2. 977 ballots cast on election day at Easton Firehouse (precinct 01001)
3. 15 absentee ballots
4. 15 provisional ballots

¹See Election Law Article, §11-309 of the Annotated Code of Maryland. This requirement introduced as House Bill 1278 of the 2018 Legislative Session and is reported as Chapter 523 of the 2018 Laws of Maryland.

²Before the 2018 General Election was certified, the State Board of Elections conducted an automated audit of all of the ballots cast in the 2018 General Election. The results of this audit confirmed the accuracy of the voting system. The results of the automated audit are at https://elections.maryland.gov/voting_system/ballot_audit_plan.html