

Canvass Activities Summary

March 3, 2020 Presidential Primary Election

Auditing of the Precincts

Each Inspector is responsible to complete a variety of forms and certifications after the close of the polls on Election Day. Elections staff then audits those forms to account for all ballots issued and returned. On March 3, 2020, there were 138 precinct boards at 92 polling places: 56 were single, 30 were doubles, 3 were triples, 2 locations were a quadruple, and 1 location was a quintuple. All precincts were audited and where the paperwork reflected discrepancies, those discrepancies were thoroughly researched and resolved. In all cases these were poll worker errors such as simple mathematical errors, transcription errors, or recording information in multiple places on the same form (i.e. counting a spoiled surrendered vote-by-mail ballot as both a spoiled ballot and a surrendered vote-by-mail ballot therefore recording it as two ballots when only one existed).

1% Manual Tally

Per Elections Code Section 15360, 1% of precincts must be hand tallied to determine that the voting system is reading and tabulating votes correctly. For March 3, 2020 there were 199 voting precincts, which meant that only 2 precincts needed to be counted. Additionally, there were 19 other contests that were not captured in the 2 precincts drawn, so 10 other precincts were selected (some of the precincts drawn had less than 10 votes cast so additional precinct were drawn to have a reasonable amount of ballots to tally.) Santa Cruz County has a policy of tallying a precinct from each of the 5 supervisorial districts, so all five districts were represented.

Polling place precincts were randomly selected on Thursday, March 5 at 10am by staff. All precincts are randomly selected by pulling a precinct number from a bowl. The first 2 precincts drawn were deemed "full count" precincts, where all contests on the ballot would be tallied. Then other precincts were pulled in order to capture all contests. All votes cast in those polling place precincts were tallied including preprinted paper ballots and votes cast on the tablets. Blank ballots that were encountered (in any media) were tallied as undervotes for each contest. Spoiled, cancelled and otherwise invalidated ballots were not tallied as they are not valid ballots.

Vote-by-mail ballots were tallied by batches that were randomly selected on Tuesday, March 24 at 9am by staff. The batches are randomly selected by pulling a batch number from a bowl. The first 8 batches drawn were deemed "full count" precincts, where all contests on the ballot would be tallied. Then other batches were pulled in order to capture all contests. All votes cast in those vote-by-mail batches were tallied including preprinted paper ballots and votes cast on the tablets. Blank ballots that were encountered (in any media) were tallied as undervotes for each contest.

Vote-by-mail and paper ballots used at the polling places were tallied by audit teams of 3 auditors. Duties were divided among team members with one-member reading from the ballot, and the other two members keeping independent, simultaneous tallies. Once all the ballots for that precinct had been read, then the totals on the tally sheets were compared against each other. When more than

one contest was being tallied in a precinct, each one was done individually. The results were later compared to the central tally count and if the totals did not match, then the hand tally began again.

Materials used to complete the tallies were minimal, but included specialized tally sheets, pencils, calculators and the central count reports. Below are the contests and precincts that were drawn for the 1% tally:

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Full Ballot	10201		31020 31630		
President (all parties)	10201		31020 31630		
1 st District DEM Central Committee	10170 10201				
1 st District REP Central Committee	10170 10201				
2 nd District DEM Central Committee		20013 20150			
3 rd District DEM Central Committee			31020 31630		
5 th District DEM Central Committee					50143
Congressional District 18	10201				
Congressional District 20	10170 10201		31020 31630		
Assembly District 29	10170 10201		31020 31630		50143
Assembly District 30		23311			
1 st District Supervisor	10170 10201				
2 nd District Supervisor		20013 20061 20150 23311			
5 th District Supervisor					50143
Santa Cruz City Recall			31020 31630		
Measure M				40230	
Measure R	10170	20150	31020 31630		50143
Measure S					50143
Measure T	10170		31020 31630		
Measure U			31020 31630		
Measure V	12023				
Measure W			31020 31630		
Measure X			31020 31630		
Measure Y		23311		43501	
Measure Z	14121				

Due to the shelter in place orders, not many observers were present during the canvass. Our office always welcome observers and fielded many calls about the status of the activities. Because the audit was conducted at central elections, no additional security measures were required above and beyond normal security precautions in place.

The 1% was conducted by new staff using our new voting system which had new printed ballots and new tabulation methods, so it took some time for the teams to get into a good rhythm and the initial contest was often recounted. In the end, all contests matched the results tallied except for instances of voter intent (not marking the ballot correctly) where the ballot was corrected, and the results updated.

In the end, the results from the manual tally matched the machine results with 100% accuracy.

Search for Live Ballots

After searching through all the supplies and equipment that were returned from the polling sites, we found 4 ballots each from precinct 10110 that remained in the auxiliary bin. Through the precinct audit and a quick tally of a few contests, we found that those ballots had been read into the scanner and the results were already added to the tally for the precinct.

Equipment Incidents

2 incidents were logged for voting equipment. Of those:

- 1 incident involved the Tablet, which was replaced
- 1 incident involved a printer, which was replaced

The chart below details the incidents and the responses to those incidents.

ELECTION DAY EQUIPMENT ISSUES					
#	Precinct	Equipment Type	Issue	Error	Action Taken
1	50191	Tablet	Would not activate a ballot – wrong code input 3 times so it locked up	Poll worker error	Replaced Tablet
2	43741	Printer	Toner low	Mechanical	Replaced printer