REPORT OF 1% MANUAL TALLY
[Elections Code section 15360]

County: Sonoma

Election: March 5, 2024 Presidential Primary

Manual tally method used: ☐ One Part [section 15360(a)(1)]

☑ Two Part [section 15360(a)(2)]

Date and time notice provided (attach copy of the notice):

March 1, 2024 at 9:00a.m.

Internet website where additional information about the manual tally is posted, if applicable:

https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/public-notice-of-1-manual-tally-for-3/5/24-election ~~https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/aviso-publico-de-cuenta-manual-del-1-para-la-eleccion-de-3/5/24~~

Date and time the manual tally commenced, beginning with the random selection of precincts and batches (must be after the close of the polls on Election Day):

March 12, 2024 at 9a.m.

Date and time the manual tally finished:

March 19, 2024 at 9:17a.m.

Estimated number of members of the public who observed the process:

2

Total number of ballots counted in this election (official canvass numbers):

Polling place / vote center ballots (including provisionals)	7,044
Vote-by-mail ballots	144,883

Total number of ballots manually tallied:

Polling place / vote center ballots (including provisionals)	526 cards
Vote-by-mail ballots	1,609 cards

Precincts in the county for this election (attach list describing all precincts with the number of ballots in each, indicating whether ballots are polling place / vote center, vote-by-mail, or provisional):

Total number of precincts in the election	439
Total number of precincts selected for the manual tally	9 full-count and 3 clean-up batches were selected

Batches of vote-by-mail or provisional ballots (attach list describing each batch with the number of ballots in each, indicating whether ballots are polling place / vote center, vote-by-mail, or provisional):

Total number of batches in the election	1,657
Total number of batches selected for the manual tally	9 full-count and three clean-up batches were selected

Method used to choose precincts and batch of ballots to manually tally (include description of random selection method):

see attached

attach additional pages if necessary

Description of any discrepancies noted (include details about each discrepancy and how each was resolved; also include anything unusual observed during the manual tally process or anything that may improve the manual tally process):

see attached

attach additional pages if necessary

This report is submitted pursuant to Elections Code section 15360(f).

Submitted on this date: March 29, 2024 **by:**

Elections Official Name: Wendy Hudson **Signature:** _____

EMAIL Form

SONOMA COUNTY REGISTRAR OF VOTERS
435 FISCAL DRIVE
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

PUBLIC NOTICE
OF 1% MANUAL TALLY
FOR THE MARCH 5, 2024,
PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY
ELECTION

The Sonoma County Registrar of Voters Office will randomly draw batches of ballots to be hand tallied as a check of the ballot counting equipment on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the Registrar of Voters Office, 435 Fiscal Dr., Santa Rosa.
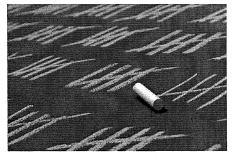
One percent of Vote Center batches, and one percent of Vote by Mail batches, will be randomly selected. In addition, for each race not included in the initial group of randomly selected batches, an additional batch shall be counted. The tally of the additional batch shall apply only to the races not previously counted.

The manual tally will begin shortly after the drawing of the batches, and continue daily on weekdays (excluding holidays) at the same location, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., except for breaks and lunch hours, unless otherwise posted. Observers are welcome to observe the tally.

....

REGISTRO DE VOTANTES DEL CONDADO DE SONOMA
435 FISCAL DRIVE
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

AVISO PÚBLICO DEL
RECUENTO MANUAL DEL 1%
PARA LAS ELECCIONES
PRIMARIAS PRESIDENCIALES
DEL 5 DE MARZO DE 2024

La Oficina del Registro de Votantes del Condado de Sonoma sorteará al azar lotes de boletas para ser contadas a mano como verificación del equipo de conteo de boletas el martes, 12 de marzo de 2024, a las 9:00 a.m. en la Oficina del Registro de Votantes, 435 Fiscal Dr., Santa Rosa.

El uno por ciento de los lotes del Centro de Votación y el uno por ciento de los lotes de Voto por Correo se seleccionarán al azar. Además, por cada concurso no incluida en el grupo inicial de lotes seleccionados al azar, se contabilizará un lote adicional. El conteo del lote adicional se aplicará únicamente a las carreras no contadas previamente.

El recuento manual comenzará poco después del sorteo de los lotes y continuará diariamente en días de la semana (excluyendo los días festivos) en el mismo lugar, desde las 8 a. m. hasta las 5 p. m., excepto durante los descansos y las horas del almuerzo, a menos que se indique lo contrario. Los observadores son bienvenidos a observar el conteo.

SONOMA COUNTY
March 5, 2024, Presidential Primary Election
1% Manual Tally
Started at 9 am on March 12, and completed at 9:17 am on March 19, 2024

Date and time notice provided:
Notice of the 1% manual tally was posted in the public hallway on the morning of March 1, 2024.

Internet website for additional information:
https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/public-notice-of-1-manual-tally-for-3/5/24-election
https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/aviso-publico-de-cuenta-manual-del-1-para-la-eleccion-de-3/5/24

Date/Time Commenced:
We began randomly drawing the batches at 9 am on March 12, 2024.

Date/Time Concluded:
We finished the manual tally on March 19, 2024, at 9:17 am.

Number of Observers: 2

Total number of ballots counted in this election (official canvass numbers)
Vote Centers: 7,044
Vote by Mail: 144,883

Total Number of ballots manually tallied
Vote Centers: "A" Cards = 264, Total ballot cards = 526
Vote by Mail: "A" Cards = 804, Total ballot cards = 1,609

Total number of precincts in the election: 439

Total number of precincts selected for the manual tally: Nine full-count and three clean-up batches were selected.

Batches of Ballots:

Vote by Mail Batches					
#	Batch	Scanner	Date Scanned	# of cards	
1	224	6	3-5-24	201	Full Count
2	26	5	2-24-24	201	Full Count
3	215	6	3-5-24	201	Full Count
4	65	4	2-26-24	200	Full Count
5	133	4	3-4-24	198	Full Count
6	4	3	2-24-24	203	Full Count

7	27	2	2-24-24	199	Full Count
8	116	2	3-4-24	201	Clean-up batch, not used
9	140	2	3-4-24	200	Clean-up batch, not used
10	68	5	3-4-24	25	Clean-up batch, not used
11	5	3	2-24-24	199	Clean-up batch, not used
12	35	2	2-24-24	201	Clean-up batch, not used

Vote Center Batches					
#	Batch	Scanner	Date Scanned	# of cards	
1	9 (Petaluma City Hall-81)	5	3-5-24	334	Full Count
2	N Sonoma Coast FPD, North Fire Station -816	3	3-2-24	0	Not used
3	3 (Sheppard Elementary School-808)	4	3-5-24	114	Full Count
4	70 (Spring Lake Middle School-804)	3	3-2-24	6	Clean-up batch, not used
5	131 (Graton Community Club-700)	3	3-4-24	14	Clean-up batch, not used
6	8 (Cloverdale Veterans Memorial Bldg-209)	4	3-5-24	285	Clean-up batch
7	11 (Sebastopol Center for the Arts-271)	3	2-25-24	6	Clean-up batch, not used
8	4 (Rincon Valley Regional Library-524)	4	3-5-24	428	Clean-up batch, not used
9	123 (Petaluma City Hall-81)	3	3-4-24	28	Clean-up batch, not used
10	1 (Luther Burbank Center-183)	6	3-5-24	228	Clean-up batch, not used
11	134 (Windsor Civic Center Council Chambers-646)	3	3-4-24	3	Clean-up batch, not used
12	125 (Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Bldg-470)	3	3-4-24	53	Clean-up batch, not used
13	78 (Finley Community Center-604)	3	3-2-24	22	Clean-up batch, not used

Method used to choose batches:
In preparation of the manual tally, our Department Information Systems Technician person compiled two tables: one containing all the Vote Center batches, and one containing all the Vote by Mail Batches. The batches were printed on cardstock and cut into small cards. Each card had one batch printed on it. The cards were folded in half and all the cards were placed in a box; all the Vote by Mail batches in one box, and all Vote Center batches in another. Then staff and two observers took turns reaching into each box to draw random batches for full count, and then possible clean-up batches.

There were a total of 699 Vote by Mail batches. Seven full-count batches were drawn which exceeds the 1% requirement. Five more batches were drawn in case not all contests were covered. Due to an issue noted in (7) below, an additional eighth full batch was also counted.

Vote Centers had a total of 173 batches, so the two full-count batches drawn exceeds the 1% requirement. 10 more batches were drawn in case not all contests were covered. Only one clean-up batch contained a contest we had not covered: #6, Batch 8, Scanner 6 from 3-5-24 (Cloverdale Veterans Memorial Bldg) for the Peace and Freedom Presidential race. A coin was flipped to choose between the only two batches that contained Measure C, resulting in Batch 4, Scanner 5 (Sea Ranch North Fire Station) from 3-5-24. Lastly, slips of paper with batch labels were made and folded to randomly draw Batch 8, Scanner 6 (Rohnert Park Community Center) to cover the Member of the State Assembly 4th District race.

Description of Discrepancies:
Vote by Mail Batches . . . .

(1) Initially the tally had one less "Yes" for Measure B compared to the scanner, and one more "Bonds-Yes" for Measure G compared to the scanner. On the second examination of the ballots, the team discovered they had miscounted and agree with the scanner on all contests.

(2) The tally team counted two valid votes for Katie Porter as overvotes. They decided the scanner and the adjudication that had happened was correct.

On Measure E the tally team originally counted one extra "Yes" vote. Upon review of the ballots, the re-count matched the scanner.

(3) On the first count, the tally team saw two ovals filled in and counted it as an overvote. After a review of the ballots, they saw that the voter had filled in an oval for Trump, and also filled in the write-in oval, writing in Donald Trump. They decided the intent was to vote once for Trump, and they agreed with the scanner.

On the same card as previously mentioned, the voter filled in two ovals in the US Senator Partial/Unexpired contest. Originally the team counted it as an overvote. On the second look at the ballots, the team agrees the voter's intent was to vote once for Barbara Lee.

On the US Representative 4th District race, a voter filled in the write-in oval and wrote "Mike Thompson." At first the tally team concluded that Mike Thompson is not an official write-in candidate and so counted it as an undervote. After discussing with management, the team decided that the adjudication team had made the correct choice (and counted that vote for Mike Thompson) and they agreed with the scanner report.

There were three discrepancies on the Assembly 2nd District contest: A voter filled in the oval for Rusty Hicks and the write-in oval. The team at first counted that as an overvote. Like before, they concluded the intent was one vote for Rusty Hicks, thus

matching the scanner results for Hicks and overvotes. The third was an original miscount for Michael Greer. Upon reconsideration, the ballots match the scanner results.

On Superior Court Judge #3, the tally team had counted one extra vote for Kristine Burk, and one less for Beki Berrey. On second review of the ballots, the team agrees with the scanner.

On Superior Court Judge #6, a voter marked the write-in oval and wrote the name Kenneth English. Because he is not an official write-in candidate, the team counted an undervote. Upon review, the intent was counted as a vote for English, and the tally matched the scanner.

For County Supervisor 1st District, on the same card mentioned before, two ovals were filled in: one oval next to the candidate Rebecca Hermosillo, and the write-in oval next to which the voter wrote the name Rebecca Hermosillo. The team thought that meant an overvote. The tally was corrected to reflect the intent of one vote for Rebecca Hermosillo, and matched the scanner.

(4) No discrepancies.

(5) The Tally team recounted the votes for Superior Court Judge #6, and confirmed the scanner was correct.

On one ballot a voter had circled the word "No" on Prop 1, "Yes" on Measure G, and "Yes" on measure H. All tally team members agreed that the voter's intent was to vote where they had circled the words. This was not caught in the first adjudication, because some ovals had marks on the other side of the card. With confirmation from management, we darkened the ovals where the voter had circles, and asked to have the batch rescanned. The tally team agrees with all results on the new scan. (Original scan was Scanner 4, Batch 133 from 3-4-24. The new scan is Scanner 3, Batch 38 from 3-18-24.)

(6) The tally team erroneously counted an overvote as a vote for Adam Schiff in the US Senator Full Term race. After reviewing the ballots, the team agrees it was an overvote and their count agrees with the scanner.

(7) On US Senator Full Term, the tally team originally counted one overvote as a vote for Adam Schiff. Upon review of the ballots, the re-count matched the scanner.

On Prop 1 a voter circled the word "No," and on Measure H that voter circled the word "Yes." All tally members agreed that the voter's intent was to vote with their circled words. The corresponding ovals had no marks in them, so the scanner counted them as undervotes. At this time, the team was told that it should have been caught during adjudication, so the batch was dumped, and then re-scanned.

The second scan report had the exact same answers as the first. Then the team was told that because that ballot had some marks in the ovals on the opposite side of the card, the scanner would not send this side to adjudication. After consulting with management, the team darkened the ovals next to the circled words and returned the batch to be scanned a third time.

During the third scan a mishap occurred, and the batch of ballots was accidentally combined with a different batch below it in the box. There had been paper bands taped around each batch to keep them separate, but the bands must have broken when lifting the ballots from the box. The Department Information Systems Technician believed they had correctly separated the ballots into their correct two separate batches again.

A full re-count of the batch was started. This time the tally team discovered that we had 145 A Cards, but the scanner report said we had 146 A Cards. The second tally team checked the total number of A Cards in the other batch that was in the same box. They confirmed their ballot page count was correct.

It was determined that a fourth scan of our batch should occur. The fourth scan affirmed the 145 A Card count. However, one contest had an issue. For the US Senator Partial/Unexpired contest, the tally team had one more vote for Adam Schiff and one les overvote than the scanner. The team located three possible ballots that could have caused this mix-up. The Department Information Systems Technician agreed with the tally team on how those ballots should/would be adjudicated. For a fourth time, the batch was dumped, and a fifth scanner report was produced.

The fifth report correctly reflected the voter's intent on the Partial US Senate contest, and all other contests and votes corroborated as well. The original scan was called Batch 27, Scanner 2 from 2-24-24. Then it became Batch 35, Scanner 3 from 3-15-24. Then Batch 36, Scanner 3 from 3-18-24. Then Batch 39, Scanner 3 from 3-18-24, and lastly Batch 40, Scanner 3 from 3-19-24.

(8) Because of (7), we decided to conduct a full count of the other batch in the ballot box to be sure the Manual Tally included all the ballots from the first single batch. This tally went smoothly and matched the scanner. (Originally Batch 206, Scanner 2 from 2-24-24. After the mishap and re-scan, became Batch 203, Scanner 3 from 3-18-24.)

Vote Center Batches . . . .

(1) On Vote Center Batch 159, Scanner 3, from Petaluma City Hall on 3-5-24 we had a discrepancy between what the tally team counted and what the scanner counted for both Prop 1 and Measure A. After we examined the ballots we noticed one ballot where the voter used checkmarks to indicate their choice instead of filling in the bubble completely. Since these were "Yes" votes on both measures and our count was off by one "Yes" vote on each measure, we concluded that the scanner did not pick up the mark made by the voter. This ballot was enhanced and the batch was rescanned and then a new results report was given to our tally team. This new

report's results matched what our tally team had counted for both Prop 1 and Measure A.

(2) The tally team initially missed a vote for Chris Rogers (for Member of Assembly 2nd Dist.) that was found on second examination.

Originally the team counted one more vote for Paul Lozada and one less undervote on the contest for Superior Court Judge #4. Upon closer inspection, the tally team determined that the ballot in question had an accidental thin mark across Lozada's oval and was not meant to be a vote. The tally agrees with the scanner.

All three Vote Center Clean-up tallies matched the scanner reports.

To improve future Manual Tallies: Numerous initial discrepancies could have been avoided if all staff involved with ballot processing had a homogeneous understanding of how adjudication works. All staff needs to know that a blank ballot will go to adjudication only if zero ovals are marked on BOTH sides of the card. All staff should have a better understanding of the minimal mark that the scanners are able to detect. All staff should understand that although two filled in ovals in a vote-for-one section constitutes an overvote, if a voter colors the bubble for a candidate, and colors in the write-in oval and writes in that same candidate's name, those votes are counted as a single vote for that candidate. Also, if a voter fills in the write-in oval and writes the name of someone who is not an official write-in candidate, normally that is counted as an undervote. However, if the name they wrote is a person who is already listed on the ballot above as a candidate, then we count it as a vote for that person.

Prior to the next election, we will compile a list of these issues that can be interpreted differently and clarify how each should be handled. This can be communicated to each employee with a handout and can also be posted on walls near where ballots are processed. When all hands act with the same instruction, all votes get counted in the same manner, and the manual tally will have fewer discrepancies.