



February 21, 2023

Debra Stewart
Howard County Circuit Court Clerk
104 N Buckeye St, Room 114
Kokomo, IN 46901

Dear Clerk Stewart,

On February 15, 2023, the VSTOP team successfully completed a post-election audit in Howard County, Indiana, for the 2022 General Election. The VSTOP Team members who participated in person included Dr. Chad Kinsella, Co-Director, and Liz Beatrice, Program Manager. This activity was carried out by the VSTOP Team in collaboration with the Howard County Audit Team. The Howard County Team members included Debra Stewart, Circuit Court Clerk; Jill Quackenbush, Election Assistant; Ronda Eldridge, Election Assistant; Phillip Thurston, Election Board Member; and Derick Steele, Election Board Member. Vendor representative Will Nesbitt, Election Systems and Software (ES&S) Account Manager, was also present and assisted throughout the audit.

The VSTOP Team would like to thank Clerk Stewart, the Howard County Audit Team, and the Howard County Election Board for hosting this post-election audit. Several preparatory meetings were conducted with the county in the weeks leading up to the post-election audit and Debra Stewart provided valuable information and data that was used to conduct the audit.

The post-election audit began with an introductory presentation to the county participants on the morning of the audit. This presentation included the generation of a 20-digit seed number, in collaboration with all county participants. The seed number produced is as follows: 01554858194041290122.

The VSTOP team would also like to take this opportunity to provide a brief description of the post-election audit conducted and the contests that were audited. Howard County uses the **ES&S 5.2.0.0 Optical Scan voting system**. The post-election audit was carried out for the total of ballots cast during the Howard County 2022 General Election.

In consultation with Howard County, the following three races were audited with an initial risk limit set at 9% (as the attached report shows, the actual risk limits attained were lower):

- United States Senator
- County Recorder
- County Assessor

There were a total of 25,136 Absentee and Election Day ballots cast. 115 Absentee and Election Day ballots were sampled to reach the risk limit and verify the outcomes. Of this total, the audit team was required to sample 45 ballots for United States Senator, 36 ballots for County Recorder, and 34 ballots for County Assessor to meet the risk limit. Specifics regarding each race's outcomes are displayed by images provided by Dr. Philip Stark's Audit Tool used to conduct the post-election audit and can be found in Appendix A.

VSTOP acknowledges the Indiana Secretary of State and his office staff for their full support. At the end of all post-election audits for the 2022 General Election, a full report of the audit results will be prepared and submitted to the Indiana Secretary of State and each participating county.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jay Bagga".

Dr. Jay Bagga, VSTOP Co-Director

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chad Kinsella".

Dr. Chad Kinsella, VSTOP Co-Director

Howard County Post-Election Audit Procedure

Election: 2022 General Election

Date(s) of Audit: February 15, 2023

Number of Registered Voters: 60,981

Total Number of Ballots Cast: 25,136

Stark's Risk Limit: Initially set at 9%
(See below for the actual risk-limited achieved)

Seed Number: 01554858194041290122

Post-Election Audit Method: Ballot Polling Risk-Limiting Audit

Post-Election Audit Tools used: The ballot polling post-election audit tools have been designed by Dr. Philip Stark and are available at:

<https://www.stat.berkeley.edu/~stark/Vote/ballotPollTools.htm>

Races Audited:

Howard County Ballot Polling Audit						
Race/ Question	Outcome		Smallest Margin	Diluted Margin	Initial Sample Size	Total Ballots Sampled
United States Senator	(R) Todd Young*	16738	9449	37.59%	34	45
	(D) Thomas M McDermott, Jr	7289				
	(L) James M Sceniak	819				
	Undervotes	290				
	Total Ballots Cast	25136				
County Recorder	(R) Torie Kelley*	17443	10332	41.10%	29	36
	(D) Essie D Foster	7111				
	Undervotes	582				
	Total Ballots Cast	25136				
County Assessor	(R) Melinda (Mindy) Heady*	17636	10728	42.68%	27	34
	(D) Rebekahann Renner	6908				
	Undervotes	592				
	Total Ballots Cast	25136				

Asterisk (*) denotes the winner of each contest

United States Senator

Initial Sample Size:

With the selected risk limit of 9%, the initial sample size for this contest was 34.

Initial sample size

Contest information

Ballots cast in all contests: Smallest margin (votes): 9,449. Diluted margin: 37.59%.

Contest 1. Contest name:

Winners:

Reported votes:

Candidate 1 Name:	<input type="text" value="Todd Young"/>	Votes:	<input type="text" value="16738"/>
Candidate 2 Name:	<input type="text" value="Thomas M McDermott, Jr"/>	Votes:	<input type="text" value="7289"/>
Candidate 3 Name:	<input type="text" value="James M Sceniak"/>	Votes:	<input type="text" value="819"/>

Audit parameters

Risk limit: Expected sample size: .

Final Outcome:

The risk limit was not met with the initial sample size of 34 ballots. An additional 11 ballots were sampled. With a sample size of 45 ballots, the final outcome resulted in a 9% risk limit, which indicates 91% confidence that the audit confirmed the results of this contest.

Audit progress

Audited votes for United States Senator: 45			
		Todd Young	30
Thomas M McDermott, Jr	15		0.09
James M Sceniak	0		0

Howard County Recorder

Initial Sample Size:

With the selected risk limit of 9%, the initial sample size for this contest was 29.

Initial sample size

Contest information
Ballots cast in all contests: 25136 Smallest margin (votes): 10,332. Diluted margin: 41.1%.

Contest 1. Contest name:
County Recorder

Winners: 1

Reported votes:

Candidate 1 Name:	Torie Kelley	Votes:	17443
Candidate 2 Name:	Essie D Foster	Votes:	7111

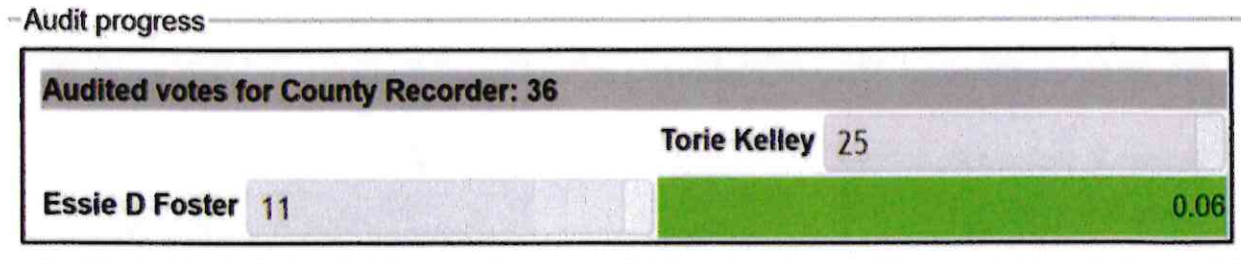
Add candidate to contest 1 Remove last candidate from contest 1

Add contest Remove last contest

Audit parameters
Risk limit: 9% Expected sample size: 29.

Final Outcome:

The risk limit was not met with the initial sample size of 29 ballots. An additional 7 ballots were sampled. With a sample size of 36 ballots, the final outcome resulted in a 6% risk limit, which indicates 94% confidence that the audit confirmed the results of this contest.



Howard County Assessor

Initial Sample Size:

With the selected risk limit of 9%, the initial sample size for this contest was 27.

Initial sample size

Contest information

Ballots cast in all contests: Smallest margin (votes): 10,728. Diluted margin: 42.68%.

Contest 1. Contest name:

Winners:

Reported votes:

Candidate 1 Name:	<input type="text" value="Melinda (Mindy) Heady"/>	Votes:	<input type="text" value="17636"/>
Candidate 2 Name:	<input type="text" value="Rebekahann Renner"/>	Votes:	<input type="text" value="6908"/>

Audit parameters

Risk limit: Expected sample size: .

Final Outcome:

The risk limit was not met with the initial sample size of 27 ballots. An additional 7 ballots were sampled. With a sample size of 34 ballots, the final outcome resulted in a 5% risk limit, which indicates 95% confidence that the audit confirmed the results of this contest.

Audit progress

Audited votes for County Assessor: 34	
	Melinda (Mindy) Heady
	24
Rebekahann Renner	
10	0.05

