



From the Office of Secretary of State John A. Gale

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Election equipment passes audit with flying colors

LINCOLN – Equipment used to count ballots in the May primary passed a post-election audit with flying colors, says Secretary of State John Gale. The mandatory audit is conducted following each statewide election to confirm the accuracy and reliability of those machines.

Just over two and a half percent (36) of the 1,384 precincts in Nebraska were randomly chosen to be part of the audit. In those precincts, election officials compared results generated by optical scanning equipment with hand counted ballots.

Depending on the ballot issued in each precinct, officials were asked to compare race results for one federal contest, one statewide or regional race and one local race. Any discrepancies were noted and accounted for by the official.

“In the primary, only one issue was detected in Greeley County; not because of the equipment, but because of mistakes made by two voters,” explained Gale. “The voters marked their candidate selections with an ‘X’ or a scribble instead of filling in the ovals as required. On each of those ballots, for those particular races, the mismarked ballot choices could not be tabulated.”

Tabulation equipment is tested pre and post-election to ensure all ballots are read and votes are counted properly.

“Equipment used by the counties continues to hold up admirably and has had a very good track record of performance over the years,” said Gale.

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