

STATE OF NEBRASKA

ROBERT B. EVNEN SECRETARY OF STATE

For immediate release: October 26, 2023

From the desk of Secretary Evnen: Nebraska election officials are dedicated to ensuring accurate, secure elections

Our country is a representative democracy, a republic. We have no king. We rule ourselves. This was a great political breakthrough at the formation of our country. But for it to work, we must maintain integrity in our election process. Otherwise, citizens lose faith in the legitimacy of their elected leaders, and consequently, in the legitimacy of the laws that they pass and enforce. Nebraskans can be assured that our state's election processes are sound. They are accurate and secure.

As we prepare for another presidential election year, I want to remind all Nebraskans about the measures our office takes to ensure our elections are accurate and secure.

In the month before each primary and general election, every ballot tabulation machine in the state is tested three times for accuracy by running three separate test decks of ballots through each machine. In addition, our election teams hold two mock elections to further check the accuracy of our ballot tabulators, the computers that compile the results and our election night reporting website.

After each election we hand-count the results of certain races. In the past we checked two or three percent of our precincts statewide. After the 2022 general election, we expanded this audit to include ten percent of our precincts statewide, at least one precinct in each of our 93 counties. County election boards, along with members from both major political parties, conducted the counting.

Out of the 48,292 ballots hand-counted after the 2022 November election, discrepancies were noted on 11 ballots. That is a discrepancy rate of twenty-three thousandths of one percent. Of these 11 ballots, five were marked too lightly for the machine to read. The other six discrepancies were misfiled or misplaced ballots.

We also checked our voter registration rolls. We found that 682,745 voters across the state were shown on the voter rolls as having cast a ballot. We compared that with the 682,716 ballots that were counted. That's a net variance of 29 ballots, which is a variance rate of four-thousandths of one percent. To the best of my knowledge, none of the variance was attributable to machine error.

Our election officials across the state did an exemplary job of conducting an accurate and secure election. We owe a debt of gratitude to our friends and neighbors across the State of Nebraska who helped conduct an outstanding election for our citizens in 2022. I have every confidence that our 2024 Presidential election year voting will be accurate and secure in our state.