

The Current Status

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Post-election ballot audits are fun!
Orange County Risk-Limiting Pilot, June 2018

Terminology

Recounts v. post-election ballot audits.

Fixed v. risk-limiting audits.

Ballot audits v. procedural audits v. comprehensive performance audits.

Workshop goal: Develop clarity regarding terminology!

State procedures vary widely

Most states (30 + DC) require some sort of fixed audit.

Few states (3) currently require risk limiting audit

But exactly how these post-election ballot audits are implemented differs considerably state-by-state.

Workshop goal: Better understanding how different jurisdictions implement post-election ballot audits, and move towards an understanding of best practices.

Why conduct post-election ballot audits?

Can help confirm the outcome of an election.

Can help detect irregularities or anomalies; might serve as a deterrent to election fraud.

Can serve to enhance voter confidence.

But post-election ballot audits take time and resources.

Workshop goal: Developing methods to assess costs and benefits of different types of post-election ballot auditing procedures.

Comprehensive performance audits

Post-election ballot audits are an important tool, but they may miss problems in other aspects of election administration (registration, ballot design, polling place problems, for example).

End-to-end auditing can help to further confirm the integrity of an election, but is costly.

Workshop goal: Other than post-election ballot audits, are there certain components of the process of election administration that must be audited? What are the best methods for producing those audits in a timely and cost-effective manner?