ELECTION VALIDATION PROJECT
Increasing Trust in Elections Through Audits, Standards, and Testing

WHY AUDIT?
BALLOT RECONCILIATION & CHAIN OF CUSTODY
RESOURCE ALLOCATION
VRDB AUDITS
SECURITY AUDITS
L&A TESTS
BALLOT LAYOUT & DESIGN AUDITS

RISK-LIMITING AUDITS

BALLOT AUDITS
Clear away the clutter!
Let me teach you how to bake bread

- What are the principles?
- What tools are available and how do they work?
- Recipe with measured ingredients and instructions
- Demonstrate and mentor
Risk-Limiting Audits
A Practical Guide for State and Local Election Officials

JENNIFER MORRELL | DECEMBER, 2018

- Why audit?
- Why a risk-limiting audit?
- Foundation
- Policy considerations
- Voting equipment and technology
- Preparing for the audit
- Conducting the audit
- Post-audit feedback
- Communication
- Resources
Where are the gaps?

- Communication
- Universal audit tool
- Ballot retrieving
- Voter anonymity
- Who sets the standards?
RISK-LIMITING AUDITS
It’s a path... not an immediate destination

- **Strong Collaboration**
- **Terms & Definitions**
- **Voter Intent Guidelines**
- **Ballot Storage & Organization**
- **Ballot Reconciliation**
- **Random Selection**
- **Sample Size Based on Margin of Votes**
- **Ballot Manifest**
- **Dates & Deadlines**

**Paper Ballots & Cast Vote Record**
Why only audit/test voting equipment?

Why not audit and validate other critical components of the election system?
Why do we audit?

- Detects errors
- Provides accountability
- Deters fraud
- Limit risk
- Assurance of accuracy
- Provides feedback
State and local election offices work with a number of experts...

- Legal
- Communication/Social Media
- Data Analyst
- Project Management
- Cybersecurity

Why not experts in auditing and quality control?
What is an Audit?

An audit is a systematic, independent and documented process for obtaining audit evidence [records, statements of fact or other information which are relevant and verifiable] and evaluating it objectively to determine the extent to which the audit criteria [set of policies, procedures or requirements] are fulfilled.

Three Types of Audits

• Product Audit
• Process Audit
• System Audit
Phases of an Audit

1. Preparation
2. Conducting the Audit
3. Reporting & Feedback
4. Closure
Internal & External Audits

- **First-party audit** – when an organization measures its strengths and weaknesses against its own procedures or against external standards.

- **Third-party audit** - performed by an independent audit organization and free of any conflict of interest.
Why should we audit elections?

• Detects voting system errors
• Provides accountability to voters
• Deters fraudulent activity
• Limits the risk of certifying incorrect outcome
• Assures votes were counted & reported accurately
• Provides feedback for process improvement
We are at our best when we face COMPLEX challenges together.
Public Trust In Elections

“The American electorate deserves a modern, voter-centric election system that runs efficiently and inspires trust in electoral outcomes.”