Canvass Observation Training 2025



Canvass – Fast, Informative, Noisy







)

Canvass – Open Meeting by Law 24.2-671.1

Open, public meeting

- All open meeting rules apply
- Location and times must be noticed on Registrar's Website
- Must be in a room large enough to accommodate observers
- Anyone can attend to Observe
- Observers may not actively engage in the process
- Observers carefully ask questions at appropriate times
- Observers may not touch any of the materials



Canvass Observation Date, Time and Place General Election – November 4, 2025

Canvassing

Wednesday November 5 to Thursday November 6, 2025

Time: Wednesday 10:00 AM - 4:30 PMThursday 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Location: Fairfax County Government Center - Suite 251

12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA



Canvass Observer Etiquette

- Walk in with the assumption that you are going to observe a well-run operation, the General Registrar staff or Election Officers have been well trained, and they are doing their jobs to the best of their abilities
- If you notice something questionable, take your concerns first to the Canvass Operations Supervisor, and then if there is still a concern, call or email the HELPLINE
- Be respectful, be professional, and be polite.
- Staff doing canvassing are not obligated to slow down or explain, but many will do so
- Remember: **YOU** represent the Republican Party



Canvass Observer Rules

- No person, regardless of official function or statutory right to be present, may disrupt the meeting or interfere with the canvass in any way.
- Inform unruly individuals that interruptions can cause errors
- Questions concerning each precinct will be taken after work concludes but before the electoral board reseals the pollbooks, pollbook count forms, and the statement of results for the precinct back into Envelope #2.
- BUT....you can request that the canvassers speak loudly enough for you to hear and to confirm any missing information
- Canvass Observation: Listen for problems.

Canvass Required by Law

• 24.2-671 through 24.2-680

Electoral Board to meet and ascertain results, conclusiveness of Results

- GREB Handbook Chapter 14: Canvass
- The purpose of the canvass is for the Electoral Board to **review** all of the optical scan paper **tapes** and compare them to the written **Statement of Results** prepared after the close of

the polling places Election night (Unofficial Results) as well as the printed reports from the tabulation on Election Night.

Several other documents are also verified and compared



Canvass Required for "Official" Results

- The "Unofficial Results" reported on Election Night are Unofficial
 Only after the Electoral Board reviews all of the results and reports those
 numbers to the State Board of Elections are the results official.
- 24.2-668 Provides that the election materials may be delivered back to the Registrar's office the night of the Election instead of being taken to the Clerk of Court's Office.
- The Electoral Board shall open all of the envelopes containing the Results from each voting location



Canvass Comparison Actions: SOR to Tapes

- The Electoral Board manages and is responsible for the Canvass
- The General Registrar and staff **assist** and provide any additional information that the EB may require.
- The EB compares the numbers on the Statement of Results to those on the machine tapes
- Each of the Statement of Results forms must be signed by the Election Officers who prepare them.
- If the SORs are not properly signed or if different results are reported on the SORs and the machine tapes, only the **Election Officers can change the numbers** and they must be called into the meeting to do so



Canvass Reporting by Electoral Board

- The Electoral Board prepares an abstract of the number of votes cast and counted for each candidate in every precinct including the votes cast in the In-Person absentee voting offices and Central Absentee Precinct.
- The total number of votes for each candidate must be reported by the precinct in which the voter is registered to vote whether that ballot was cast on Election Day in that precinct, returned in a mailed back absentee envelope, or voted in the in-person absentee offices.
- The vote count also must be reported by the location or method in which it was cast —in-person absentee, mailed absentee, Election Day



Canvass Document Archiving

- Once the results are certified by the entire EB, the secretary signs and delivers one copy of each Statement of Results to the General Registrar. These copies shall be available for public inspection during business hours.
- Then the secretary shall deliver to the Clerk of Court
 - all pollbooks or electronic records of the pollbooks
 - any printed inspection and return sheets
 - one copy of each statement of results



Canvass Required for Election Certification

- The local Electoral Board Certifies the results, signs the certificates for the winning candidates, and signs the abstracts for all elections the votes for which are totally contained within that locality
 - Board of Supervisors, City Council, Sheriff, School Board, etc
- The local Electoral Board certifies the local elections and sends the results to the State Board of Elections which certifies the total results for all elections which cross local boundaries.
 - State wide (Congress, Governor, AG, Presidential etc), House of Delegates, Virginia Senate



Canvass – In Fairfax usually 2 days

- Meeting occurs in the Office of the
- Clerk of Court, General Registrar, or another room
 "of sufficient size" (usually room 251 in Fairfax Government Center)
- Must begin at or before 5 PM day after any election
- May be moved to a larger room if necessary
- Directions to different room must be posted on original room and on Registrar's office door
- Must be **completed** not later than Ten (10) days post Election Day This date may be extended if holiday or other circumstances.



Canvass – Volunteer Attendance Rules

- Each party or independent candidate or primary candidate is entitled to have as many representatives as there are teams of officials working to ascertain the results.
- The room must be of **sufficient size and configuration** to allow the representatives and observers reasonable access and proximity to view the ballots as the teams work to ascertain the results
- The representatives and observers shall be prohibited from interfering with the officials in any way
- It is unlawful for any person to knowingly possess any firearm within 40 feet of any building where the Electoral Board meets to ascertain results of the election Code 24.2-308.2.2



Canvass – What do the Canvassers do?

- Each team should be comprised of one Democrat and one Republican.
- Make sure all precinct documents are included, using a checklist.
- Each should check one copy of the statement of results to ensure matching information, and all required signatures have been entered.
- Ensure that all voting systems in the polling location are properly accounted for in the statement of results and that all machine tapes from all voting systems in use are present
- Compare the number of voters voting with the total number shown as voting on the statement of results. This is done by checking either the last page of the pollbook count sheet or the "Checked-In" count from the EPB. If they do not agree and no statement adequately explaining the disagreement has been entered, the officers must be called in to correct the statement of results or to enter the missing explanation



Canvass – Canvass Precinct Checklist (p. 1, front)

CANVASS CHECKLIST (election day precincts)						
Precinct: 100 SAMPLE (Nov 2024) Fairfax County – Presidential Election – Nov 5, 2024						
Canvass Team (full names):						

INSTRUCTIONS: Follow steps below. If all items are OK, check first box. If any issues, check second box and explain below. Raise RED sign for any questions. Raise GREEN sign when complete (including back).

Rev	iew		Status		
1.	DS				
l	a.	Verify all tapes returned from each DS200. If no			
	b.	If any tapes are missing, open Envelope #2A. Damong SOR A, SOR B, and Printed Return Shee			
	C.	Verify times on tapes are correct (opening tape closing tapes should be printed after 7:00 PM).			
l	S	OR – A (court's copy):	SOR - B (registrar's copy):	□ок	☐ See notes
l	•	Closing: Ballot Status Accounting Report	■ Closing: Voting Results Report		
l	•	Closing: Voting Results Report	Closing: Write-In Report		
		Opening: Configuration Report	Opening: Zero Totals Report		
l	•	Opening: Ballot Status Accounting Report			
	•	Opening: Zero Totals Report			
2.	ER	M Reports:			
	a.	Verify candidate votes on ERM report match Do (You may use the Results Worksheet to help ch		ОК	☐ See notes
3.	so	Rs:			
	a.	Verify there are no blank fields. Make all corre	ections in RED.		
l	b.	If there are any hand-counted ballots (Part 3), i	notify staff immediately.		
	C.	Verify Part 1 equals Part 3. If not, review number if there is still a discrepancy, verify explanation explanation. (Ask staff for help, if needed.)		□ок	☐ See notes
l	d.	Verify Part 6 is tabulated correctly. Reference 0	Closing Numbers Worksheet as needed.		
	e.	Verify Part 5 equals Part 6. If not, review numb If there is still a discrepancy, verify explanation explanation. (Ask staff for help, if needed).			
l	f.	Verify all entries on SOR A and SOR B are ident	ical.		
_					

Explanation of any issues



Canvass – Canvass Precinct Checklist (p. 2, back)

CANVASS CHECKLIST (election day precincts)							
Precinct:	Precinct: 100 SAMPLE (Nov 2024) Fairfax County – Presidential Election – Nov 5, 2024						
f any doci	uments are missing signatures	irst four (complete, incomplete, blank, missing) for each item, , also check last box (missing signatures) and place in Missing					

Nevi	Review presence or forms and signatures							
1.	Statement of Results A – all EOs sign (except Collector Officers)	☐ Complete	□ Incomplete	□ Blank	☐ Missing	☐ Missing signatures		
2.	Statement of Results B – all EOs sign (except Collector Officers)	☐ Complete	☐ Incomplete	□ Blank	☐ Missing	☐ Missing signatures		
3.	SOR A tapes – 2 EOs sign Zero Report & Voting Results Report	☐ Complete	□ Incomplete		☐ Missing	☐ Missing signatures		
4.	SOR B tapes – 2 EOs sign Zero Report & Voting Results Report	☐ Complete	□ Incomplete		☐ Missing	☐ Missing signatures		
5.	Election Officer Oath – all EOs sign	☐ Complete	☐ Incomplete	□ Blank	☐ Missing	Missing signatures		
6.	Ballot Receipt	☐ Complete	□ Incomplete	□ Blank	Missing	☐ Missing signatures		
7.	Compensation Sheet	☐ Complete	□ Incomplete	□ Blank	Missing			
8.	Voter Count Worksheet	☐ Complete	□ Incomplete	Blank	Missing			
9.	Closing Numbers Worksheet	☐ Complete	□ Incomplete	□ Blank	Missing			
10.	Results Worksheet	☐ Complete	□Incomplete	□ Blank	Missing			
11.	Chief's Notes	☐ Complete	□Incomplete	□ Blank	Missing			
			•					

Explanation of any issues



Canvass – Canvass Satellite Checklist (p. 1, front)

CA	N۷	ASS CHECKLIST (early voting sa	itellites)	
Prec	inc	t: Fairfax County GC	Fairfax County – Presidential I	Election – Nov 5, 2024
		nvass Team full names):		
		CTIONS: Follow steps below. If all items lain below. Raise RED sign for any quest		
	_	v election results	ions. Naise one EN sign when comp	Status
1.	_	2200 Tapes:		
1.	a.	Verify all tapes returned from <u>each</u> DS200. If n If any tapes are missing, open Envelope #2A. D	Detach and re-arrange tapes properly	
		among SOR A, SOR B, and Printed Return Shee		
	_	OR - A (court's copy): Closing: Ballot Status Accounting Report	SOR – B (registrar's copy): Closing: Voting Results Report	☐ OK ☐ See notes
		Closing: Voting Results Report	■ Closing: Write-In Report	
		otoonig. Voting hosaits hoport	Opening: Zero Totals Report	
		Opening: Configuration Report	ok - 1111/0/2016	
		Opening: Ballot Status Accounting Report		
		Opening: Zero Totals Report		
2.	EF	M Reports:		
	a.	Verify candidate votes on ERM report match D (You may use the Results Worksheet to help cl		OK See notes
3.	sc	PRs:		
	a.	Verify there are no blank fields. Make all corre	ections in RED.	
	b.	If there are any hand-counted ballots (Part 3),		
	c.	Verify Part 1 equals Part 3. If not, review numb- If there is still a discrepancy, verify explanation explanation. (Ask staff for help, if needed.)		☐ OK ☐ See notes
	d.	Verify Part 6 is tabulated correctly. Reference	Closing Numbers Worksheet as needed.	
	e.	Verify Part 5 equals Part 6. If not, review numb- If there is still a discrepancy, verify explanation explanation. (Ask staff for help, if needed).		
	f.	Verify all entries on SOR A and SOR B are ident	ical.	
—				
Ехр	lar	ation of any issues		
•				

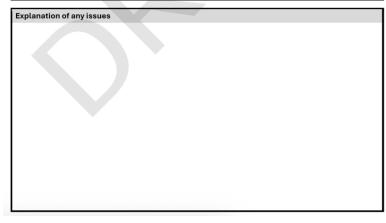


Canvass – Canvass Satellite Checklist (p. 2, back)

CANVA	SS CHECKLIST (ea	rly voting satellites)
Precinct:	Fairfax County GC	Fairfax County – Presidential Election – Nov 5, 2024

INSTRUCTIONS: Check one box among first four (complete, incomplete, blank, missing) for each item. If any documents are missing signatures, also check last box (missing signatures). Return all materials inside Fnvelone #2

Rev	Review presence of forms and signatures							
1.	Statement of Results A – 2 officers sign	☐ Complete	☐ Incomplete	□Blank	☐ Missing		Missing signatures	
2.	Statement of Results B – 2 officers sign	☐ Complete	☐ Incomplete	□Blank	Missing		Missing signatures	
3.	SOR A tapes – 2 officers sign Zero Report & Voting Results Report	☐ Complete	□ Incomplete		☐ Missing		Missing signatures	
4.	SOR B tapes – 2 officers sign Zero Report & Voting Results Report	☐ Complete	□ Incomplete		Missing		Missing signatures	
5.	Machine Certification Form – 2 officers sign	☐ Complete	□ Incomplete	□ Blank	☐ Missing		Missing signatures	
6.	Election Officer Oath – all officers sign	☐ Complete	□ Incomplete	□ Blank	☐ Missing		Missing signatures	
7.	Daily BOD Oaths – all officers sign (Chief signs 3 times)	☐ Complete	□ Incomplete	□ Blank	☐ Missing		Missing signatures	
8.	Daily Reconciliation Worksheet – 2 signatures, one form per day	☐ Complete	□ Incomplete	□ Blank	Missing		Missing signatures	
9.	Daily DS200 Log	☐ Complete	☐ Incomplete	□ Blank	☐ Missing			





Canvass – Document Overview

Totals for Canvass

Pollbook or EPB Data

Statement of Results (SoR)

Voting System Results Tapes

County/ City results report

Abstract of Votes



Canvass – Document Overview Poll Pad Data

Totals for Canvass

Pollbook or EPB Data

Statement of Results (SoR)

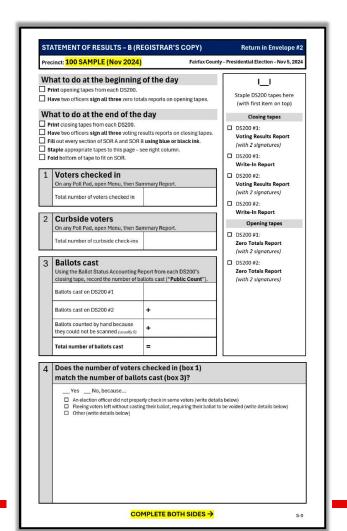
Voting System Results Tapes

County/ City results report

Abstract of Votes

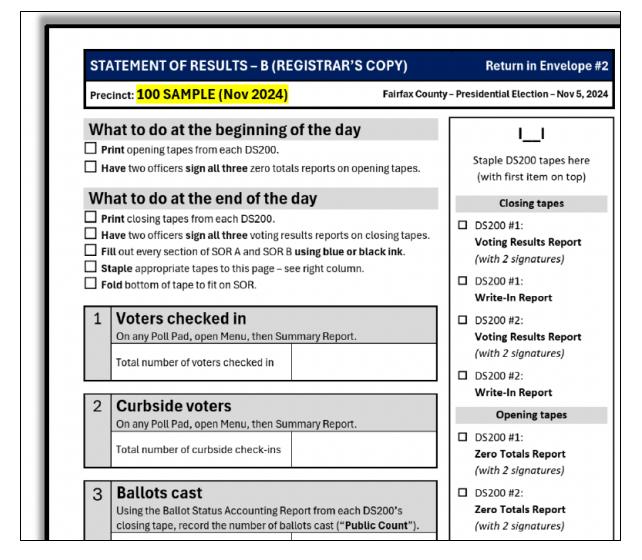


Canvass – Statement of Results (p. 1)





Canvass – Statement of Results (p. 1)



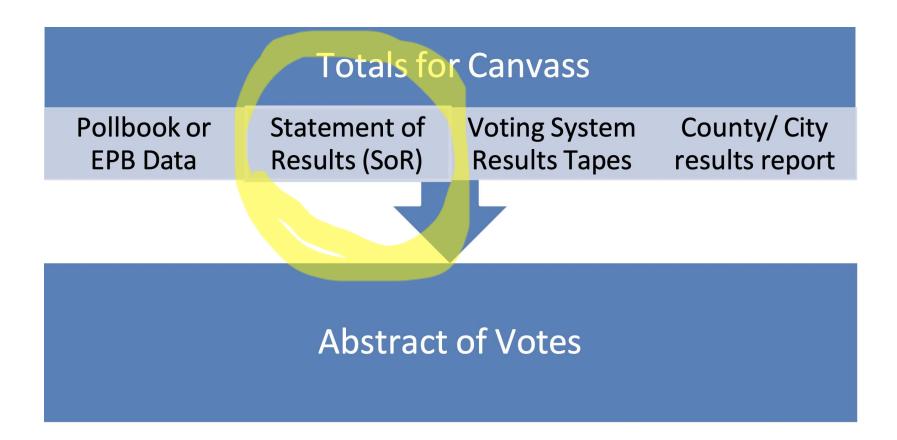


Canvass – SOR p. 1 - Ballots Cast Counts

3	Ballots cast Using the Ballot Status Accounting Report from each DS200's closing tape, record the number of ballots cast ("Public Count").		☐ DS200 #2: Zero Totals Report (with 2 signatures)
	Ballots cast on DS200 #1		
	Ballots cast on DS200 #2	+	11
	Ballots counted by hand because they could not be scanned (usually 0)	+	
	Total number of ballots cast	=	
4	Does the number of voters match the number of ballot		
4	match the number of ballot	ts cast (box 3)?	tails helow)
4	match the number of ballot	ts cast (box 3)?	
4	match the number of ballot Yes No, because □ An election officer did not proper □ Fleeing voters left without castin	ts cast (box 3)?	
4	match the number of ballot Yes No, because □ An election officer did not proper □ Fleeing voters left without castin	ts cast (box 3)?	
4	match the number of ballot Yes No, because □ An election officer did not proper □ Fleeing voters left without castin	ts cast (box 3)?	
4	match the number of ballot Yes No, because □ An election officer did not proper □ Fleeing voters left without castin	ts cast (box 3)?	
4	match the number of ballot Yes No, because □ An election officer did not proper □ Fleeing voters left without castin	ts cast (box 3)?	
4	match the number of ballot Yes No, because □ An election officer did not proper □ Fleeing voters left without castin	ts cast (box 3)?	

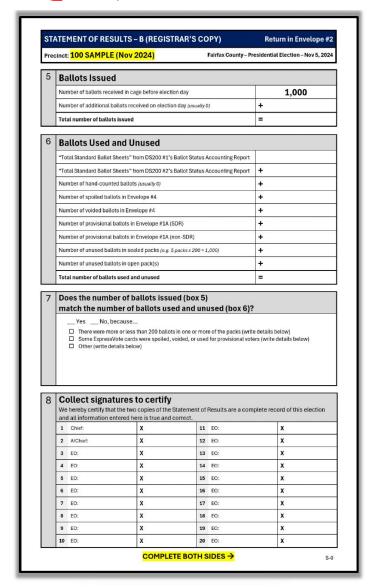


Canvass – Document Overview SOR - Ballot Counts



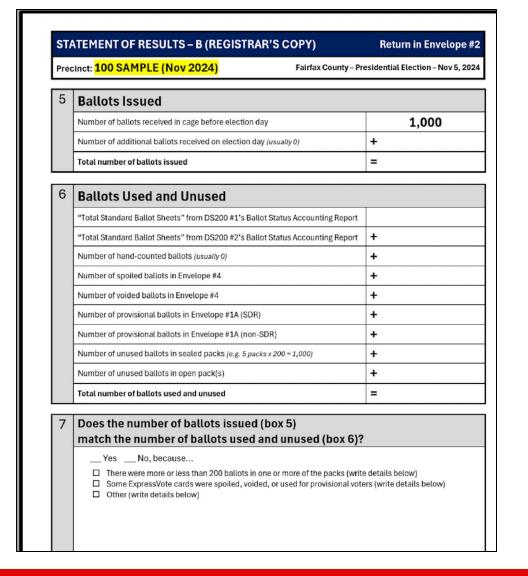


Canvass – SOR (p. 2) Ballot Counts -Used and Unused





Canvass – SOR (p. 2) – Ballot Counts – Used and Unused

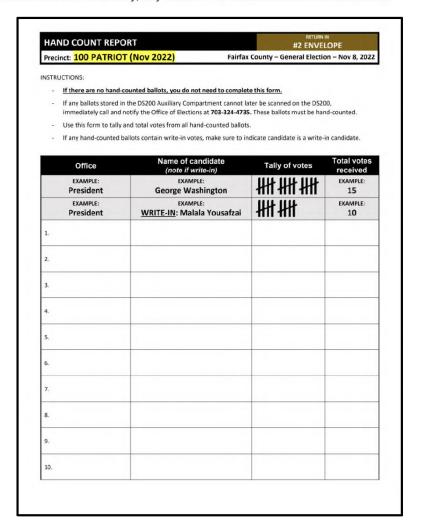




Canvass – Hand Count Report

HAND COUNT REPORT

If any ballots stored in the DS200 auxiliary compartment during the day cannot be scanned on the DS200 at the end of the day, they must be hand-counted and recorded on this form.





Canvass – Document Overview

Totals for Canvass

Pollbook or EPB Data

Statement of Results (SoR)

Voting System Results Tapes

County/ City results report

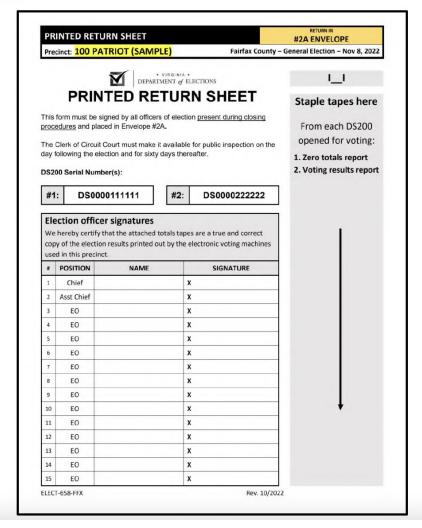
Abstract of Votes



Canvass – Printed Return Sheet (with paper tapes)

PRINTED RETURN SHEET

For this required form, simply attach a copy of the DS200 tapes and have all officers sign at th bottom.





Canvass – Document Overview

Totals for Canvass

Pollbook or EPB Data

Statement of Results (SoR)

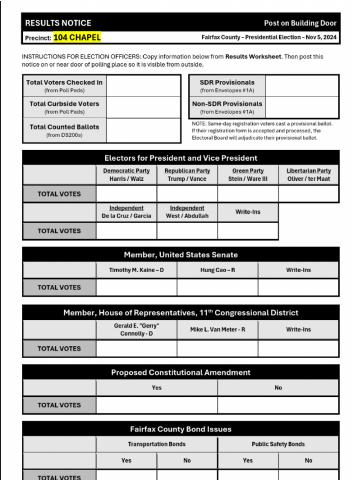
Voting System Results Tapes

County/ City results report

Abstract of Votes



Posted on Door – Precinct Results Notice





Remove and discard this notice on or after:
Thursday, November 7, 2024

Posted on Door – Precinct Results Notice

RESULTS NOTICE	Post on Building Door
Precinct: 104 CHAPEL	Fairfax County - Presidential Election - Nov 5, 2024

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ELECTION OFFICERS: Copy information below from **Results Worksheet**. Then post this notice on or near door of polling place so it is visible from outside.

Total Voters Checked In (from Poll Pads)	SDR Provisionals (from Envelopes #1A)		
Total Curbside Voters (from Poll Pads)	Non-SDR Provisionals (from Envelopes #1A)		
Total Counted Ballots (from DS200s)	NOTE: Same-day registration voters cast a provisional ballo If their registration form is accepted and processed, the Electoral Board will adjudicate their provisional ballot.		

Electors for President and Vice President							
Democratic Party Republican Party Green Party Libertarian Par Harris / Walz Trump / Vance Stein / Ware III Oliver / ter Max							
TOTAL VOTES							
	Independent Independent De la Cruz / Garcia West / Abdullah Write-Ins						
TOTAL VOTES							



Posted on Door – Results Notice

	Member, United States Senate							
	Timothy M. Kaine – D	Hung Cao – R	Write-Ins					
TOTAL VOTES								

Member, House of Representatives, 11th Congressional District					
	Gerald E. "Gerry" Connolly - D	Mike L. Van Meter - R	Write-Ins		
TOTAL VOTES					

	Proposed Constitutional Amendment			
	Yes	No		
TOTAL VOTES				

	Fairfax	County Bond Iss	ues	
	Transportation Bonds		Public Safety Bonds	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
TOTAL VOTES				

Remove and discard this notice on or after:
Thursday, November 7, 2024



Canvass – County Results Report

One member of the board (Democratic or Republican) may complete the county/city results report worksheet, with:

- The total number of votes cast in the precinct for each candidate or issue response listed
- The total number of write-in votes cast for each office
- The number of over-votes cast in the precinct for each candidate.
- The total number of votes cast for all candidates, including write-ins (for non-primaries), for any one single-seat office, or responses for any one issue, must not exceed the total number of persons voting in that precinct and in that district.



Canvass – Abstract of Votes Cast Report

- The "Abstract of Votes" VERIS report is generated after vote totals for each office or issue are submitted into VERIS from the SOR.
- VERIS = Virginia Election and Registration Information System
- Towards the end of canvass, the local electoral board should have the general registrar or staff retrieve the "Abstract of Votes" VERIS report.



Canvass – Possible Error Reports

After entering the election results, voter turnout, and Election Day and Provisional voting credit into VERIS, three separate reports should be generated to check for accuracy. The electoral board should analyze and resolve votes cast/voter turnout discrepancies that are flagged in these reports

- 1) Election Error Results v2 by Office
- 2) Turnout Versus Vote Cast Error Report
- 3) Voting Credit Audit by Locality.



Canvass – Election Error Results (by Office)

The Election Error Results (by Office) report identifies precincts having a higher number of votes cast than turnout.

If there are more votes than turnout, documentation must be provided by the officers of election on the statement of results. Undocumented errors must be corrected



Canvass – Turnout Versus Vote Cast Error Report

The Turnout Versus Vote Cast Error report identifies precincts having a higher number of turnout than votes cast.

While a small percentage (i.e., less than 3%) may be explained by undervotes, a larger percentage might be due to a gross error such as completely missing a precinct or voting machine. This report is designed to help catch those situations.



Canvass – Voting Credit Audit By Locality Error Report

The Voting Credit Audit by Locality report compares voter turnout and voting credit for each precinct.

The Voting Credit Audit by Locality report identifies differences in voter turnout and voting credit.

An exact match of the numbers is best; however, a slight deviation between numbers may occur.



Canvass – Certificates of Election

The certificate of election is made out by the secretary of the electoral board once the board has determined the election results and verified with the general registrar each winning candidate's compliance with §24.2-948.2.45

The secretary must make out a certificate for each person who received the highest number of votes.



Canvass – Republican Party of Virginia Print Form

RPV recommends using this very simple print form. These will be available at the canvassing sessions for all volunteers.

Precinct Number:	Precinct Name:
Ballots Cast:	Poll Book Count:
Notes (Explanation of Discre	pancy in Ballots Cast and Poll Book Count; Other Issues:
Precinct Number:	Precinct Name:
	Poll Book Count:
	pancy in Ballots Cast and Poll Book Count; Other Issues:
Notes (Explanation of Discre	
Notes (Explanation of Discre	,,,,,,,,,
Notes (Explanation of Discre	,
Precinct Number:	



Links, Email, and Phone References

• To contact the RPV Helpline: help@virginia.gop 804-600-4809

•

To review materials/get updates: https://fairfaxgop.org/fairfax-gop-poll-watcher-resources/

• For local questions/scheduling help: <u>pollwatchers@fairfaxgop.org</u> 703-397-8129

