



Verifying the System

At Benton County Elections, our mission is to conduct accurate, secure, and accessible elections. Audits and recounts are two of the ways we are continuously verifying the accuracy, security, and accessibility of our elections system.

Election Audits

Before and after each election we run a variety of tests and audits to ensure that your vote is being counted as you intended it.

Logic and Accuracy Testing



We conduct a Logic and Accuracy (L&A) tests every election. L&A tests verify that the tabulation system counts votes correctly. A set of test ballots are pre-marked with a known set of results. These ballots are then scanned using each ballot scanner that will be in use during the election. The results are tabulated and compared with the pre-existing, known results to verify that the system is counting the votes as they are marked. When there is a state contest or measure on the ballot, members of the Secretary of State's Office are on hand to observe and officially sign off on the successful test. Observers and candidates are welcome to attend and observe Logic and Accuracy tests.

Random Batch Audit



Within 48 hours after Election Day, we randomly select batches of ballots and do a hand count of a randomly selected contests. We then compare the results of the hand count to the tally that came from the tabulation system to prove that system is counting the votes accurately.

Risk Limiting Audit



After each election, we take a random sample of individual voted ballots (not batches of ballots) and compare each vote on the marked ballot against the tabulated vote for those individual ballots. This type of postelection audit provides statistical confidence that the stated winner is really the winner.