

ELECTION AUDITS

THROUGH PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS

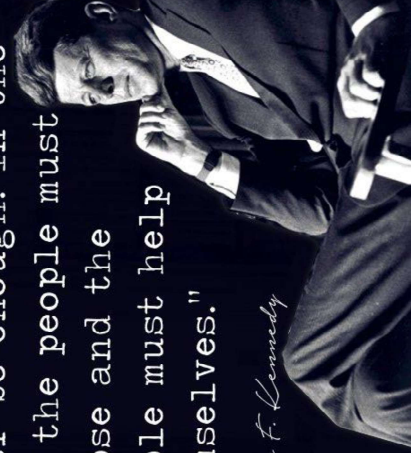
COURTESY OF:



HOW TO AUDIT AN ELECTION THROUGH PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS

"The efforts of the government alone will never be enough. In the end, the people must choose and the people must help themselves."

-John F. Kennedy



IF OUR GOVERNMENT
REFUSES TO PERFORM A
COMPREHENSIVE AUDIT
IT BECOMES OUR RESPONSIBILITY
TO CONDUCT ONE.

INTRODUCTION



3

For so long, Americans have been blindly trusting the election process because we expected with all the technological advancements over the years, that we would be using the best of the best in terms of equipment, processes, and standards.



The truth is, the current audit requirements and standards for our elections are below the minimum industry standards. The certification of the machines doesn't even test for vulnerabilities or security risks.

When auditing an organization's processes or compliance, a third party is usually tasked with conducting the audit. You don't trust them to do it themselves!

This guide will get you started on how to conduct an election audit through public records requests.



Heads up:



4



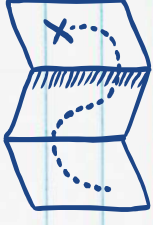
Different states or counties using different systems may have a different name for the records referenced in this guide. You will need to figure out the correct terminology for your county/state/system. If you are in Washington, the report names and terminology used here should work for you.

Also, because states are responsible for their own elections, they all have a different set of laws. There isn't one answer that will fit all states.

Most of this is based on the knowledge we have gained from Washington, where we conduct our elections 100% by mail. We also consulted with some other states and included information from those teams as well. Please keep in mind that some information may not apply to your state.



AUDIT FOCUS:



5

This audit guide, will focus on records related to:

1. Voters
2. Ballots
3. Machines

Everything mentioned in this guide is meant to be a suggestion and is not an exhaustive list of things that you can or should include in your audit.



1. VOTERS

Registration Data

Find frequent addresses, incomplete registration data, duplicate registrations, and more.



You will need: Ability to run large data sets, voter registration data

Registration Maintenance

Check the accuracy of the list maintenance and take action to



address ineligible voters or inaccurate data.

To do: NCOA data run on your voter registration list

Who voted?



There should be a list or record of the voters who submitted a ballot for each election. It may be included on your registration data, or it may be in a separate record as well.



Records to request: Poll Book Check-In Logs, Ballots issued and received, matchbacks, or other record of who participated.

6



GOALS



- Make a list of ineligible voters
- Remove ineligible voters from the list
- Verify voters by canvassing or contacting voters
- Show the flaws in registration system
- Find inaccuracies in the data
- Look for patterns in the data that shouldn't be there
- Identify source or reason for erroneous data
- Teach the county that their current methods of maintenance is ineffective.



MMMM

REGISTRATION DATA



What you can look for:

- Frequent registration days
- Frequent addresses
- What kind of places are most frequent?
- Are they legally able to register there?
- Incomplete addresses
- Frequent mailing addresses
- Out of state and overseas mailing addresses
- Duplicate registrations (Same first, last, dob, address, or any combination of these)
- Most common birthdays (we found 1/1 is very common, possibly from people who move from foreign countries who don't celebrate or keep track of birthdays.)
- Registrations on or right before election day.





If you do not know how to search the data for these things, we recommend using the EDA (Election Data Analyzer) to help you run these searches.



Many of the queries mentioned on the previous slide will not produce evidence of fraud by itself, but any outliers in your data can be confirmed through contacting the voters in question, then challenge appropriately to remove ineligible voters.

The information can also be used to create county reports highlighting the deficiencies or progress your county is making in cleaning the voter rolls.



REGISTRATION MAINTENANCE



Send the following request for records to the county or state you are auditing:

52 U.S.C. § 20507(i) requires that "[e]ach state shall maintain for at least 2 years and shall make available for public inspection . . . all records concerning the implementation of programs and activities conducted for the purpose of ensuring the accuracy and currency of official lists of eligible voters." 52 U.S.C. § 20507(i)(1).

That provision goes on to specifically provide that "[t]he records maintained . . . shall include lists of the names and addresses of all persons to whom [address confirmation] notices . . . are sent, and information concerning whether or not each such person has responded to the notice." *Id.*, § 20507(i)(2).

Please provide the relevant records of all individuals sent notices, whether they responded, the outcome, and other records pertaining to the removal of ineligible voters from the list.

See : <https://www.sos.ms.gov/links/elections/home/tabs/NVRAPurging.pdf>



NCOA

11

Run the list of registered voters against the NCOA database. There are a few ways you can do this. There are companies that will do this for a fee. There are also so resources we have through our national election integrity movement that may be able to assist as well.



Once you get the data back, there are several things you can check. You will need to take some time to understand the data and the codes. This will be one of the individual topics covered later.

To start, you can check that the ones who submitted change of address to another county, state, or otherwise moved away, have either had their address updated or have been removed or inactivated on the official list of registered voters. You can also check that all addresses are complete and valid using the data. If not, you can submit voter registration challenges for the ones that should not be on the list. What are the oldest change of addresses that aren't updated in the voter rolls?



HOW CAN I TELL IF THE COUNTY IS DOING THEIR JOB?

12

- Check to see if the people who were sent notices and didn't respond are still active on the registration list.
- Are the people who submitted a change of address still registered at their old address?
- Did the county/state follow through with the process? Did they drop the ball?
- What is the most common reason for being sent a notice or for being removed or inactivated according to the provided records?
- How many records are out of date?

Document your findings for your audit report. Send follow up questions or request for clarification if needed.



FYI: These are tasks which your county or state may rely on ERIC for. Finding discrepancies here is a good argument that **ERIC is a waste of money.**



WHO VOTED

13

One way to audit the election is to check for discrepancies in the official list of who submitted a ballot in the election. This records should be permanent and any differences in the different versions should have some really good reason for changing. In some states, during an election there is a list available during early voting. These records are important and we will discuss that next.



Checking the entire list with each voter is obviously not efficient. Perhaps you can publish it somewhere so people can verify their own record is correct. In WA, we made a search tool and it's available on our website, whocountsthevotes.com.

The website search tool allows people to see voting history and registration data. We then encourage the public to check their neighborhood or their own records and provide instruction on what to do to correct the information or report it.



WHO VOTED EARLY

14



Early voting / mail in ballot return statistics

Track and record the ballots as they are returned to the county to be tabulated.

You will need: Access to the daily list of people who have already returned a ballot. (In my state this list is posted on the SOS website. It's called the ballot status report, but likely has a different term in other states.)

What can you learn?

How many ballots have been returned in addition to their name, address, and possibly party affiliation, if applicable.

Why it's a concern:

Calculate early results to figure the algorithm set point or order extra ballots like an overnight package through USPS so it isn't suspicious.

This can also be used as a list of who you need to remind to get in their ballot, if their participation is low.



2. BALLOTS

For each ballot, we should know where they originated, who they belonged to, and where they ended up.

Records to request:

- Statewide reconciliation report (may be available online)
- List of voters provided to the printer, printer invoices or work orders
- Undeliverable ballot list
- Ballot printing services records/work orders/invoices
- Chain of custody records
 - Poll pad logs
 - Ballot seal oaths
 - Drop box pickups
 - USPS deliveries
 - Transport of ballots
 - Every time a ballot container is opened
 - USB drives (V-drives, security keys, etc.)



GOALS

1. Follow the paper trail to track the ballots from creation to tabulation.
2. Confirm Chain of custody records are complete, including proper signatures.
3. Account for excess ballots or discrepancies in records at the state level, and at the closest possible level.
4. Cross reference records from various sources and see if the ballot counts balance. (From the ballot pickups, to the first count, the postage invoices, the state's official records, or any other records.)



RECONCILIATION REPORT:

ACCORDING TO THE RECONCILIATION REPORT ON THE SECRETARY OF STATE WEBSITE

2020

IN WA STATE

2022

361,996

More ballots issued than there were registered voters.

210,670

248,435

Of those were replacement ballots.

116,231

113,561

So where did the excess ballots come from, and who were they issued to?

94,439

POLL PAD LOGS

Poll pad sheets contain some important information. The data included may vary. This example includes the seal information for opening and closing the polls, the number of people that voted or that were issued ballots, date and hours of operation, etc.

This should all be checked with the rest of the records. Are there any outliers? Do the seals match from one report to the next? These can also be cross referenced with other records to ensure the math all adds up.

17

Poll Pad Recap Sheet

ELECTION: (Check One)

☒ General

☐ Presidential Preference/Primary

☐ Presidential Primary/Runoff

☐ Special

County/Municipality: B15b Precinct Name: Golfway, 3

Election Date: 11-3-2020

Poll Pad #	Opening Seal #	Opening Seal #	Closing Seal #
039	1065700	1065688	3516228
040	1065632	1065691	3517622
041	1065647	1065679	3517584
115	1065614	1065636	3517542

The List of Electors for the precinct listed above and contained on these Poll Pad units has been reviewed by the County Registrar's office and has been found to be correct.

Signature: *[Signature]* Date: 10/19/20

FOR USE ON ELECTION DAY BY POLL WORKERS: Use Only One Poll Pad Unit to Complete This Section

ACTION	OPENING	CLOSING
A. Time	7:00AM	7:00PM
B. Total number shown on Poll Pad Check-In:	Total Voters: 0 Democratic: 0 Republican: 0 Nonpartisan: 0	Total Voters: 0 Democratic: 0 Republican: 0 Nonpartisan: 0
C. Total number of voters marked on the Supplemental Elector's List	0	0
D. Total number shown on Paper Supplemental Numbered List (E and F should be the same)	0	0
E. Voters marked on Poll Pad + Voters marked on Supplemental Elector's List (Add Closing B + Closing C)	(Add Closing B + Closing C)	711
F. Poll Pad Check-Ins + Paper Supplemental Numbered List (Add Closing B + Closing D)	(Add Closing B + Closing D)	711

If the numbers above do not match or balance as expected, please attach explanation.

We the undersigned Managers, hereby certify the above is true and correct on this 3rd day of November, 2020.

Poll Manager Signature: *[Signature]*

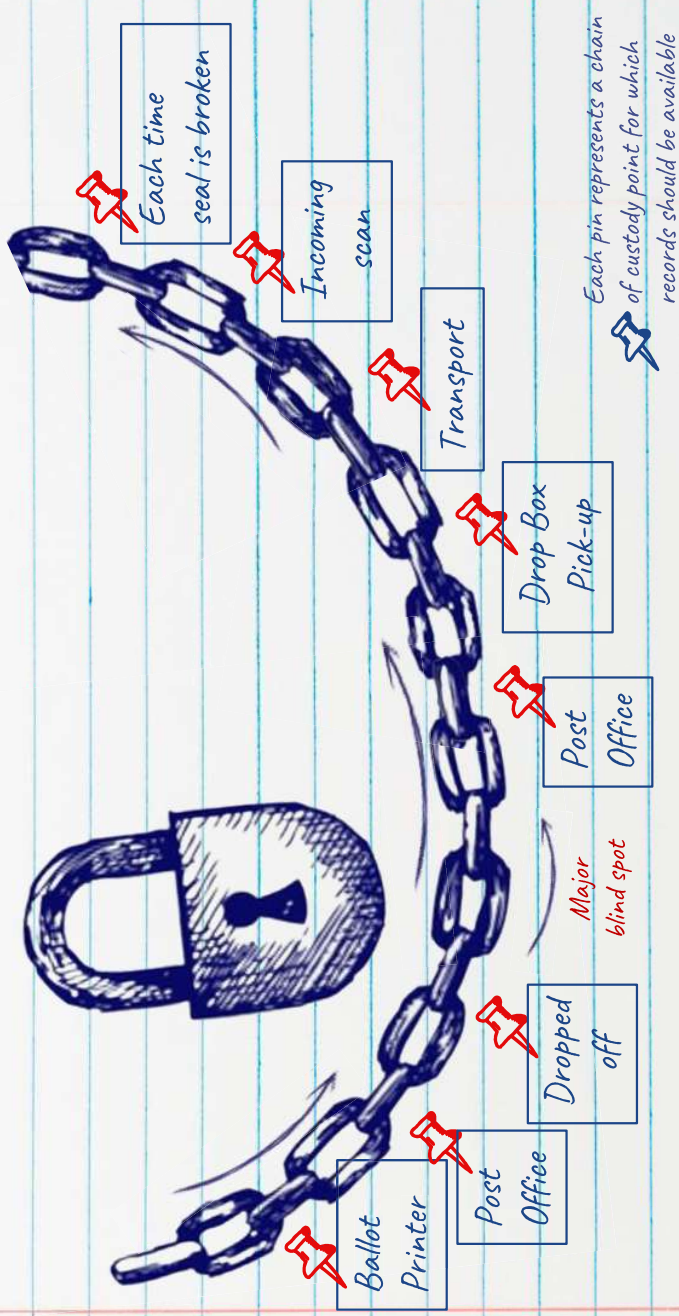
Assistant Manager Signature: *[Signature]*

Assistant Manager Signature: *[Signature]*

18

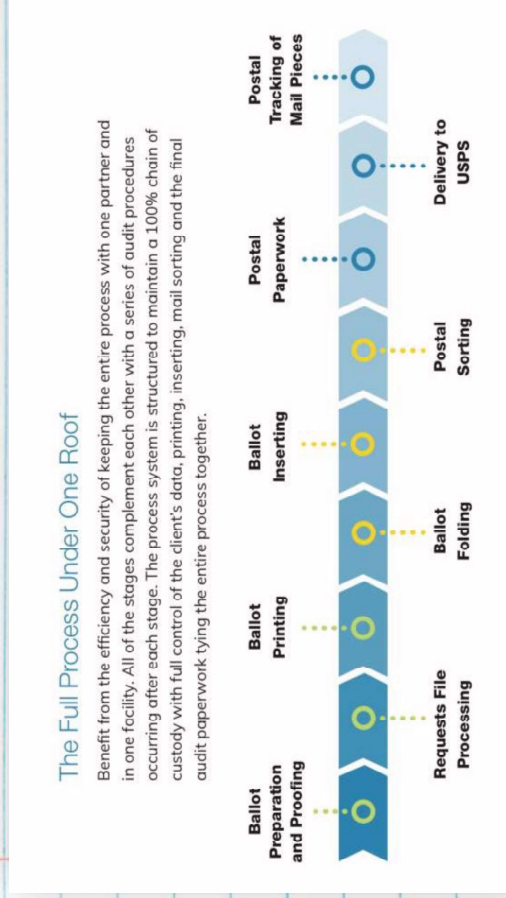
CHAIN OF CUSTODY POINTS FOR MAIL-IN BALLOTS

19



BALLOT PRINTING SERVICES

20



Ballot printing may be done in house, but most of the time, it is outsourced to a 3rd party company.

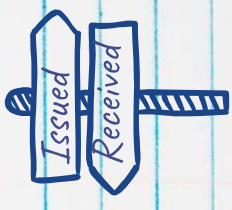
For mail in ballots, the printers may offer other services, such as mailing and tracking.

Each service the county contracts with the printer for should have records which you can request. There should be invoices and numbers you can cross reference with other records.

BALLOTS ISSUED AND RECEIVED

List of each ballot issued, including replacements, duplicates, provisional, absentee, etc. Information includes ballot id, voter Id, voter name and address, time and date ballot was issued, the date it was returned to the county, the status of the ballot, and some other information typically.

- Do the county's records match the SOS records? (Rare in my experience)
- Does the list of people who voted match the list that was sent to the printer for ballot creation? If not, where did the ballots come from?
- Each ballot issued has a record. Check if they add up.
- Did some people get multiple ballots?
- If someone received more than one ballot, were all others suspended?
- How many more ballots were issued vs registered voters?
- How many replacement ballots were issued?
- Were all ballots received on time?
- Were all ballots issued at the same time? If not, why? (Besides UOCAVA)
- Number of rejected ballots (and dates)



DROP BOX PICK-UP LOGS/RECORDS

These are essentially the log for the ballots which are picked up by the county from the various drop boxes in their jurisdiction.

Reminder: Not all records will look the same but should contain similar info that you can use to track chain of custody at various stages.

Drop Box Seal Log

November 8, 2022 General Election

Twenty

Location	Number of the old seal and get in the with the ballots	Remove labels for transport	Verify ballot seal tag No.
1. Unlocked door, cut the interior seal.	Witness #1 1600-981-7	Witness #2 1403	Remove labels for transport
2. Complete ROTH copies for all ballot #2.	Witness #1 3200-346	Witness #2 28	Remove labels for transport to Election Office
3. Seal the ballot drop box by locking the ROTH seal number in the bag.	Witness #1 00-989-33	Witness #2 28047-22	Secure Drop Box
4. First one copy of this log into this tab with the ballots and the other in the pocket on top of the tab.	Witness #1 00-989-33	Witness #2 28047-22	Remove labels for processing
5. When ballots arrive at the Election Office for auditing.	Witness #1 3200-346	Witness #2 28047-22	Remove labels for processing
6. Verify Ballot Seal Tag number	Witness #1 00-989-29	Witness #2 28047-22	Verify ballot seal tag No.

Place in Ballot Transport Container

NOV2022 (GEN2211)

Drop Box Transport Log

Lackamas Elementary (DB18)

Serial	Date	Time	Name	Name
700.23	10/17	10:24	John N. H	John N. H
700.40	10/19	10:07	John N. H	John N. H
719.43	10/21	9:12	John N. H	John N. H
729.64	10/21	5:12	John N. H	John N. H
81.57	10/28	9:52	John N. H	John N. H
83.97	10/28	5:13	John N. H	John N. H
83.94	10/28	10:28	John N. H	John N. H
89.55	11/2	10:23	John N. H	John N. H
82.01	11/2	9:18	John N. H	John N. H
70.16	11/7	9:14	John N. H	John N. H

Place in Ballot Transport Container

[illegible][illegible]

Seal Oaths



Ballot containers are sealed and a "tamper proof seal" is used. All That means is there is a sticker with a number or identifier.



Election officials are not supposed to handle ballots alone. Each time they break a seal on a ballot container, they sign the seal oath pictured above. Some counties use a different system, but there should be signatures on these.

You can match them up and make sure there aren't any missing, follow the path of the ballots, and check for sufficient signatures. Document missing signatures and any notes made by the staff.



Seal Oath

Seal number: 50483406
 Date sealed: 11/20 Time: 09:55
 Container count: 1 of 1

Drop Box / Voting Center / P.O.A.
 Location: EDGEWOOD
 Container count: 1 of 1

OFFICIAL ELECTIONS SEAL
 50483406

Date seal broken: 11/20 Time: 8:40
 Seal broken by: [Signature]
 Reason: [Signature]

Transported by: [Signature]

White - inside container Yellow - attach to container

USPS CHAIN OF CUSTODY



There are a few records that document the ballots when passed from USPS to the county. Check that the chain of custody is complete, and there are none missing. Check the ballot counts, see if they match other records.



CHAIN OF CUSTODY FOR BALLOTS
 Election Date: November 8
 Date: 10.21.2022 Time: 7:15 PM
 Number of Containers from USPS: 25 Trays
 Signature: [Signature]
 Number of Containers Received: [Signature]

BRM Invoice Type: High-Volume BRM				Opening Balance: \$10,890.51			
Invoice Date: 10/27/2022				Final			
Letter Prices				TRANSP-2022001103410361			
Line Item	Description	Weight (lb)	Number of Packages	Per Piece Handling Charge	Package	Package	Package
B1	Postcards	0	3	0.440	0.115	1.865	
B2	1 oz	4	0.400	0.115	2.960		
B3	2 oz	2	0.840	0.115	0.000		
B4	3 oz	0	1.080	0.115	0.000		
B5	3.5 oz	3.5	0	1.320	0.115	0.000	
B6	Nonmachinable Surcharge	3.5	0	0.390	0.000	0.000	
Special Description: Number of Pieces: Package per Piece: Per Piece Handling Charge: Postage				B125 Postage Due: 26 0.000 0.000 54.080			
				Total Postage Due: \$1			

November 8, 2022 General & Special Election Ballot Returns	Mail		Amboy Middle School		Battle Ground Post Office		Brush Prairie Post Office		Camas Post Office	
	Friday, Oct 21	155								
Monday, Oct 24	1,305	-	7	240	100	240	29			
Tuesday, Oct 25	NO MAIL									
Wednesday, Oct 26	7,552	-		350	99	300	28			
Thursday, Oct 27	9,989	-		340	112	320	14			
Friday, Oct 28	2,581	40	760	180	510	50				
Saturday, Oct 29										
Monday, Oct 31	11,376	40	1,000	320	640	40				
Tuesday, Nov 01	1,551		600	120	480	-				
Wednesday, Nov 02	6,754	-	740	160	480	80				
Thursday, Nov 03	5,566	60	700	180	450	-				
Friday, Nov 04	6,572	-	560	140	440	-				
Saturday, Nov 05	7,845		760	140	560	140				
Monday, Nov 07	4,162	180	2,932	420	2,140	180				
Tue, Nov 8 (AM)	7,550...		2,020	720	2,360	220				



3. MACHINES

25



The machines offer several records which are necessary for an audit. Below is a list of some of them. You may not be able to obtain all of these, and some may not be relevant in your state. Many of these will be discussed further in future workshops.

You will need:



- System Logs
- CVR or Batch reports
- Adjudication logs
- Post election audit records
- Poll tapes (Signed and dated)
- Ballot images (with timestamps and SHA files)
- Election Definition Files (EDF) or Ballot Definition File for each tabulator
- EMS election project
- Polling site reconciliation posted the night of the election



GOALS



26

- Recreate a timeline of the ballot processing events.
- Check for signs of unauthorized access and internet connectivity.
- Look to see if anyone checked the vote totals before permitted by law.
- Compare adjudication rates between races, precincts, batches, and any other way you can look at it.
- Check to see if anyone was processing ballots during hours no observers were present.
- Confirm ballot definition file / election definition file are not altered.
- Determine if there was a preload or another pattern in vote distributions.
- Check that ballot images match the official results



SYSTEM LOGS

Also known as SLOGS, audit logs, security logs, or a variety of different names.

When requesting these, you will need to know what system is being used and what that system calls its logs. For example, Clear Ballot calls their logs the Web Activity Log and the Election Activity Log. Hart Verity calls them the System Log and the Audit Log.



These will give you a record of every action taken on the machines during the processing of ballots. It will show you when someone logs in, when ballots are scanned, when they are adjudicated, failed logins, errors, and any other action taken on the machines that is recorded.



You can learn so much about what happened from the logs. This is a topic we look forward to discussing in more detail in another workshop.



OTHER LOGS WE REQUESTED

Aside from the tabulator system logs, we also have requested:

- System, Setup, Security, and Application event logs
- Network connect and disconnect logs
- UTC and WLAN .evtx, .txt, and .csv files
- Windows system logs

Some of these logs contained interesting information, some did not. If you have the ability to obtain additional logs and understand how to read them, we suggest checking it out to see if anything stands out.



CVR OR BATCH RECORDS



Most of us are familiar with the CVR's and what kind of analysis you can do with them. For that reason, we will not go into detail about this. Keep an eye out for another workshop on this topic if you want to learn more.



Cast Vote Records (CVR) should include the following columns as well as all the vote results: Tabulator ID and location, Precinct name, Ballot Style, Record ID's, Timestamp (when the ballot image was scanned and/or tabulated), Voting Method (Mail-in, In-person etc...)

Batch records may be available instead of the CVRs if you are not able to get the CVRs. It's essentially the same thing, except it gives you the vote counts for batches of ballots instead of each ballot individually. Batches are between 50 and 300 ballots, depending on the county.

For auditing purposes, check the totals match the official reported results, check the precinct totals add up, and check for signs of manipulation or preloaded ballots.



BALLOT IMAGES



Some states will release ballot images. My state is not one of them. Ballot images can be used to compare with official results. Also check for ballots where someone made a selection then crossed it out and selected another. Do people vote straight ticket or are there any outliers that stand out. This can be compared to the CVR and especially if the images contain the ballot ID or position that also shows on the cvr. In that case, you can check the CVR matches the ballot images.

[illegible]

RECORDS REQUEST DENIAL REBUTTALS

33



"We don't create new records for requests."

Certain records like the system logs are created automatically within the system and have already been created. All you need to do is view the record and share it.

"It has personal information of voters."

Please redact the portion of the record containing information not subject to disclosure and release the remainder of the records.

"It will put our system security at risk."

If your system is not connected to the internet, nobody should be able to interfere with the security of your system with information like IP addresses and usernames.

More rebuttals will be provided for specific requests in future workshops.



KEEPING TRACK OF YOUR REQUESTS

34

We recommend you track your requests using a spreadsheet, or another method to manage them if you prefer. This will allow you to quickly check what you are waiting on, what you have received, or what you need to send still.



	Request 1	Request 2	Request 3
County 1	Sent 11.10	Sent 11.08	Denied
County 2	Received 11.12	-	Received 11.04
County 3	-	Sent 11.13	-



CREDITS

35

Pacific Northwest Patriot Production

Presentation by Erica from Washington and narrated by Marty in Oregon.

Special thank you to my team, Washington Audit Research, as well as Audit Oregon, and Audit the Vote Hawaii.

Dedicated to the community of people who continue searching for the truth by pulling back the curtain on our flawed election system.



It takes all of us to keep this movement going. Thank you for your dedication.

More audit videos coming soon!



36

THERE ARE TWO PRIMARY CHOICES IN LIFE:
ACCEPT THE CONDITIONS AS THEY EXIST;
OR ACCEPT THE RESPONSIBILITY TO CHANGE THEM.



FOLLOW US ON **TELEGRAM** @ELECTIONEDUCATIONMATERIALS

OR FOR QUESTIONS AND FURTHER DISCUSSION:

@ELECTIONEDUCATIONCHAT

