

October 8, 2024 Webinar Secretary of State – Elections Division



### Overview

- Background
- Preliminary Election Reconciliation form
- Central Count
- Ballot by Mail
- In Person
- Official Election Reconciliation form





#### Reconciliation

The Texas Election Code requires that the presiding judge of the central counting station attest to a written reconciliation of votes and voters (127.131(f)):

#### Two times each election

- 1. At the close of tabulation on election day
- 2. After counting late mail/provisional ballots (canvass)



#### Reconciliation

- Only required if using a central counting station
- Post completed forms on your county website
  - Post with results reports
  - We recommend keeping posted for at least 22 months





#### Reconciliation

Compares:

Number of voters who cast valid ballots

Number of votes counted by your voting system





# Tips

- Have a plan
  - List the different types of ballots in your election
  - Identify which reports need to be run
- Don't wait until the end of the night



#### Preliminary Election Reconciliation – Unofficial Totals

**Election Day** 

Discialn	ner: These numbers are subject to change as information is v	erified after election day
County	Election Name	
Registered Voters	Election Date	
1. Voters	2. Rejected or pending ballots	3. Counted ballots
(from election resters)  A. In person	(pending review, pending voter action, or rejected)  D. Provisional	(from table fallon software)  G. In person
voters	ballots rejected or pending	ballots counted
B. By mail voters	E. Mail ballots rejected or pending	H. Mall ballots counted
C. Total voters (A+B)	F. Total ballots rejected or pending (0+E)	I. Total ballots counted (G+H)
J. Difference between voters and (C-F-I) L. Notes:	4. Comparison of voters and counted to ballots  K. Difference as perce (3-(C-F)*100)	
(C-F-I)	l ballots K. Difference as percei	ntage of voters
(C-F-I)	j ballots K. Difference as percei (J+(C-F)*100)	ntage of voters
(C-F-I) L. Notes: M. "I certify that the information or	K. Difference as perceivid-(i-(C-F)*100)      5. Attestation  ontained in this preliminary election reconcilization document a election injut. The information may conclude the opposite or provisite and the opposite or provisite or pr	ntage of voters
(C-F-I) L. Notes:  M. "I certify that the information cand voters as known to me on	K. Difference as perceivid-(i-(C-F)*100)      5. Attestation  ontained in this preliminary election reconcilization document a election injut. The information may conclude the opposite or provisite and the opposite or provisite or pr	ntage of voters
(C-F-I)  L. Notes:  M. "I certify that the information or and voters as known to me on reconciliation efforts by election.  Presiding judge signature.	to ballots  K. Difference as percei (J+(O-F)*100)  5. Attestation  ontained in this preliminary election reconciliation document at election right. The information may change based on provision personnel.*	ntage of voters
(C-F-I) L. Notes:  M. "I certify that the information or and voters as known to me on reconciliation efforts by election."  Preciding Judge signature  6. Balliots that	5. Attestation  5. Attestation  ontained in this preliminary election reconciliation document as election right. The information may change based on provisit p personnel."	ntage of voters
(C-F-I) L. Notes:  M. "I certify that the information or and voters as known to me on reconciliation efforts by election."  Presiding judge signature  6. Balliots that	5. Attestation  ontained in this preliminary election reconditation document at election inght. The information may change based on provisit in personnel."  Print name  could be added to the final count.	ntage of voters



#### Overview

Top group gathers election statistics

1. Voters (from election rosters)		
A. In person voters		
B. By mail voters		
C. Total voters (A+B)		

	2. Rejected or pending ballots (pending review, pending voter action, or rejected)			
D.	Provisional ballots rejected or pending			
E.	Mail ballots rejected or pending			
F.	Total ballots rejected or pending (D+E)			

		nted ballots alation software)
G.	In person ballots counted	
н.	Mail ballots counted	
I.	Total ballots counted (G+H)	



### Overview (continued)

Middle group compares those statistics

J. Difference between voters and ballots (C-F-I)  K. Difference as percentage of voters (J÷(C-F)*100)  M. Difference as percentage of voters	4. Comparison of voters and counted ballots				
L. Notes:					



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#### Overview (continued)

Signed by the presiding judge of central count

		5. Attestation	
М.		oreliminary election reconciliation document accura The information will likely change based on provision	•
	Presiding judge signature	Print name	Date





## Overview (continued)

- Bottom group records the number of ballots that may be added between election day and canvass
- Mail ballots either not returned or pending voter action
- Provisional ballots not yet reviewed by EVBB or pending voter action

6. Ballots that could be added to the final count  Disclaimer: These numbers typically change as information is verified after election day			
N. Mail ballots not returned or pending voter action		O. Estimated Provisional ballots	



Preliminary Election Reconciliation



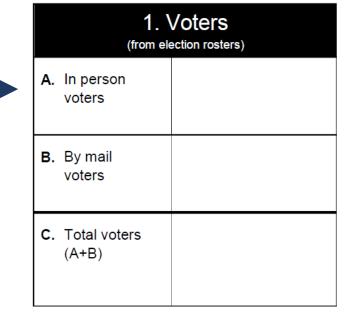
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#### 1 - Voters

In person\*: EV + Limited + EDay

- Reports from
  - ePollbooks;
  - TEAM;
  - voter history software; or
  - hand-counted rosters

\*Include provisional ballots if they are reported on your election night results



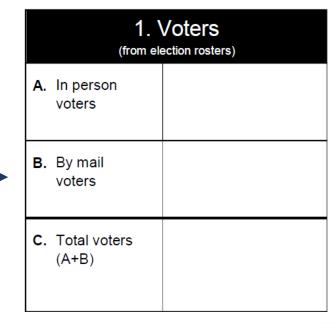




#### 1 - Voters

#### By Mail: voted ballots

- Reports from
  - TEAM;
  - voter history software;
  - ballot transmittal form
- Include any other ballots you report with mail ballots







# 2 – Rejected or pending ballots

Ballots not accepted for counting



	2. Rejected or pending ballots (pending review, pending voter action, or rejected)		
D	Provisional ballots rejected or pending		
E	Mail ballots rejected or pending		
F	Total ballots rejected or pending (D+E)		

#### **Provisional ballots**

- Only if also included in Box A
- Finally rejected by the Early Voting Ballot Board (EVBB)
- Awaiting EVBB review
- Awaiting voter action (no ID voters)





# 2 – Rejected or pending ballots

Ballots not accepted for counting

2. Rejected or pending ballots (pending review, pending voter action, or rejected)		
<b>D.</b> Provisional ballots rejected or pending		
E. Mail ballots rejected or pending		
F. Total ballots rejected or pending (D+E)		

#### **Mail ballots**

- Finally rejected by the EVBB
- Awaiting voter action (corrective action process)

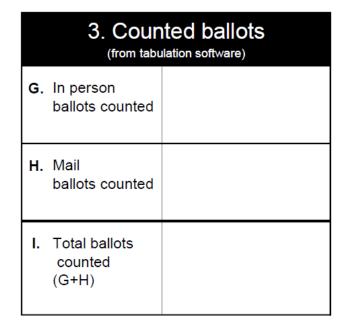




Ballots counted by your voting system

In person: EV + Limited + EDay

- Reports from your voting system
  - Electionware
  - Count
- If provisional ballots are included in your results reports, include them in box G



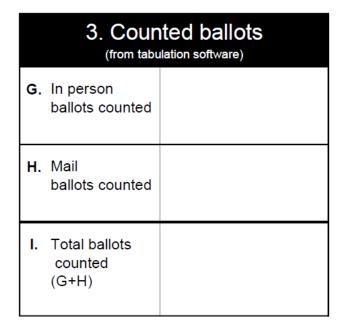




Ballots counted by your voting system

#### By Mail:

- Reports from your voting system
  - Electionware
  - Count





Ballots counted by your voting system

- Box I should match the total number of ballots cast on your results report
- Consider creating any custom reports you may need in advance

3. Counted ballots (from tabulation software)		
G.	In person ballots counted	
Н.	Mail ballots counted	
I.	Total ballots counted (G+H)	



# 4 – Comparison of voters and counted ballots

4. Comparison of voters and counted ballots				
J. Difference b	etween voters and ballots	К.	Difference as percentage of voters (J÷(C-F)*100)	%
L. Notes:				
				-





- Box C minus Box F = voters who cast valid ballots
- Subtract box I to compare the number of valid ballots to the number of ballots counted

J. Difference between voters and ballots (C-F-I)





• If there is a discrepancy, stop and try to identify and resolve the issue before central count stops







- Calculate the percentage to put the discrepancy into context
  - Start with inner parentheses (Box C box F)
  - Divide Box J by that number
  - Multiply by 100

K. Difference as percentage of voters (J÷(C-F)\*100)



- Write any notes that you think will help explain the difference between voters and votes
  - Attach explanation if needed

4. Comparison of voters and counted ballots			
J. Difference be (C-F-I)	etween voters and ballots	K. Difference as percentage of voters (J÷(C-F)*100)	
L. Notes:			



# **Central Count - Finding Discrepancies**

- Positive vs. negative discrepancies
  - Positive more voters checked in than ballots
  - Negative more ballots counted than voters
- Verify that all media has been read
- Use ballot transmittal form to verify the number of mail ballots



# Tracking down discrepancies

- Central Count process
  - Drop off
  - Processing/retrieving media stick
  - Reading the media sticks
  - Storing the media sticks



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# Example

	1. Voters (from election rosters)	
A. In person voters	12,000	
B. By mail voters	1,000	
C. Total voters (A+B)	13,000	

2. Rejected or pending ballots (pending review, pending voter action, or rejected)	
D. Provisional ballots rejected or pending	100
E. Mail ballots rejected or pending	50
F. Total ballots rejected or pending (D+E)	150

	3. Counted ballots (from tabulation software)	
G.	In person ballots counted	11,899
Н.	Mail ballots counted	948
I.	Total ballots counted (G+H)	12,847

4. Comparison of voters and counted ballots		
J. Difference b	between voters and ballots3 K. Difference as percentage of voters0.02 %	
L. Notes: In person: further research required		
	Mail: two secrecy envelopes did not contain ballots	





Election Reconciliation



# **Ballot by Mail Process**

- Application delivered
- Data entry
- Ballot packet prepared
- Ballot mailed
- Ballot received
- Delivery to EVBB/Qualification
- Delivery to Central Count/Counting



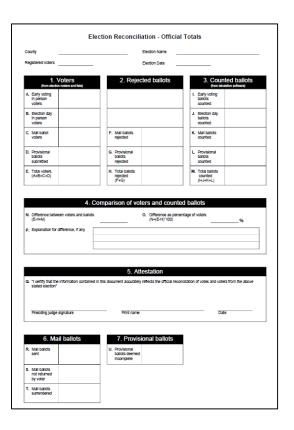
# In-person Voting

- Early Voting
  - Small increments
- Election Day
  - Check at central count
  - Double-check after election day



#### Election Reconciliation — Official Totals

Canvass





### Official Reconciliation

Top group is divided by category

1. Voters (from election rosters and lists)		
Α.	Early voting in person voters	
В.	Election day in person voters	
C.	Mail ballot voters	
D.	Provisional ballots submitted	
E.	Total voters (A+B+C+D)	

2. Rejected ballots	
F. Mail ballots rejected	
G. Provisional ballots rejected	
H. Total ballots rejected (F+G)	

	3. Counted ballots (from tabulation software)		
I.	Early voting ballots counted		
J.	Election day ballots counted		
K.	Mail ballots counted		
L.	Provisional ballots counted		
M.	Total ballots counted (I+J+K+L)		



# Overview (continued)

Middle group compares those statistics

	<ol> <li>Comparison of voters and counted ballots</li> </ol>		
N.	Difference between voters and ballots (E-H-M)	O. Difference as percentage of voters (N÷(E-H)*100)	%
P.	Explanation for difference, if any		

## Official Reconciliation (continued)

Bottom group records statistics about mail and provisional ballots

	6. Mail ballots		
1	R.	Mail ballots sent	
;	S.	Mail ballots not returned by voter	
	Т.	Mail ballots surrendered	

	7. Provisional ballots		
IJ.	Provisional ballots deemed incomplete		





Election Reconciliation — Official Totals

#### Section details

#### 1 - Voters

1. Voters (from election rosters and lists)	
A. Early voting in person voters	
B. Election day in person voters	
C. Mail ballot voters	
D. Provisional ballots submitted	
E. Total voters (A+B+C+D)	

Voters who participated in your election

- Separate in person voters into
  - Early Voting;
  - Election Day;
  - Provisional
- Do not include provisional ballots with Early Voting and Election Day

# 2 – Rejected ballots

Ballots not accepted for counting

- Provisional ballots finally rejected
- Mail ballots finally rejected

	2. Rejected ballots	
F.	Mail ballots rejected	
G.	Provisional ballots rejected	
Н.	Total ballots rejected (F+G)	



	3. Counted ballots (from tabulation software)		
I.	Early voting ballots counted		
J.	Election day ballots counted		
K.	Mail ballots counted		
L.	Provisional ballots counted		
M.	Total ballots counted (I+J+K+L)		

Ballots counted by your voting system

- Boxes I, J, and L may differ from results reports depending on how you report provisional ballots
- Box M should match the total number of ballots cast on your results report

# 4 – Comparison of voters and counted ballots

4. Comparison of voters and counted ballots						
N.	Difference between voters and ballots (E-H-M)	O. Difference as percentage of voters (N÷(E-H)*100)	%			
P.	Explanation for difference, if any					



- Explain any difference between voters and votes
  - Clearly distinguish between what you know happened vs.
     what you think probably happened
  - Attach explanation if you need more space

- Tracking down discrepancies
  - Look at each row to find which category a discrepancy is in
  - Compare votes and voters for each polling location
  - Think about how the parts of your voting system work together

#### 5 - Attestation

Signed by the presiding judge of central count

5. Attestation					
Q.	. "I certify that the information contained in this document accurately reflects the official reconciliation of votes and voters from the above stated election"				
	Presiding judge signature	Print name	Date		



### 6 – Mail ballots

6. Ma	6. Mail ballots	
R. Mail ballots sent		
S. Mail ballots not returned by voter		
T. Mail ballots surrendered		

 Box S includes any mail ballots returned as undeliverable



### 7 – Provisional ballots

- Number of provisional check-ins that were not completed
  - Accounts for any difference in the number of provisional ballots between election day and canvass reconciliation forms



# Website Posting

- Post on your website along with results reports
- We recommend keeping posted for at least 22 months

Questions?

elections@sos.texas.gov

