

Subject: Collin County Public Information Request on 12/17/2021 10:23:55 AM
Date: Friday, January 7, 2022 at 9:40:39 AM Pacific Standard Time
From: publicrelations@collincountytx.gov
To: publicrelations@collincountytx.gov, AO Records
Attachments: PIR SOS forensic election audit related correspondences 1.pdf, PIR SOS forensic election audit related correspondences 2.pdf

EXTERNAL SENDER

Ms Lewis,

Attached are two files provided by the Elections Administrator regarding your public information request of Collin County. I will be sending you a link to Dropbox for the files pulled off our email server regarding the remainder of your request. Those files will have been redacted slightly, to remove private citizen email addresses from release per Texas Govt. Code 552.136, which states:

Sec. 552.137. CONFIDENTIALITY OF CERTAIN E-MAIL ADDRESSES. (a) Except as otherwise provided by this section, an e-mail address of a member of the public that is provided for the purpose of communicating electronically with a governmental body is confidential and not subject to disclosure under this chapter.

(b) Confidential information described by this section that relates to a member of the public may be disclosed if the member of the public affirmatively consents to its release.

(c) Subsection (a) does not apply to an e-mail address:

(1) provided to a governmental body by a person who has a contractual relationship with the governmental body or by the contractor's agent;

(2) provided to a governmental body by a vendor who seeks to contract with the governmental body or by the vendor's agent;

(3) contained in a response to a request for bids or proposals, contained in a response to similar invitations soliciting offers or information relating to a potential contract, or provided to a governmental body in the course of negotiating the terms of a contract or potential contract;

(4) provided to a governmental body on a letterhead, coversheet, printed document, or other document made available to the public; or

(5) provided to a governmental body for the purpose of providing public comment on or receiving notices related to an application for a license as defined by Section 2001.003(2) of this code, or receiving orders or decisions from a governmental body.

(d) Subsection (a) does not prevent a governmental body from disclosing an e-mail address for any reason to another governmental body or to a federal agency.

Normally, we must request a ruling from the Texas Attorney General before we can withhold any of the information you requested. However, Section 552.137 allows us to withhold this specific information without requesting a ruling from the attorney general.

According to the attorney general, there is no legal right to appeal our decision to withhold this information from you. However, if you feel that the law cited by the county does not apply to our decision, you may certainly file a complaint with the attorney general on this matter, by writing:

Texas Attorney General
Attn: Open Records Division
P.O. Box 12548
Austin, Texas 78711-2548
Fax: 512-463-2092

If you choose not to file a complaint, you do not need to do anything else. Please note that we are only withholding the specific categories of information that are not releasable under section [govt code citation]. The remainder of your request for information has been/is being processed in accordance with the terms of the Public Information Act.

Regards,

T. Wyatt, PIO

From: [Susan Fletcher](#)
To: ["fredcooper@chemplacement.com"](mailto:fredcooper@chemplacement.com)
Subject: RE: Voting systemsd
Date: Sunday, September 26, 2021 7:16:52 PM

Greetings Mr. Cooper,

Thank you for reaching out to my office. As someone who has actually worked in the Elections Office and helped process voting machines, I believe I have a unique insight into this department. That said, I also believe that our staff has put into place numerous checks to ensure the integrity of our elections. Additionally, as you mentioned, we do have new voting equipment, and now we have a paper backup that each voter has approved, and can be used in an audit.

Regarding this new equipment, I don't know of any issues that we had with the ballot counters. When you mentioned the thumb drives, you are actually describing one of our field technicians duties. If we had a ballot counter go down in the field, and it needed to be replaced, it would require taking the thumb drive media from the old counter and putting it in to the replacement ballot counter. That is because the thumb drive media contains the votes already processed.

I see that your desire is to go back to paper ballots, where voters hand-mark ballots, and ballots are hand-counted by election clerks at the voting location. (In other words, no electronic ballot counting processes.) I want to warn you that there would be no efficient way to hand-count the 500,000 ballots voted in the 2020 presidential election. It would literally require weeks long counting of the ballots, plus, the human error vulnerabilities in hand-counting is far greater than machine counts.

However, just last week, it is now my understanding that [Collin County is going to be part of an audit by the Texas Secretary of State](#). I don't yet know all of the details, but personally, I'm at least happy that these results will be shared with the public when they are done, and hopefully answer the questions that have been raised.

Thanks again for reaching out to me, and feel free to contact me if you should have any additional questions.

Best regards,
Susan

Susan Fletcher

Collin County Commissioner, Precinct 1
Jack Hatchell Administration Building
2300 Bloomdale, Suite 4192
McKinney, Texas 75071
972-548-4631 – Commissioners Court Main Number

From: Fred Cooper <fredcooper@chemplacement.com>
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 2:09 PM
To: Susan Fletcher <sfletcher@co.collin.tx.us>

Subject: Voting systemsd

***** **WARNING:** External Email. Do not click links or open attachments that are unsafe. *****

Fred Cooper 5404 Lafayette Frisco TX 75035 972-840-3273 [REDACTED]

August 18, 2021

Chris Hill, County Judge Collin County Commissioners Court McKinney TX

Dear Judge Hill:

For more than two decades, I have been concerned about the use of computers for voting. I have always been concerned that programming code to change votes could easily be hidden in the enormous programs used in those machines. A limited staff in the election office, even though highly qualified, would not have the time to discover such devious glitches.

When I moved to Frisco, I was appalled by the use of voting machines that had no paper trail whatsoever. At that time, I wrote letters to the County Judge expressing my concern. The judge at that time, responded immediately and assured me that stringent procedures were in place to calibrate the machines and guarantee the security of the election. About eight years later, I emailed the county judge and commissioners (copy enclosed) expressing on-going concern. He expressed that a new system had been ordered and, indeed, that came to pass.

Two years ago, I worked as an election worker in Frisco. My humble job was to direct voters from the voting machines to the counting machine. In the news, we were assured that no machines were connected by modem to the internet or any other system. During that day, three voters, on the way out after depositing their ballot, expressed concern about the ability to program those machines. One of them told me he was a computer programmer and that he could easily program a machine like that to do whatever he wanted in ten minutes!

During the day, the counting machine stopped functioning. The technician who came to fix the machine inserted a thumb drive into the machine. The question in my mind was, "what could possibly be on that thumb drive?" Who produced and programmed that thumb drive?

Even if you write me off as conspiracy theorist, you can understand how ordinary citizens can truly be concerned about the security of the machines. It's time to restore the system to a simple, manually counted paper ballot. Even if it would take longer to count and report the results, the average citizen could have much more understanding of and confidence in the system.

Perhaps the electorate will want to make changes in our government. What good will that do if we cannot have confidence in the voting system?

Sincerely,

Fred Cooper

Cc: All members of Commissioners Court

From: [Chris Hill](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Tx election audit
Date: Monday, September 27, 2021 3:03:27 PM

Ms. Mechler,

Thank you for your email. I have complete faith and confidence in the talented team of professionals in our Collin County Elections Department. I am pleased that the Texas Secretary of State's Office has chosen to audit the 2020 election results for Collin County, and we will do everything necessary to assist in the audit. Indeed, I can think of no logical reason to oppose the audit. The effort will either confirm the accuracy and integrity of our elections process, or it will reveal steps that need to be taken to improve the process. Both results are beneficial for the people of Collin County.

Sincerely,
Chris Hill

Chris Hill
CPA CIA CGMA CFE MBA MSA MA
Collin County Judge
2300 Bloomdale Road
McKinney, Texas 75071
O (972) 548-4632
M (214) 449-5377

From: Ellen Mechler [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, September 25, 2021 9:03 AM
To: Chris Hill
Subject: Tx election audit

***** **WARNING:** External Email. Do not click links or open attachments that are unsafe. *****

Mr. Hill,
Why are you silent about the election audit ordered for Collin County???
If you want to get re-elected you need the act with integrity and speak out against the audit. Collin County taxpayers do NOT want to waste money on an audit of a settled election. Please, sir, don't be a puppet to Abbott and Trump. Don't disappoint the people who voted for you. Do what is right for Collin County!!!
Ellen Mechler

From: [Chris Hill](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Tx election audit
Date: Monday, September 27, 2021 4:36:40 PM

Thank you for letting me know that YOU are not in support of it.
Chris Hill

Chris Hill
CPA CIA CGMA CFE MBA MSA MA
Collin County Judge
2300 Bloomdale Road
McKinney, Texas 75071
O (972) 548-4632
M (214) 449-5377

From: Ellen Mechler [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 4:03 PM
To: Chris Hill
Subject: Re: Tx election audit

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It's a waste of taxpayer dollars and your constituents are NOT in support of it!!!

On Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 3:03 PM Chris Hill <chill@co.collin.tx.us> wrote:

Ms. Mechler,

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Ellen Mechler

From: [Susan Fletcher](#)
To: [Bruce Sherbet](#)
Cc: [Bill Bilyeu](#)
Subject: Fwd: Voting systemsd
Date: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 12:47:57 AM

FYI

Susan Fletcher
Collin County Commissioner, Pct. 1
SFletcher@CollinCountyTX.gov
972-548-4676 - office
469-343-2166 - mobile

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Fred Cooper <fredcooper@chemplacement.com>
Date: September 27, 2021 at 11:15:38 AM CDT
To: Susan Fletcher <sfletcher@co.collin.tx.us>
Subject: RE: Voting systemsd

***** **WARNING:** External Email. Do not click links or open attachments that are unsafe. *****

Susan: Thanks for taking the time to respond to my letter. Thus far, you are the only member of the Commissioners Court to do so. Judge Hill's office indicated that my comment was received and tabulated. I do understand the volume of mail, electronic and other, you must receive and the difficulty of responding to each one. Let me say that I have always had confidence in the officials of Collin County and have never thought there would be any "funny business" going on here. I think Bruce Sherbet is more competent and experienced than any election administrator. However, there are 254 counties in Texas, many of which have tawdry histories of election corruption going back more than a century. There are credible stories of election machine fraud in Dallas County even in the last ten years! It seems to me that the system Bruce had in place in Dallas County about 20 years ago where ballots were simple pieces of 8 ½ x 11 "copy paper" and the counting machines were non-computerized. It would have been easy to verify the ballots in each precinct on the eve of the election. The process might have taken up to three hours (considering the 1,000 votes cast in that our active precinct). But there would have been much less question about potential software hacking. I know precautions and calibration procedures are strict in Collin County, but I think other measures are necessary statewide to assure a "squeaky clean" election. Thanks again for taking the time to respond personally.

Fred

972 840-3273

From: Susan Fletcher <sfletcher@co.collin.tx.us>
Sent: Sunday, September 26, 2021 7:17 PM

To: Fred Cooper <fredcooper@chemplacement.com>

Subject: RE: Voting systemsd

Greetings Mr. Cooper,

Thank you for reaching out to my office. As someone who has actually worked in the Elections Office and helped process voting machines, I believe I have a unique insight into this department. That said, I also believe that our staff has put into place numerous checks to ensure the integrity of our elections. Additionally, as you mentioned, we do have new voting equipment, and now we have a paper backup that each voter has approved, and can be used in an audit.

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Thanks again for reaching out to me, and feel free to contact me if you should have any additional questions.

Best regards,

Susan

Susan Fletcher

Collin County Commissioner, Precinct 1
Jack Hatchell Administration Building
2300 Bloomdale, Suite 4192
McKinney, Texas 75071
972-548-4631 – Commissioners Court Main Number

From: Fred Cooper <fredcooper@chemplacement.com>

Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 2:09 PM
To: Susan Fletcher <sfletcher@co.collin.tx.us>
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Fred Cooper 5404 Lafayette Frisco TX 75035 972-840-3273
[REDACTED]

August 18, 2021

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Even if you write me off as conspiracy theorist, you can understand how ordinary citizens can truly be concerned about the security of the machines. It's time to restore the system to a simple, manually counted paper ballot. Even if it would take longer to count and report the results, the average citizen could have much more understanding of and confidence in the system.

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Sincerely,

Fred Cooper

Cc: All members of Commissioners Court

From: [Darrell Hale](#)
To: [Tim Wyatt](#)
Subject: Re: American Oversight PIR
Date: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 1:56:57 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image001.png](#)

That's a bunch of nothing.

Darrell Hale
Collin County Commissioner
214 471 3584

From: Tim Wyatt <twyatt@co.collin.tx.us>
Sent: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 1:31:57 PM
To: Bill Bilyeu <bbilyeu@co.collin.tx.us>; Cheryl Williams <cdwilliams@co.collin.tx.us>; Chris Hill <chill@co.collin.tx.us>; Darrell Hale <dhale@co.collin.tx.us>; Duncan Webb <jdwebb@co.collin.tx.us>; Susan Fletcher <sfletcher@co.collin.tx.us>
Cc: Caren Skipworth <cskipworth@co.collin.tx.us>
Subject: American Oversight PIR

Judge/Commissioners:

This request just came in from **American Oversight**, a Washington, DC-based organization that claims to be “a nonpartisan, nonprofit watchdog that uses public records requests backed by litigation to fight corruption, drive accountability, and defend democracy.” As of January 2019, all of its investigations and litigation are directed at Republicans; it claims to be “the top Freedom of Information Act litigator investigating the Trump administration,” with more than 1000 open records requests and 56 lawsuits filed in 2018, according to InfluenceWatch.org – an arm of the **Capital Research Center**, an American conservative non-profit organization located in Washington, D.C.

IT can pull these from the server, as it only pertains to emails SENT (including Replies):

- It would be fair to wrap that search universe of SENT items only from your county accounts, from Sept. 15, 2021 (the week prior to the announcement)– Oct. 5, 2021; and,
- Employ search terms of “audit” and “general election,” for starters to see what results that yields;

The request in full is attached. I will update you when I know more about what this request will entail.

Requested Records

American Oversight requests that Collin County promptly produce the following:

All email communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and calendar invitation attachments) sent by any member of the Collin County Commissioners Court, listed below, and concerning the planning or execution of the Secretary of State’s audit of

Collin County's 2020 general election.

Collin County Commissioners Court:

- i. Judge Chris Hill
- ii. Susan Fletcher
- iii. Cheryl Williams
- iv. Darrell Hale
- v. Duncan Webb

Tim Wyatt

Public Information Officer, Collin County Government

2300 Bloomdale Rd. | Suite #4154 | McKinney, TX 75071

Ph. 972-548-4673



COLLIN COUNTY
collincountytexas.gov



COLLIN COUNTY

collincountytx.gov

TX-COLLIN-21-1804-A-000011

From: [Darrell Hale](#)
To: [Kildow, Bryn](#)
Cc: [Elections - Public](#); [Elections - VRSupport](#)
Subject: Re: Voter Database
Date: Tuesday, November 9, 2021 10:55:18 AM

Yes, I read the laws regarding the use of the data.

Thank you,
Darrell

Darrell Hale
County Commissioner, Precinct 3
214-471-3584
dhale@co.collin.tx.us

On Nov 9, 2021, at 10:54 AM, Kildow, Bryn <bryn.kildow@sos.wa.gov> wrote:

***** WARNING: External Email. Do not click links or open attachments that are unsafe. *****

Dear Mr. Hale,

My apologies for the inconvenience you've encountered. We've had reports of people experiencing difficulties when using a corporate or organizational networks where the internal IT doesn't allow for the sending of web-forms.

In any case, just let me know that you're aware of the laws regarding the use of voter registration data (they're posted on the same page as the request form) and I will send you a download link.

Bryn Kildow
VoteWA Helpdesk - Voter Registration Analyst
Elections Division | Office of the Secretary of State
(360) 725-5793 | bryn.kildow@sos.wa.gov

The information in this email is provided as a service to the public and to our county election partners and is for informational purposes only. The contents should not be construed as, and is not intended to be, legal advice. You should contact your attorney for assistance navigating the law.

-----Original Message-----

From: Darrell Hale [<mailto:dhale@co.collin.tx.us>]
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 7:23 PM

To: Executive - Secretary of State <secretaryofstate@sos.wa.gov>
Subject: Voter Database

I tried to request the database multiple times but it was denied. Could you help me out in requesting and/or getting a copy of the statewide voter database?

Thanks,
Darrell Hale

Darrell Hale
County Commissioner, Precinct 3
214-471-3584
dhale@co.collin.tx.us<<mailto:dhale@co.collin.tx.us>>

From: [Darrell Hale](#)
To: [Kildow, Bryn](#)
Cc: [Elections - Public](#); [Elections - VRSupport](#)
Subject: Re: Voter Database
Date: Tuesday, November 9, 2021 10:55:56 AM

And to be exacting. I will comply with the laws regarding the use.

Darrell

Darrell Hale
County Commissioner, Precinct 3
214-471-3584
dhale@co.collin.tx.us

On Nov 9, 2021, at 10:54 AM, Kildow, Bryn <bryn.kildow@sos.wa.gov> wrote:

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dhale@co.collin.tx.us<<mailto:dhale@co.collin.tx.us>>

From: [Darrell Hale](#)
To: [Elections - VRSupport](#)
Subject: Re: Voter Database
Date: Tuesday, November 9, 2021 11:30:10 AM

Thank you.

Darrell Hale
County Commissioner, Precinct 3
214-471-3584
dhale@co.collin.tx.us

On Nov 9, 2021, at 10:58 AM, Elections - VRSupport <VRSupport@sos.wa.gov> wrote:

***** WARNING: External Email. Do not click links or open attachments that are unsafe. *****

And here you go - https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.sos.wa.gov_-5Fassets_elections_5658802523.zip&d=DwlFAg&c=D-0IXqlCE-NcgAMeQqfUIUgIvOFWD-e2JSyIf6Ne5tg&r=5Kmkdj0kNdFH0zH0tO3GE739pmSwhzalFRiJcZK8iTE&m=G0C0CpM4bo27Wr ez6ubHK7qid1UB-vc8NHx6JWWjjiYanl_wHxv4TceDAvO-YKwZ&s=HI8C1kKV7wGRdYxMk26ZFLU2Z8CIHEIO6tYtx2Qob10&e=

If you need a link for future extracts, you can either email me directly or email vrsupport@sos.wa.gov. The latter is the best option since, if I'm not in the office, someone else will be able to assist you.

Bryn Kildow
VoteWA Helpdesk - Voter Registration Analyst
Elections Division | Office of the Secretary of State
(360) 725-5793 | bryn.kildow@sos.wa.gov

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From: Darrell Hale <dhale@co.collin.tx.us>
Sent: Tuesday, November 9, 2021 8:55 AM
To: Kildow, Bryn <bryn.kildow@sos.wa.gov>
Cc: Elections - Public <elections@sos.wa.gov>; Elections - VRSupport <VRSupport@sos.wa.gov>
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214-471-3584

dhale@co.collin.tx.us<<mailto:dhale@co.collin.tx.us>><<mailto:dhale@co.collin.tx.us>>

From: Darrell Hale
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Federal indictment alleging Iranian hack further erodes narrative of perfect 2020 election. "malign foreign influence"
Date: Friday, November 19, 2021 9:18:40 AM

Some of the items that I have heard people claimed are the exact same things these Iranian nationals were accused of spreading misinformation on. So are these Iranians patriots or are they spreading misinformation to make people doubt the security of our elections?

<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/two-iranian-nationals-charged-cyber-enabled-disinformation-and-threat-campaign-designed>

From: Mark Brugge <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, November 19, 2021 8:44:47 AM
To: Chris Hill; Susan Fletcher; Cheryl Williams; Darrell Hale; Duncan Webb; James Skinner
Subject: Federal indictment alleging Iranian hack further erodes narrative of perfect 2020 election. "malign foreign influence"

**** **WARNING:** External Email. Do not click links or open attachments that are unsafe. ****

Iranians hacked a state voter database, Wisconsin created unlawful instructions, and Arizona found 50,000 disputed ballots. The problems keep mounting.

<https://justthenews.com/politics-policy/elections/new-federal-indictment-further-erodes-narrative-immaculate-2020-election>

During the dizzying days after the November 2020 election, the Homeland Security cyber-security chief was fired by a frustrated President Donald Trump, then went on national TV to insist the election was fully secure.

"There was no indication or evidence that there was any sort of hacking or compromise of election systems on, before or after November 3," ex-Cyber-Security and Infrastructure Agency Chief Chris Krebs declared on "60 Minutes."

On Thursday, nearly a year later, federal prosecutors in New York unsealed a dramatic indictment that conflicts with that clean bill of health.

The indictment stated that two Iranian hackers successfully hacked into a state computer election system, stole voter registration data and used it to carry out a cyber-intimidation campaign that targeted GOP members of Congress, Trump campaign officials and Democratic voters in the November 2020 election.

u.s._v._seyyed_mohammad_hosein_et_al_signed_indictment_redacted.pdf

The defendants "were part of a coordinated conspiracy in which Iranian hackers sought to undermine faith and confidence in the U.S. presidential election," U.S. Attorney Damian Williams declared.

Welcome to the sequel to the 2020 election, where a full year later the political establishment narrative of an immaculate election keeps eroding with each belated disclosure of hiccups, illegal instructions and forbidden tactics, and now a foreign interference plot that penetrated one state's voter database.

"I think one of the biggest takeaways, the bottom line is, is that if you don't watch over your own elections, people start breaking the rules, they start breaking the laws, they start getting sloppy," Arizona Senate President Karen Fann recently told Just the News, marveling at how much the election narrative has evolved. "And when that happens, it's really hard to determine really what the election results are, if we don't follow our rules."

Jarring revelations keep piling up. In Wisconsin and Michigan, schemes have been uncovered that victimized cognitively impaired nursing home residents, whose ballots were stolen and used by others.

In Arizona, a legislative audit has called into question some 50,000 ballots in a state where the spread was less than 12,000. The attorney general there has also brought some prosecutions accusing voting activists of illegal vote harvesting, where third parties rounded up ballots.

In Wisconsin, where Joe Biden was certified the winner over Trump with a razor-thin margin of about 20,000 votes, numerous problems have emerged.

The non-partisan Legislative Audit Bureau released a sweeping report that accused election officials of engaging in "inconsistent administration" of election laws, troublesome management of new drop boxes used to collect ballots during the pandemic, ineffective investigation of fraud complaints, and other problems.

While it did not offer evidence of systemic fraud, it flagged more than 30 problems as well as many more issues that lawmakers should resolve for future elections.

The report prompted the GOP leader of the Wisconsin Senate to launch an investigation into the November election, augmenting a separate probe already authorized by the Wisconsin Assembly that is being led by former state Supreme Court Justice Michael Gableman.

And those developments follow a ruling by the Wisconsin Supreme Court that state election officials wrongly allowed tens of thousands of Wisconsin voters to skip voter ID requirements and file absentee ballots by declaring their concerns about COVID made them "indefinitely confined." While the court ruled the advice was illegal, it noted there was no penalty and said it was up to voters to decide if they had an infirmity or disability that made them confined. Lawmakers are now looking to change the weaknesses in that law.

Similarly, state officials in Georgia, where Trump lost by a slim margin, have found evidence that its major urban voting center of Fulton County had significant problems administering the November election, so much so that state officials have begun the process of taking the county's election management into receivership, removing local control for the 2022 election and beyond. The county's election team has all either resigned or been fired.

That dramatic moves came after Just the News unearthed a 29-page memo from a state

observer that found all sorts of misconduct and mistakes by Fulton County election officials, including insecure transport of ballots, double scanning of ballots and possible invasions of voter privacy.

And last month two Fulton County workers were fired for allegedly shredding ballot applications in violation of state law. Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger even asked the U.S. Justice Department to assist in the investigation.

In nearby DeKalb County, Raffensperger has initiated a separate probe into whether ballots cast in "drop boxes" were properly handled and logged.

Meanwhile, Arizona's Senate has referred several matters to Attorney General Mark Brnovich for possible prosecution. Even before those referrals, Brnovich's office has brought several criminal prosecutions, including prison inmates who illegally voted as well as some people accused of harvesting ballots from third parties.

Now, the discomfiting reality that hackers tied to a foreign power penetrated and stole voter data is certain to raise new questions about election integrity.

Thursday's federal indictment charged Seyyed Mohammad Hosein Musa Kazemi, 24, and Sajjad Kashian, 27, with obtaining confidential U.S. voter information from at least one state election website, sending threatening email messages to intimidate and interfere with voters, and disseminating a video containing disinformation about purported election infrastructure vulnerabilities.

The victimized state was not identified, though prosecutors said at least 100,000 voters' information was stolen in the scheme. Prosecutors did not allege direct Iranian government involvement but said at least one of the defendants had done work for Tehran's government.

U.S. officials said the case was an example of "malign foreign influence" in a U.S. election.

From: [Susan Fletcher](#)
To: [Bruce Sherbet](#)
Subject: Re: Election Integrity questions
Date: Monday, November 22, 2021 5:40:07 PM

Maybe we can chat on Tuesday... I've been down with recovering from the knee surgery, so I will go ahead and reply now, and ask them specifically what else is needed or unclear.

Thanks!

Susan Fletcher
Collin County Commissioner, Pct. 1
SFletcher@CollinCountyTX.gov
972-548-4676 - office
469-343-2166 - mobile

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 22, 2021, at 4:48 PM, Bruce Sherbet <bsherbet@co.collin.tx.us> wrote:

Commissioner Fletcher,

I had not seen this video but I already responded to Debbie about the issue in a previous email. (I will forward my responding email to you). I would like to speak with you about this issue because I don't know of anything else I can add to it. Debbie and Todd attended the election integrity meeting that I conducted (along with Judge Hill) on October 14. Chris Moody from ES&S was also in attendance and spoke with them there about the Pro V&V certification processes. I guess what is confusing me here is we are already undergoing a complete forensic audit of the November 2020 election by the secretary of state. The governor last week appropriated 4 million dollars to complete the audits of the four counties (Dallas, Tarrant, Harris and Collin) plus the secretary of state is establishing a division that will do nothing but perform audits moving forward. I read an article today that I will forward to you about it. The EAC has addressed the issue (obviously not to Debbie's satisfaction) and the state declared our voting system certified and gave the go ahead for us to purchase it in 2019 (also not to Debbie's satisfaction because she is saying it was not certified). I assume the video is seeking a complete audit of every ES&S county using the ExpressVote voting system in the November 2020 election. I honestly don't know what else I can add other than what I have already said. I am happy to talk you about it more though. Thank you.

Bruce

Bruce Sherbet
Elections Administrator
Collin County Elections

2010 Redbud Blvd., Ste 102
McKinney, TX 75069
972-547-1900

From: Susan Fletcher
Sent: Monday, November 22, 2021 2:12 PM
To: Bruce Sherbet <bsherbet@co.collin.tx.us>
Cc: Bill Bilyeu <bbilyeu@co.collin.tx.us>
Subject: Election Integrity questions

Hi Bruce,

Two of my constituents, Todd & Debbie Lindstrom, have been very concerned and outspoken about election integrity. They have produced a video containing their concerns, and the laws they feel have been broken.

I know this will be a long ordeal, and I apologize in advance. But please watch this video, and prepare a response to their concerns. If it would help, I will watch with you, and act as secretary to document your responses. Just let me know.

These constituents are also friends of Judge Hill. Below is the text and link sent to me by Todd.

Best regards,
Susan

Susan I told you I would document what I feel are broken laws. I finally have that accomplished. Here are the details.

<https://rumble.com/vphbiz-es-and-s-certification-failures.html>

Susan Fletcher
Collin County Commissioner, Pct. 1
SFletcher@CollinCountyTX.gov
972-548-4676 - office
469-343-2166 - mobile

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Susan Fletcher](mailto:susan@votesusanfletcher.com)
To: susan@votesusanfletcher.com
Subject: Fwd: Urban Counties Policy Committee Follow Up
Date: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 5:05:42 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[ADV2021-14 - Impact of Redistricting on Certain Election Deadlines and Procedures \(Final\).pdf](#)
[SB 8 - ARPA.pdf](#)
[Broadband Expansion J. Harris.pdf](#)

Susan Fletcher
Collin County Commissioner, Pct. 1
SFletcher@CollinCountyTX.gov
972-548-4676 - office
469-343-2166 - mobile

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Windy Johnson <Windy@cuc.org>
Date: November 22, 2021 at 8:17:58 AM CST
To: CUC Policy Committee <cuc_policy_committee@cuc.org>
Cc: CUC Policy Committee CC <cuc_policy_committee_cc@cuc.org>, Windy Johnson <Windy@cuc.org>
Subject: Urban Counties Policy Committee Follow Up

***** **WARNING:** External Email. Do not click links or open attachments that are unsafe. *****

Policy Committee Members,

The following are follow up items that were requested during the November 18 Policy Committee meeting. Let me know if I can be additional help.

Elections – Attachment: Advisory from the SOS on redistricting impact to election deadlines

Attached is the Elections advisory from the Secretary of State's office that addresses the impact of redistricting on certain election dates. In addition, the SOS has provided election dates on their website that may be found here: [March 1, 2022 Primary Election Law Calendar \(texas.gov\)](#)

In addition, Friday afternoon the Governor announced additional [funding](#) will be provided to the SOS, from funds originally appropriated for Correctional Security, to fund forensic election audits in the state. The spokesman for the Secretary of State indicated the funds will be used “to dedicate additional staff to oversee audit activities, including: verifying counties’ removal of ineligible voters from the rolls, meticulously reviewing each county’s election materials for our comprehensive document examination, and ensuring compliance with state and federal election laws.”

Broadband – Attachment: Broadband Expansion presentation from TAC Conference

A new state Broadband Development Office (BDO) has been formed within the Texas Comptroller’s office to award grants, low-interest loans, and other financial assistance to further the expansion of broadband service in underserved areas in Texas.

The office, established by HB 5 during the regular session of the 87th Legislature, also will:

- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Create a broadband map indicating areas eligible for financial assistance.
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Set an effective threshold speed for broadband service in those underserved areas at 25 megabits per second (Mbps) download and 3 Mbps upload.
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Create and update a state broadband plan.
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Engage in outreach to communities regarding the expansion and adoption of broadband service and the programs administered by the BDO.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]--> **Serve as the state's subject matter expert for federal funding to help local governments.**

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar announced Greg Conte will serve as the BDO's founding director. Conte has worked at the Texas Comptroller's office for five years, most recently serving as manager of the Data Analysis and Transparency Division. Hegar will serve as chairman of a 10-member board of advisers that will guide the new office. SB 8 appropriated \$500m to the new Broadband account, and the federal infrastructure bill will provide \$100m for Broadband in the State of Texas.

In October The Governor's Broadband Development Council released its annual report to the Legislature as required by a bill passed in the 86th legislative session.

The report details the approximate number of households that have broadband access at acceptable speeds as set by the Legislature, as well as barriers to access and 10 recommendations from the council.

Those key recommendations include:

- ■ Planning and investing in broadband speeds greater than the FCC minimum of 25/3 Mbps;
- ■ Define what "underserved" means;
- ■ Study broadband demand at community, regional and statewide levels;
- ■ Invest in infrastructure that covers rural communities from cities and towns all the way to homes;
- ■ Fund digital literacy training programs;

- Fund cybersecurity awareness and internet safety campaigns;
- ■ Allocate a portion of federal funds toward meaningful broadband infrastructure projects, including public-private partnerships, infrastructure, digital literacy and cybersecurity;
- ■ A statewide study on costs associated with lack of broadband;
- ■ Study the existence of any regulatory barriers communities may face for broadband expansion;
- ■ Partner with local communities, institutions and the private sector to promote digital inclusion initiatives that help advance broadband access, adoption and use.

A separate, related piece of legislation created the Broadband Pole Replacement Fund, which would reimburse broadband service providers for up to 50 percent of eligible pole replacement costs in underserved areas. This program will be funded by federal money (\$75m) received through the Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund funded by SB8 in addition to the \$500.4m from ARPA towards the Broadband Development Account. The federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will provide an additional \$100m for Texas for broadband expansion efforts.

State Allocation of ARPA Funds – *Attachment: SB 8 ARPA*

The attached pdf titled SB 8- ARPA funds is a detail of how the state allocated their portion of the American Rescue Plan funds in SB 8, 87th Legislature 3rd called session.

Governor Abbott signed [SB 8](#) from the 87th Session (3rd), which allocated funds from the American Rescue Plan Act

(ARPA). SB 8 allocates 13.3b of the federal received funds to numerous resources and programs including;

- <!--[if !supportLists]--> i. <!--[endif]--> **\$7.2 billion to restore the unemployment insurance fund.**
- <!--[if !supportLists]--> ii. <!--[endif]--> **\$2 billion for COVID-19-related healthcare surge.**
- <!--[if !supportLists]--> iii. <!--[endif]--> **\$534 million for new hospitals and mental health services across Texas.**
- <!--[if !supportLists]--> iv. <!--[endif]--> **\$500 million for broadband infrastructure.**
- <!--[if !supportLists]--> v. <!--[endif]--> **\$300 million for a new state operations emergency center.**
- <!--[if !supportLists]--> vi. <!--[endif]--> **\$349 million for COVID-19 public safety salary compensation.**
- <!--[if !supportLists]--> vii. <!--[endif]--> **\$286 million for the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS).**
- <!--[if !supportLists]--> viii. <!--[endif]--> **\$325 million to fund over \$3 billion in higher education, health, science and other projects.**
- <!--[if !supportLists]--> ix. <!--[endif]--> **\$95 million for Texas food banks.**
- <!--[if !supportLists]--> x. <!--[endif]--> **\$30 million to help address the court backlog.**
- <!--[if !supportLists]--> xi. <!--[endif]--> **\$75 million for rural hospitals.**
- <!--[if !supportLists]--> xii. <!--[endif]--> **\$35 million for veterans homes.**
- <!--[if !supportLists]--> xiii. <!--[endif]--> **\$107 million for the**

sexual assault fund and crime victims'
compensation.

<!--[if !supportLists]--> xiv. <!--[endif]--> **\$180 million for the
tourism, travel and hospitality industries.**

Windy Johnson
Program Manager
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The State of Texas



Elections Division
P.O. Box 12060
Austin, Texas 78711-2060
www.sos.texas.gov

Phone: 512-463-5650
Fax: 512-475-2811
Dial 7-1-1 For Relay Services
(800) 252-VOTE (8683)

John B. Scott
Secretary of State

ELECTION ADVISORY **NO. 2021-14**

TO: All Election Officials

FROM: Keith Ingram, Director of Elections

DATE: November 1, 2021

RE: Impact of Redistricting on Certain Election Deadlines and Procedures

On October 25, 2021, Governor Greg Abbott signed Senate Bill 4, Senate Bill 6, Senate Bill 7, and House Bill 1, adopting new redistricting maps for the U.S. House of Representatives, Texas Senate, Texas House of Representatives, and State Board of Education. Pursuant to Senate Bill 13 (87th Leg., 2d C.S.), because these redistricting plans were passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor before November 15, 2021, the 2022 primary and primary runoff elections are still scheduled to occur on March 1, 2022 and May 24, 2022, respectively.

Due to delays in the U.S. Census Bureau releasing 2020 Census data to the States for redistricting purposes, the timeline for undertaking redistricting in Texas was modified this year. Recognizing these delays, SB 13 authorizes the Secretary of State to adjust the schedules for performing any official act relating to the 2022 election cycle "as necessary for the efficient and orderly administration of the election."

This advisory will provide relevant dates and deadlines that have been adjusted in accordance with SB 13 to effectuate legislative redistricting plans. Additionally, this advisory will highlight certain provisions for county officials to consider when redrawing their county election precincts following the adoption of legislative redistricting plans.

Effects of Redistricting on District-Level Offices

Congressional, State Legislature, and State Board of Education Districts

The new district lines established for the U.S. House of Representatives, Texas Senate, Texas House of Representatives, and State Board of Education will be used for the primary, primary runoff, and general elections in 2022. Individuals elected to office in November 2022 will represent the newly configured districts when they are sworn into office in January 2023. **The candidate-filing period for these offices begins on November 13, 2021 and ends at 6:00 p.m. on December 13, 2021.** (Section 172.023, Election Code).

TX-COLLIN-21-1804-A-000031

Effects of Redistricting on County-Level Offices

The county commissioners court is the entity charged with redistricting at the county level.

County Commissioner Precincts

Article V, Section 18(b) of the Texas Constitution requires each county to be divided into four commissioner precincts. One commissioner is elected from each precinct. There is no statutory deadline for the commissioners court to reapportion precinct lines. However, commissioners precincts must be redrawn as necessary to maintain a substantially equal population within the four precincts. *Avery v. Midland County*, 390 U.S. 474 (1968). Therefore, each county commissioners court must order any necessary changes to the county commissioner precinct lines in light of 2020 census figures no later than **November 13, 2021**, the first day of the candidate-filing period for the primary election.

Constable/Justice of the Peace Precincts

Article V, Section 18(a) of the Texas Constitution uses the census figures to set population ranges to determine the number of constable and justice of the peace precincts in a county. For example, a county with a population of 50,000 or more, according to the most recent census, must be divided into not less than four and not more than eight precincts. Tex. Const. art. V, § 18(a). Any changes to constable/justice of the peace precinct lines must be ordered no later than **November 13, 2021**, the first day of the candidate-filing period for the primary election.

Impacts on Candidate Filings and Existing Terms of Office

Section 81.021(a) of the Texas Local Government Code provides that for changes in commissioner or justice precincts ordered by a commissioners court, an election for precinct office occurring after the date that the order is issued but before the effective date of the change in boundaries shall be held in the precincts as they will exist on that effective date. A person who has resided in the area included in a new precinct for the period required for eligibility to hold office is not made ineligible on the ground that the precinct has not existed for that period.

Section 81.021(b) of the Texas Local Government Code provides that the term of office of a commissioner, justice of the peace, or constable who holds office at the time a change in precinct boundaries becomes effective is not affected by the change, regardless of whether the change places the officer's residence outside the precinct for which the officer was elected. The officer is entitled to serve for the remainder of the term to which the officer was elected.

Redistricting for Local Political Subdivisions

Redistricting also may be necessary to maintain a substantially equal population between single-member districts within local political subdivisions such as cities and school districts. The timelines for completing redistricting may vary depending on the local political subdivision. For example, see Section 26.044 of the Texas Local Government Code, Sections 11.052 and 11.053 of the Texas Education Code, and various other special law district provisions.

Additionally, Section 276.006 of the Texas Election Code provides that a change in a boundary of a territorial unit of a political subdivision other than a county is not effective for an election unless the date of the order adopting the boundary change is made more than three months before election day. Local political subdivisions should be mindful of this requirement when planning their redistricting process.

Notice to County Election and Voter Registration Officials of District Changes

Section 42.0615 of the Texas Election Code provides that a political subdivision that changes its boundaries or the boundaries of districts used to elect members to the governing body of the political subdivision shall not later than the 30th day after the date the change is adopted: (1) notify the voter registrar of the county in which the boundary change occurs; and (2) provide the voter registrar with a map of an adopted boundary change in a format that is compatible with the mapping format used by the voter registrar's office.

Effects of Redistricting on County Election Precincts

The county election precinct is the basic electoral unit. Sections 42.005, 42.006, and 42.007 of the Texas Election Code govern the composition of county election precincts.

Section 42.005, referred to as the "officer line rule," provides that county election precincts may not contain territory from more than one commissioners precinct, justice precinct, congressional district, state representative district, state senatorial district, or State Board of Education district.

Section 42.006 provides population requirements related to the number of registered voters that may be contained within a voter registration precinct. Generally, a precinct must contain at least 100 but not more than 5,000 registered voters. In a county with a population under 100,000, the minimum number of registered voters that a precinct may contain is 50. However, in a county with a population under 50,000, a county election precinct may contain fewer than 50 registered voters if the commissioners court receives a written petition, signed by at least 25 registered voters of the county, requesting establishment or continuation of the precinct. When computing the number of registered voters in a precinct, voters on the suspense or "S" list shall be excluded in determining population limits (but these voters remain registered voters within the precinct).

Section 42.007 provides that a commissioners court may not establish a county election precinct containing territory inside a city with a population of 10,000 or more and unincorporated territory outside that city unless the commissioners court determines that either of the two areas: (1) cannot constitute a separate election precinct of suitable size or shape that contains the permissible number of voters; or (2) cannot be combined with other territory on the same side of the city boundary to form an election precinct of a suitable size or shape that contains the permissible number of voters without causing another election precinct to fail to meet those requirements.

With this year's changes to legislative and State Board of Education districts, election precinct boundaries in some counties may have to be adjusted pursuant to Section 42.005. Section 42.005(b) provides that if the application of Section 42.005 conflicts with

the population requirements set forth in Section 42.006, the requirements of Section 42.005 prevail.

Deadline for Ordering County Election Precinct Changes

Section 42.032 of the Texas Election Code requires that any changes to a county election precinct that are necessary to give effect to a state redistricting plan must be ordered by the commissioners court before October 1 of the year in which the redistricting was done. Because state redistricting plans were adopted after October 1, 2021, the Secretary of State must adjust this deadline in accordance with SB 13. The deadline must allow counties sufficient time to redraw their precinct lines, complete programming and testing of their primary election ballot, and meet federal requirements regarding the mailing of ballots to overseas and military voters.

To meet these deadlines associated with the March 1, 2022 primary election, all commissioners courts must order changes to boundary lines of county election precincts no later than December 30, 2021.

Effective Date of Boundary Change

Section 42.033 of the Texas Election Code provides that a change in a county election precinct boundary takes effect on the first day of the first even-numbered year following the voting year in which the change is ordered. Accordingly, all county election precinct boundary changes take effect January 1, 2022.

Notice Requirements Related to Precinct Boundary Changes

Notice Requirements for All Counties

Beginning with the first week following the week in which an order changing a county election precinct boundary is adopted, the commissioners court shall publish notice of the change in a newspaper in the county once a week for three consecutive weeks, and must publish notice on the county's Internet website for three consecutive weeks. The notice must include a brief, general description of the boundary change. (Section 42.035).

Notice Requirements for Counties with a Population of 1 Million or More

There are additional notice requirements that counties with a population of 1 million or more must meet before and after the adoption of a change in a county election precinct. (Section 42.036).

- **Notice of Proposed Change:**
 - **Timing of Notice:** Not later than the seventh day before the date of the commissioners court meeting at which the proposed change will be considered, the commissioners court shall deliver written notice of the proposed change to certain individuals.
 - **Parties Receiving Notice:**
 - The county chair of each political party that held a primary election in the county in 2020;
 - The political party's precinct chair of each affected election precinct; and

- The presiding judge appointed by the commissioners court for each affected election precinct.
- **Contents of Notice:** The notice must describe the proposed change in brief, general terms; identify the precincts to be affected by the proposed change; and state the date, hour, and place of the meeting.
- **Notice of Order Making Boundary Change:**
 - **Timing of Notice:** Not later than the seventh day after the date the order is adopted changing a county election precinct boundary, the commissioners court shall deliver written notice of the order to certain individuals.
 - **Parties Receiving Notice:**
 - The county chair of each political party that held a primary election in the county in 2020;
 - The political party's precinct chair of each affected election precinct; and
 - The presiding judge appointed by the commissioners court for each affected election precinct.
 - **Contents of Notice:** The notice of an order making a boundary change must describe the change in brief, general terms and identify the changed precincts. As an alternative, the notice to the county chair may be a copy of the order, and the notice to a precinct chair or presiding judge may be a copy of the portion of the order affecting the precinct served by that person.

Notice to Voter

Section 15.027 of the Texas Election Code provides that before the effective date of an abolishment of a county election precinct or a change in its boundary, the voter registrar shall deliver written notice of that action to each affected registered voter. Notice may be provided to a voter by issuing a new voter registration certificate during the time prescribed for the mailing of renewal certificates under Section 14.001 and as indicated in this advisory.

Notice to the Secretary of State

Public Notice of Order Changing Precinct Boundary Lines

The county clerk (or elections administrator, if applicable) shall deliver a copy of the public notice of the change in precinct boundary lines required under Section 42.035 to the Secretary of State not later than the 20th day after the date the order changing the boundary is adopted. This order may be submitted to the Secretary of State via email at elections@sos.texas.gov. (Section 42.035(d)).

Filing Map of Precinct Boundary Changes with the Secretary of State

Not later than the 120th day after the date an order changing a county election precinct boundary is adopted, the county clerk (or elections administrator, if applicable) shall deliver to the Secretary of State a map depicting the affected precinct's boundary as changed and showing the number of the precinct. The Secretary of State shall retain each map for 10 years after receipt. After that period, the map will be transferred to the state library. The state librarian shall retain the map for 20 years after receipt. (Section 42.037).

Notice to Voter Registrar

The commissioners court shall deliver a certified copy of an order changing a county election precinct boundary to the voter registrar not later than the seventh day after the date the order is adopted. (Section 42.034).

Voter Registration Certificates

Section 15.001(a)(16) of the Texas Election Code requires that a voter registration certificate contain jurisdictional information for city and school district election precincts. However, not all entities have single-member districts or territorial units. At a minimum, identifying the name of the city or school district as a whole on the voter registration certificate meets this requirement in Section 15.001(a)(16). Entities that have single-member districts should work with their county voter registrar to determine the information that the county will need for the certificate.

If a local political subdivision conducts redistricting after a county has issued their voter registration renewal certificate, the entity needs to provide that updated information to the county in order to ensure that the county is able to provide an official list of registered voters in time for the entity's next election. (Section 18.001). Single-member district designations are not strictly required for a voter registration certificate. A county may—but is not required to—send a new voter registration certificate due to a change in the single-member district of a city or school district. Cities or schools that have a change in single-member district boundaries should notify voters of any single-member district boundary or number changes.

Section 14.001 of the Texas Election Code requires the voter registrar to issue a voter registration certificate to each registered voter of the county between November 15 and December 6 of each odd-numbered year. As a result of redistricting delays, renewal certificates **should not** be mailed out during this timeframe. Under SB 13, the Secretary of State must adjust this deadline to allow county election and voter registration officials sufficient time to implement boundary changes in county election precincts. **Therefore, the voter registration renewal certificates shall be mailed to all voters in the county in active status whose registration is effective on December 31, 2021, between January 1, 2022 and January 12, 2022.**

We hope you find this information helpful. Please contact us at 1-800-252-VOTE(8683) if you have any questions.

KI:CA

Agency	Final Version	Use of Funds
Comptroller of Public Accounts: Unemployment Compensation Fund	\$ 7,245,419,946	Credit Unemployment Compensation Fund to pay back outstanding advances
Trusted Programs of the Gov: Children's Advocacy	\$ 1,200,000	Funding for IT case management system improvements for children's advocacy centers.
DSHS: COVID Services	\$ 2,000,000,000	Long term care facilities, psychiatric hospitals, and nursing facilities. Therapeutic drugs and regional infusion centers.
DSHS: Surge Services	\$ 378,300,000	Critical staffing needs of frontline health care workers. Grantees must comply with Rider 143 reporting requirements. \$200k for nursing facilities; \$200k for assisted living, home health, community attendants, and emergency medical service providers.
Comptroller of Public Accounts: Broadband Infrastructure	\$ 500,475,163	Broadband Development Account funding with a \$75M set-aside for pole replacement program. (Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund)
Office of the Governor: Victims of Crime	\$ 160,000,000	Grants for victims of crime (House - Intent grants equal the same amounts as 2020)
Public Safety Agency Salary Compensation	\$ 359,673,191	Salary and benefit costs in FY 2022-23 biennium
Teacher Retirement System: TRS-Care and TRS-ActiveCare	\$ 286,337,761	Funding for COVID-19 related claims incurred before September 1, 2021. Intent is to avoid premium increase as a result of COVID claims.
Department of Agriculture: Food Banks	\$ 95,000,000	Food Banks
Department of Agriculture: Home-Delivered Meals	\$ 5,000,000	Home Delivered Meals
Higher Education Coordinating Board - TX Child Mental Health Consortium	\$ 113,082,887	Support the operations & expansion of the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium to expand mental health initiatives
TDEM - State Operations Center	\$ 300,000,000	Land acquisition and construction for a state operations center
DIR - Cybersecurity Projects	\$ 200,000,000	Cybersecurity projects
Higher Ed Coordinating Board - University Construction	\$ 325,000,000	Contingent on legislation relating to the issuance of TRBs. ARPA \$\$ for construction, not debt service
National Research University Fund		
HHSC: Dallas State Hospital Construction	\$ 237,800,000	Complete construction of new state hospital
Office of the AG: Sexual Assault Fund	\$ 52,277,114	Sexual Assault Fund
Office of the Attorney General: Crime Victims Compensation	\$ 54,756,000	Dedicated Account: Crime Victims Compensation Account
Court Fee Shortfall: Court Backlog		
	\$ 7,000,000	Comptroller of Public Accounts: Court Case Backlog; visiting judges and support staff
	\$ 3,000,000	Office of Court Administration: Court case backlog; 8 FTE and IT support

Agency	Final Version	Use of Funds
		Indigent Defense Commission: Court case backlog; including to pay for public defenders
	\$ 13,942,466	Indigent Defense Commission: Court case backlog; Fair Defense Account (Indigent Defense Grants)
	\$ 200,000	Office of Capital and Forensic Writs: Court case backlog, COVID costs, and 1 FTE (death penalty cases and expert witnesses)
	\$ 5,800,000	Commission on Law Enforcement: Dedicated law enforcement account (training)
Commission on State Emergency Communications - 9-1-1 Fund	\$ 150,000,000	Deployment of 9-1-1 service including equipment and admin costs. Intent that all funds be distributed by 2022 and spent by 2024
TxDot: Presidio Customs Station	\$ 15,500,000	Funding for a customs inspection station on the South Orient Rail Line in Presidio Texas.
DSHS: Monoclonal Antibody Treatments		Provide funding for the purchase of monoclonal antibody treatments for COVID
HHSC: Rural Hospitals	\$ 75,000,000	Grants to support rural hospitals
HHSC: Internet Portal	\$ 20,000,000	Internet portal for Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program medical services provider data.
HHSC: Technology Updates	\$ 5,000,000	Technology updates to the Medicaid eligibility computer system
HHSC: Texas Civil Commitment Office	\$ 14,250	Consumable Supplies and Travel
DSHS: FQHC Incubator Program	\$ 20,000,000	Federally Qualified Health Center Incubator Program
DSHS: Rio Grande Valley	\$ 16,700,000	Upgrading existing laboratory facilities in Starr County
DSHS: Emergency Medical Services	\$ 21,700,000	Funding for EMS Staffing including education. Intent to prioritize rural areas.
UT Houston: Texas Epidemic Public Health Institute	\$ 40,000,000	Texas Epidemic Public Health Institute
Higher Education Board: TRUE	\$ 15,000,000	TRUE Program - Texas Reskilling and Upskilling through Education
Higher Education Board: At Risk Students	\$ 20,000,000	Regional universities allocation for at risk students
GLO- Texas State Veterans Homes	\$ 35,000,000	Funding to provide HVAC upgrades, negative pressure COVID-19 wards, and mobile HEPA air filtration units for Texas veterans homes
HHSC: Sunrise Canyon Hospital	\$ 15,000,000	Expansion of capacity at Sunrise Canyon Hospital
Historical Commission: Washington-on the Brazos	\$ 20,000,000	Capital Plan project for the historic site.
Permian Basin Behavioral Health Center	\$ 40,000,000	Constructing a 100 bed behavioral health center. Transferred upon construction to Ector County HD and Midland County HD
Parks: Outreach and Education	\$ 40,000,000	Grants: Outreach and Education
GLO: Brazoria County Beach and Dune		
GLO: Coastal Texas Study Design	\$ 300,000	Cost and Component analysis of the Coastal Texas Study Design
Texas A&M: Disaster Resilient Texas	\$ 1,150,000	\$1m for digital flood risk infrastructure for underserved communities, \$150K for office space in Houston
Texas Tech: Institutional Enhancements	\$ 100,000,000	Texas Tech \$50m; Univ. of Houston \$50m

Agency	Final Version	Use of Funds
Comptroller: Texas Safe Keeping Trust Fund	\$ 100,000,000	Bob Bullock Museum
Parks: Texas State Aquarium Center	\$ 3,000,000	Aquarium
UT Austin: Marine Science Institute Housing	\$ 3,000,000	Funding for student housing
TEA: Program Enhancements	\$ 3,000,000	Big Brothers and Sisters Program
UT Austin: Briscoe Garner Museum	\$ 235,000	
Rural Veterinarians Grant Program	\$ 1,000,000	Rural Veterinarians Program
State Preservation Board: Maintenance and Improvement	\$ 25,000,000	Capital Improvement
Total Proposed Funding - SB 8	\$ 13,129,863,778	
Federal Local Recovery Funds	\$ 12,629,388,615	
Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund	\$ 500,475,163	
ESF Funds		

Connected Nation Texas

Jennifer Harris

State Program Director, Connected Nation Texas





WHAT IS BROADBAND?

Broadband Defined

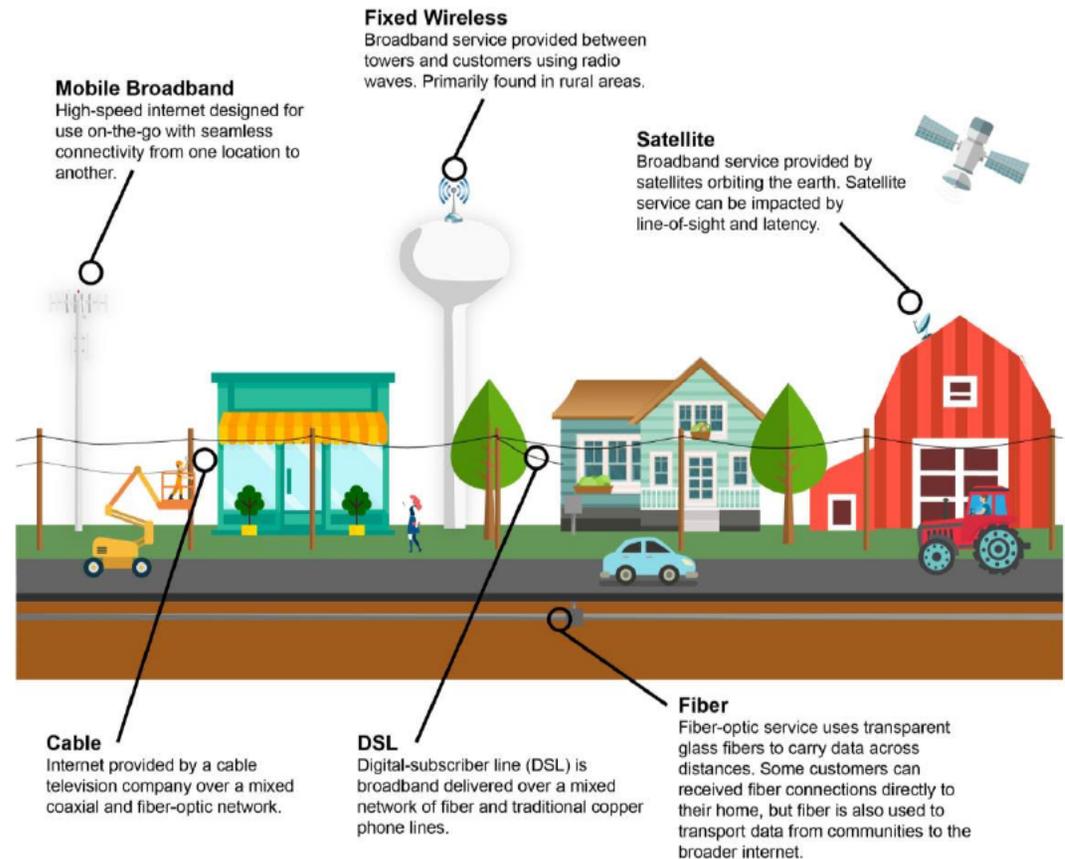


Broadband: More commonly referred to as high-speed internet access, technically, broadband is any kind of connection other than dial-up. Connection is always on.

Fixed, terrestrial broadband: Service designed for permanent, stationary use at a home, business, or institution

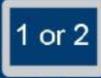
Mobile broadband: Wireless internet service designed for continuous use on a portable device

The current definition of broadband is 25/3 Mbps (set in 2015 by the FCC). The current average in the US is 195/69 Mbps.



Broadband Defined



	10 Mbps	25 Mbps	1 Gbps
Estimated time to download 2 GB file:	 29 minutes	 11 minutes	 17 seconds
Devices Supported:	 1 or 2	 3 to 5	 10+
Activities Supported:	Web surfing, e-mail, & moderate HD streaming	Heavy HD streaming, video conferencing, large file transfer	Extreme HD, real-time streaming, frequent & huge file transfers
Primarily used by:	Homes & Some Businesses	Homes & Businesses	Businesses & Some Homes

Broadband Defined



Access

Physical connection to high-speed infrastructure.

Adoption

Recognizing the value in broadband and subscribing either at home, work, and/or via public institutions.

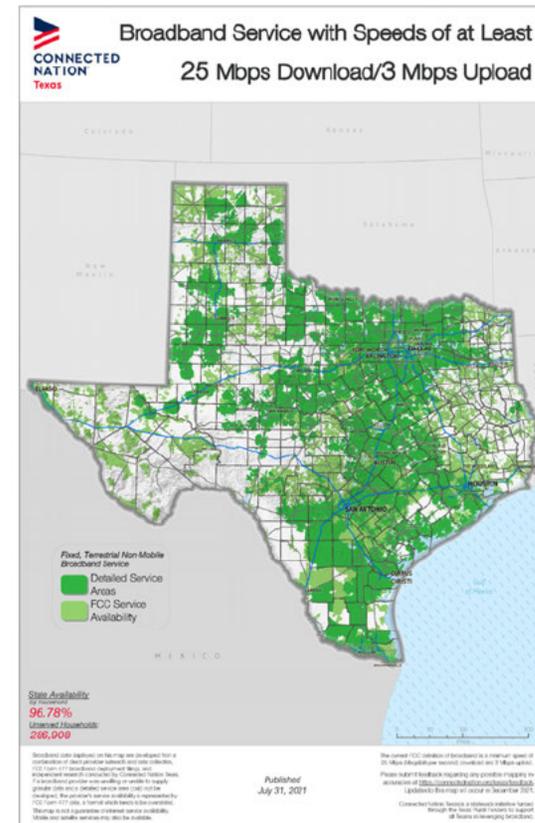
Use

Having the skills necessary to utilize and leverage broadband and related technologies across sectors.

Broadband Access in Texas



- 96.78% of households in Texas have access at 25/3, leaving 286,908 households unserved at the minimum speed considered broadband.
- Of note, 246,997 of these homes are in rural Texas.
- This means at least 819,680 Texans (692,511 who reside in rural Texas) do not have access to broadband at home to attend school, visit a doctor online, or work from home.
- That's like having the entire state of North Dakota (plus the population of a city the size of Galveston) not connected to broadband.

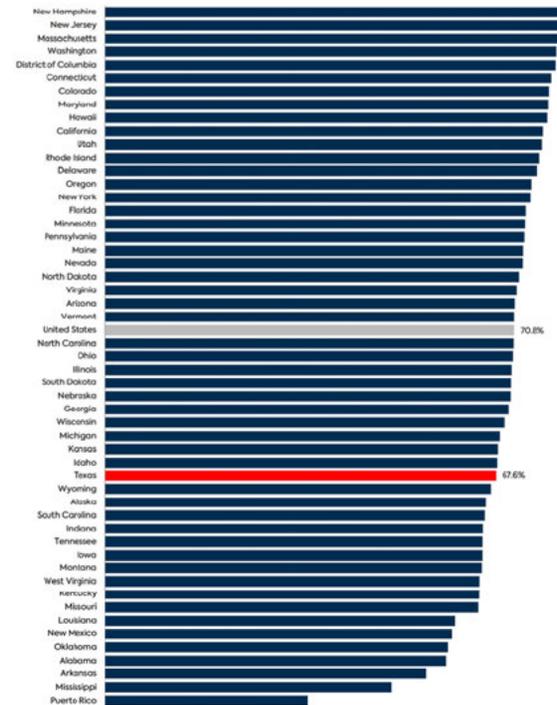


Broadband Adoption in Texas



- **32.4%** of Texas households do not subscribe to fixed, terrestrial broadband service such as DSL, cable, fixed wireless or fiber.
- Texas **35th** is in broadband adoption among other states and territories.

Adoption Rate:
Households with Broadband Subscriptions by State
(Rates include households that may or may not have access to broadband)



2015-2019 American Community Survey

Broadband Adoption in Texas (Cities)



The National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA) ranked 623 communities with populations of 65,000 or more by:

- percentage of households without “wireline” broadband subscriptions (cable, fiber or DSL)
- percentage of each community’s households that lacked broadband Internet subscriptions of any type, including mobile data plans



Pharr (1 st)
Brownsville (2 nd)
Tyler (4 th)
Harlingen (5 th)
Beaumont (18 th)
Bryan (33 rd)
Longview (68 th)
Killeen (71 st)
Mission (75 th)
Odessa (77 th)



BROADBAND MAPS

Broadband Maps



STATE MAPS

The map products available here are in a statewide format. Broadband data are analyzed and these maps have been developed for public review and feedback.

COUNTY MAPS

Maps are available here for each county in the state. The maps developed at the statewide level are also available for each county.

Interactive Map

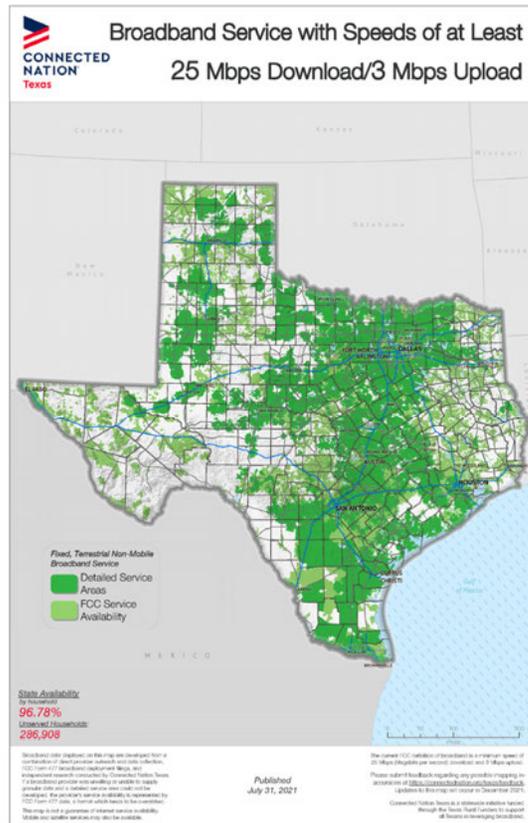
An interactive mapping application is available for users to create customized map displays of broadband availability.

Broadband Statistics

Access charts and maps can be found here, showing the status of broadband access in Texas.

www.connectednation.org/texas/mapping-analysis

Statewide Broadband Maps & Data



Texas Statewide Broadband Availability Estimates by Speed Tier			
Among Fixed Technologies: Cable, DSL, Fiber, Fixed Wireless			
Speeds	Unserved Households	Served Households	Percent of Households Served
10 Mbps Download x 1 Mbps Upload	94,833	8,828,100	98.94%
25 Mbps Download x 3 Mbps Upload	286,908	8,636,025	96.78%
50 Mbps Download x 5 Mbps Upload	508,871	8,414,062	94.30%
100 Mbps Download x 10 Mbps Upload	709,599	8,213,334	92.05%

RURAL Texas Statewide Broadband Availability Estimates by Speed Tier			
Among Fixed Technologies: Cable, DSL, Fiber, Fixed Wireless			
Speeds	Unserved Rural Households	Served Rural Households	Percent of Rural Households Served
10 Mbps Download x 1 Mbps Upload	64,781	2,841,842	97.77%
25 Mbps Download x 3 Mbps Upload	246,997	2,659,626	91.50%
50 Mbps Download x 5 Mbps Upload	458,883	2,447,740	84.21%
100 Mbps Download x 10 Mbps Upload	613,188	2,293,435	78.90%

County Level Broadband Maps



Texas County Maps

EXPLORE YOUR COMMUNITY

The broadband maps and statistics were initially published in January 2020. The maps were updated in July 2020, December 2020, and most recently on July 31, 2021 following additional public feedback, field validation, and provider input.

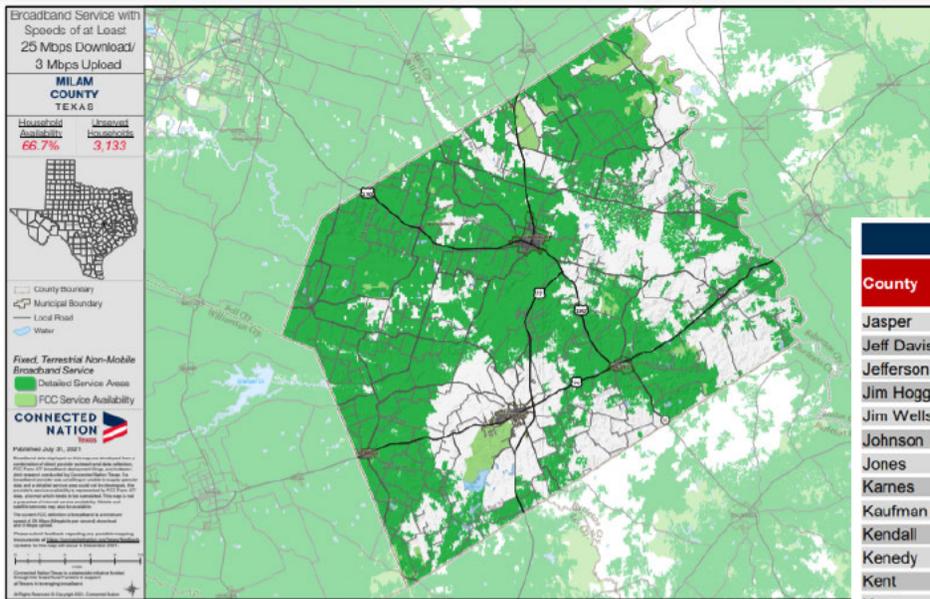
These updated maps (linked below) now include additional input from residents, businesses, and communities, as well as new, more granular data from internet service providers (ISPs). Texans are encouraged to submit feedback on the accuracy of the maps: <https://connectednation.org/texas/feedback>.

FIND YOUR COUNTY!

Anderson County ▾

- Anderson County - 10x1
- Anderson County - 25x3
- Anderson County - 50x5
- Anderson County - 100x10

County Broadband Maps & Data



County	Number of Households	Percent of Households Served			
		10 x 1 Mbps	25 x 3 Mbps	50 x 5 Mbps	100 x 10 Mbps
Jasper	13,770	96.27%	35.46%	35.35%	35.35%
Jeff Davis	1,034	91.67%	37.94%	37.94%	37.94%
Jefferson	93,441	98.93%	97.28%	97.08%	97.04%
Jim Hogg	1,902	99.23%	99.23%	1.42%	0.84%
Jim Wells	13,961	100.00%	100.00%	99.30%	76.86%
Johnson	52,193	99.80%	99.79%	99.79%	99.45%
Jones	6,034	89.24%	34.44%	17.51%	17.38%
Karnes	4,463	100.00%	100.00%	18.46%	0.09%
Kaufman	34,964	99.53%	96.17%	92.10%	88.78%
Kendall	12,617	99.16%	95.55%	93.98%	91.01%
Kenedy	147	68.01%	20.59%	0.33%	0.00%
Kent	350	92.27%	87.12%	87.12%	87.12%
Kerr	20,550	99.78%	97.28%	93.73%	89.92%
Kimble	2,016	63.00%	59.11%	56.35%	54.81%
King	113	71.11%	64.03%	18.58%	18.58%
Kinney	1,350	94.23%	0.12%	0.00%	0.00%
Kleberg	11,097	99.85%	98.05%	96.45%	84.26%
Knox	1,506	99.98%	99.98%	78.44%	68.28%
Lamar	19,829	98.88%	96.59%	95.95%	82.35%
Lamb	5,081	98.51%	91.42%	85.59%	81.17%
Lampasas	7,539	97.49%	95.16%	82.42%	80.58%

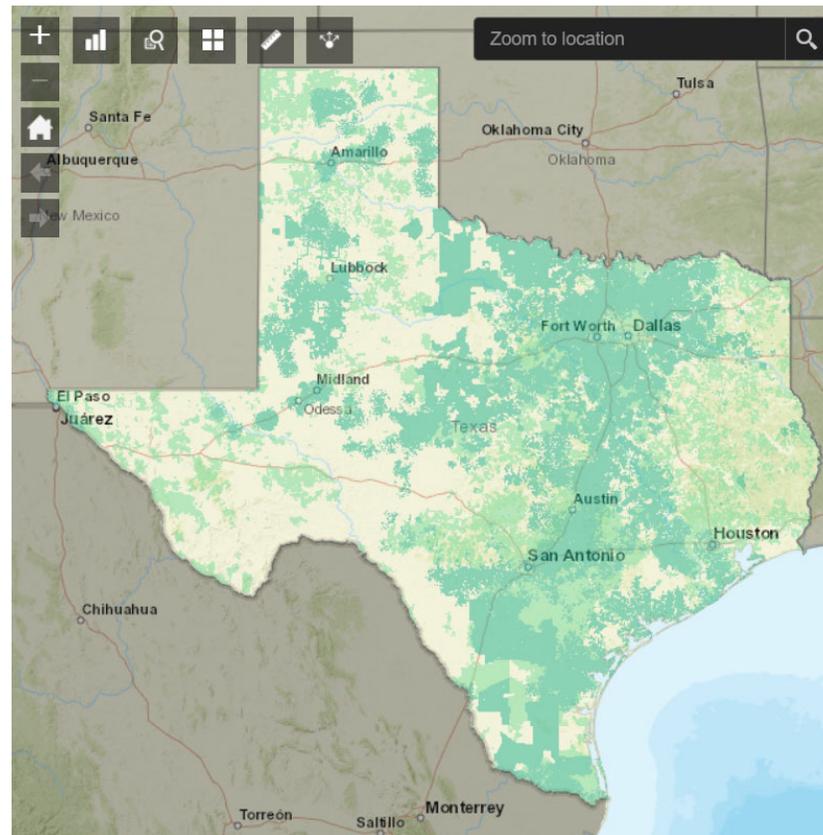
Statewide Interactive Broadband Map



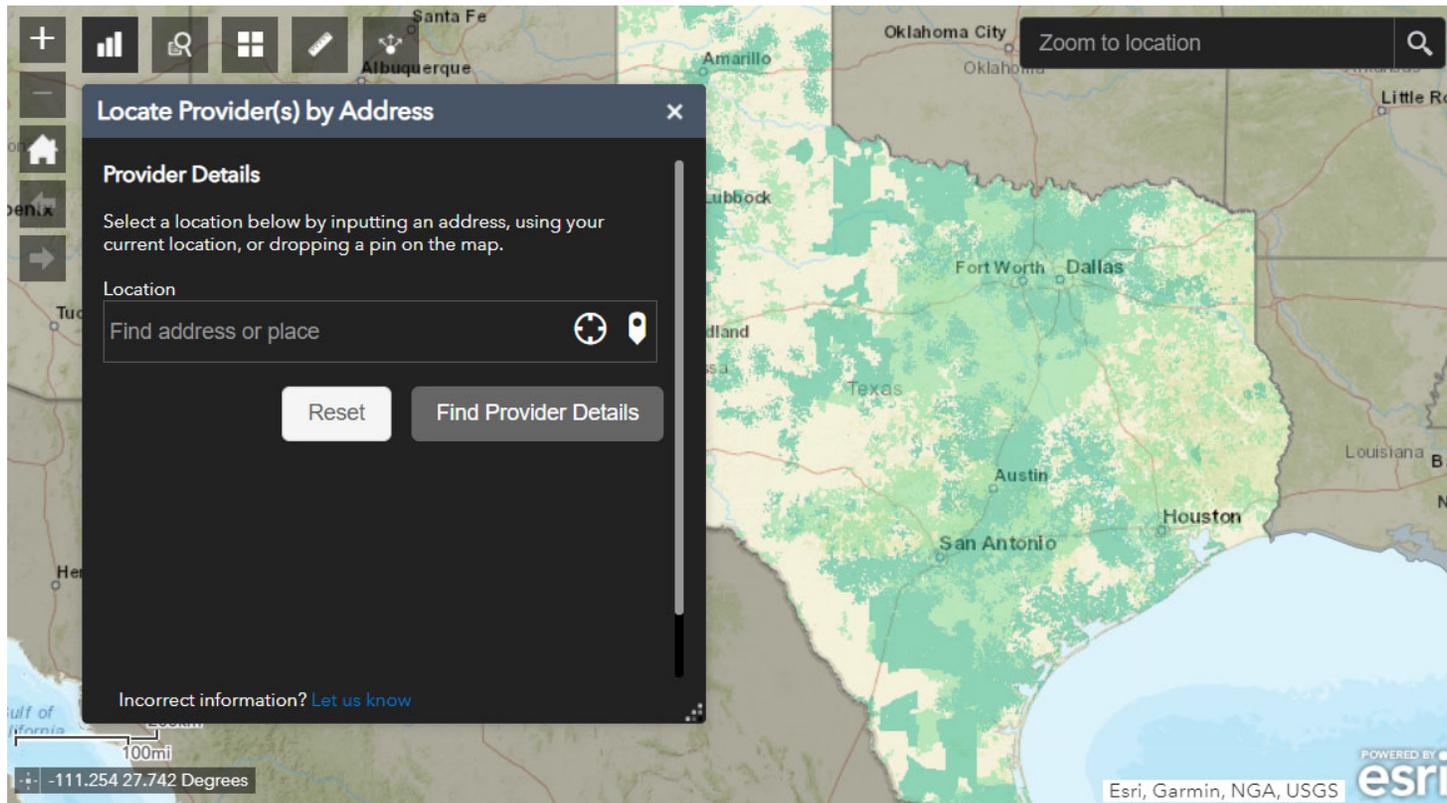
Broadband Service Other Layers

Layers

- 100M/10M Broadband by Granularity
 - 100M/10M
 - Detailed Service Areas
 - FCC Service Availability
- 50M/5M Broadband by Granularity
 - 50M/5M
 - Detailed Service Areas
 - FCC Service Availability
- 25M/3M Broadband by Granularity
 - 25M/3M
 - Detailed Service Areas
 - FCC Service Availability
- 10M/1M Broadband by Granularity
 - 10M/1M
 - Detailed Service Areas
 - FCC Service Availability



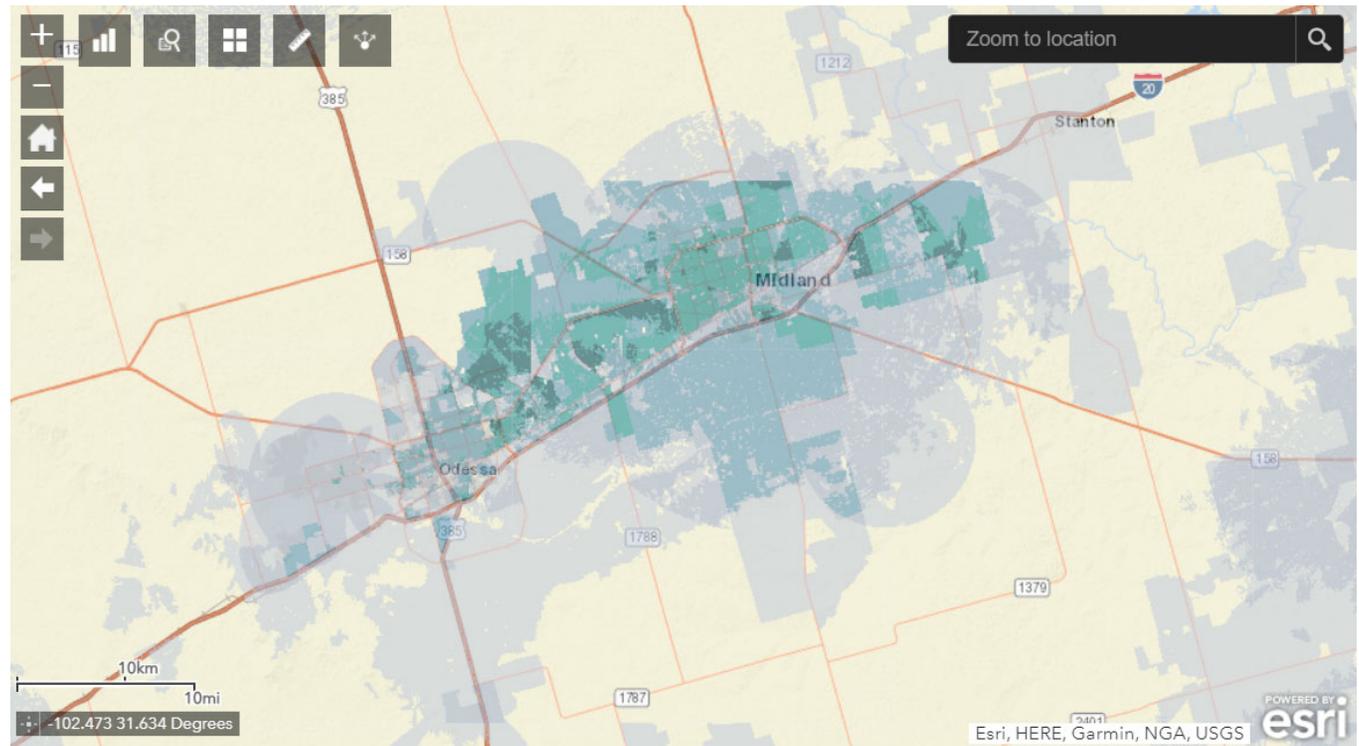
Provider Locator Tool



Provider Density



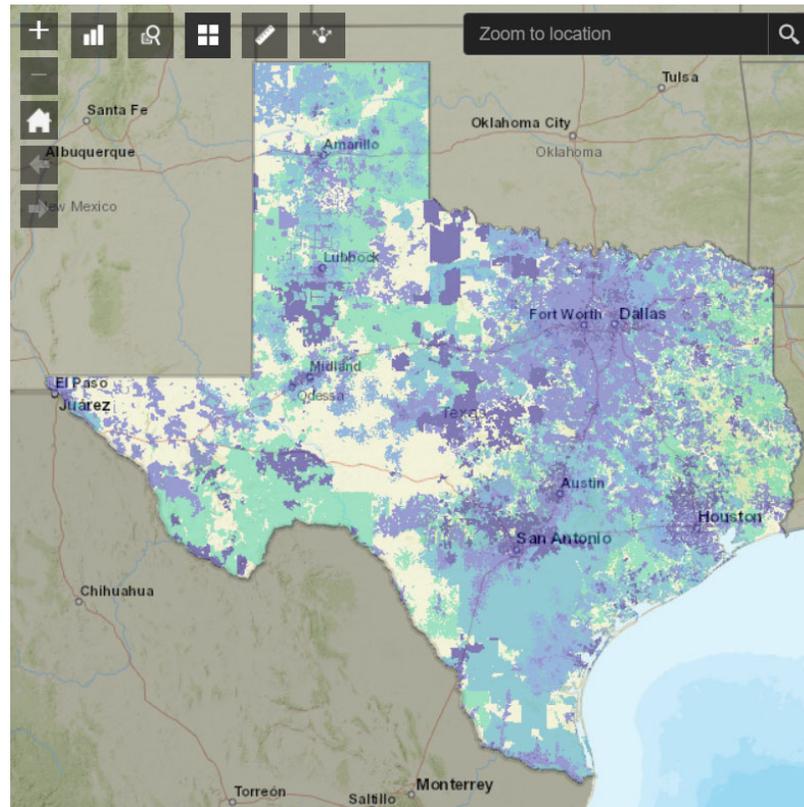
- Density of Providers by Area (25M/3M) ...
- Count of Providers ...
- 5 or More Providers
- 4 Providers
- 3 Providers
- 2 Providers
- 1 Provider
- Density of Providers by Area (10M/1M) ...
- Count of Providers ...
- 5 or More Providers
- 4 Providers
- 3 Providers
- 2 Providers
- 1 Provider



Max Advertised Download Speed



- Max Adv. Download Speed ($\geq 10\text{M}/1\text{M}$)
- At Least 10 Mbps Download/1 Mbps Upload
- 1 Gbps and Above
- 100 Mbps to < 1 Gbps
- 50 Mbps to < 100 Mbps
- 25 Mbps to < 50 Mbps
- 10 Mbps to < 25 Mbps



Unserviced Density



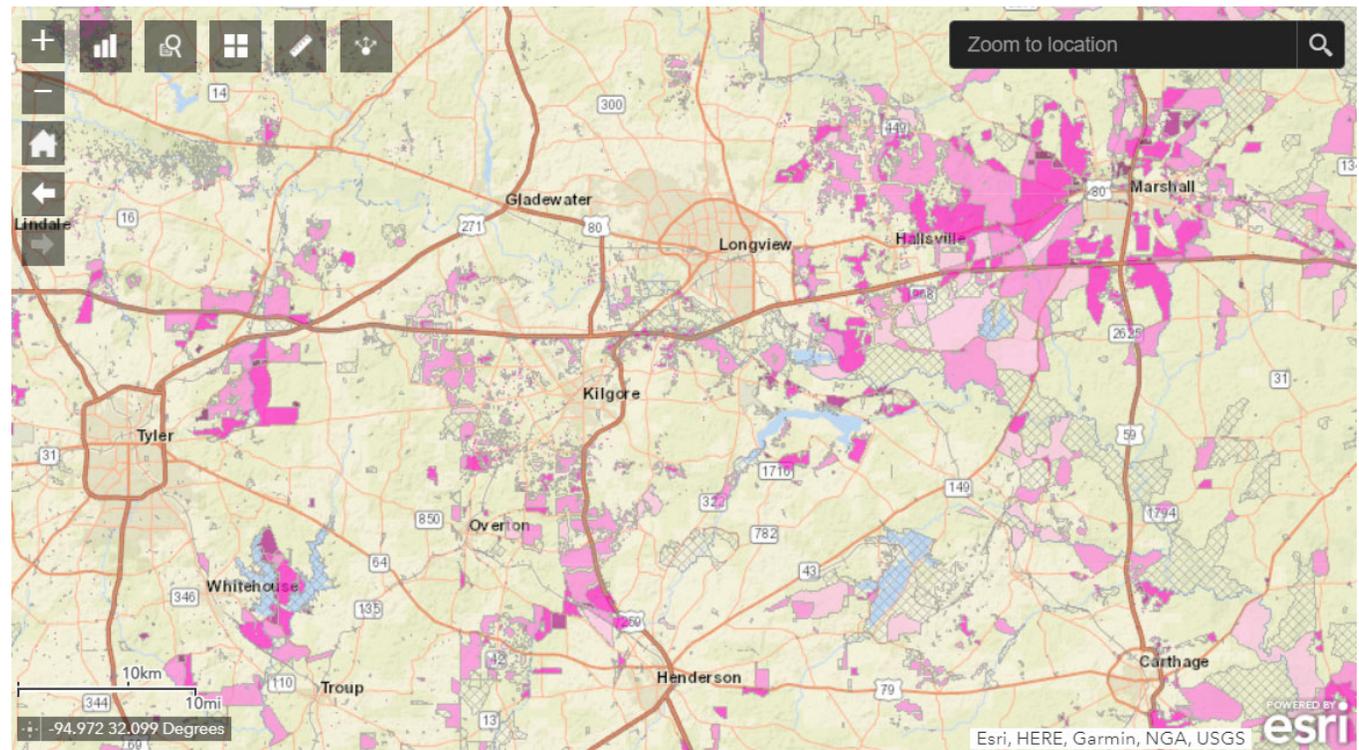
- Unserved Areas (Lacking 25M/3M, Households per sq. mi. by Census Block) ...
- Unserved Areas (Lacking 10M/1M, Households per sq. mi. by Census Block) ...

Unserviced Household Density (Census 2010)

- Greater than 100
- 51 - 100
- 11 - 50
- 2 - 10
- >0 - 1
- Zero Households

Unserviced Household Density (Census 2010)

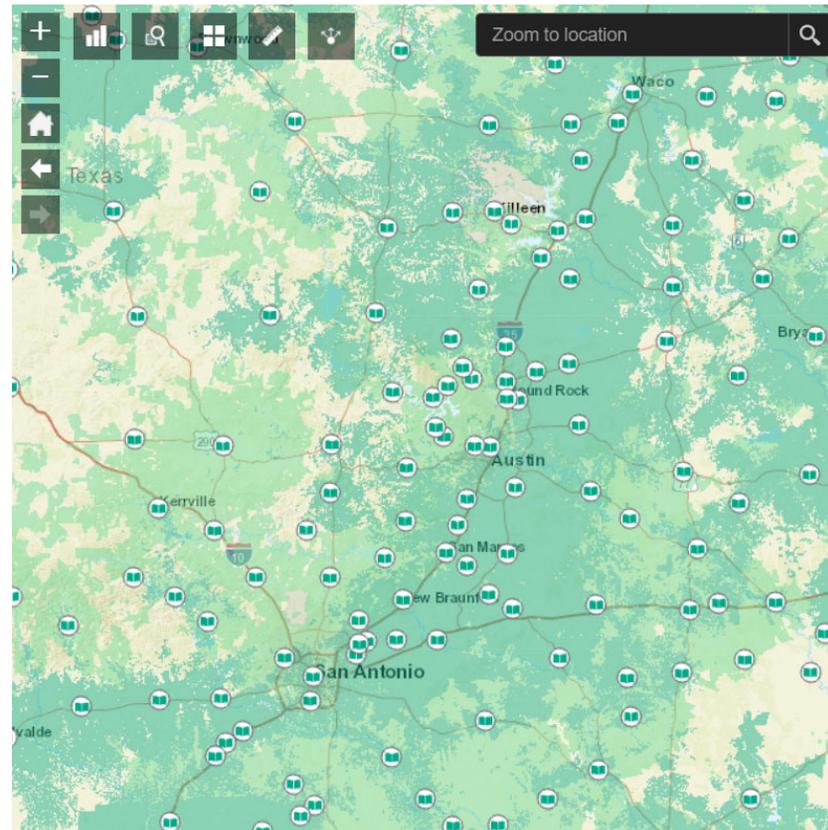
- Greater than 100
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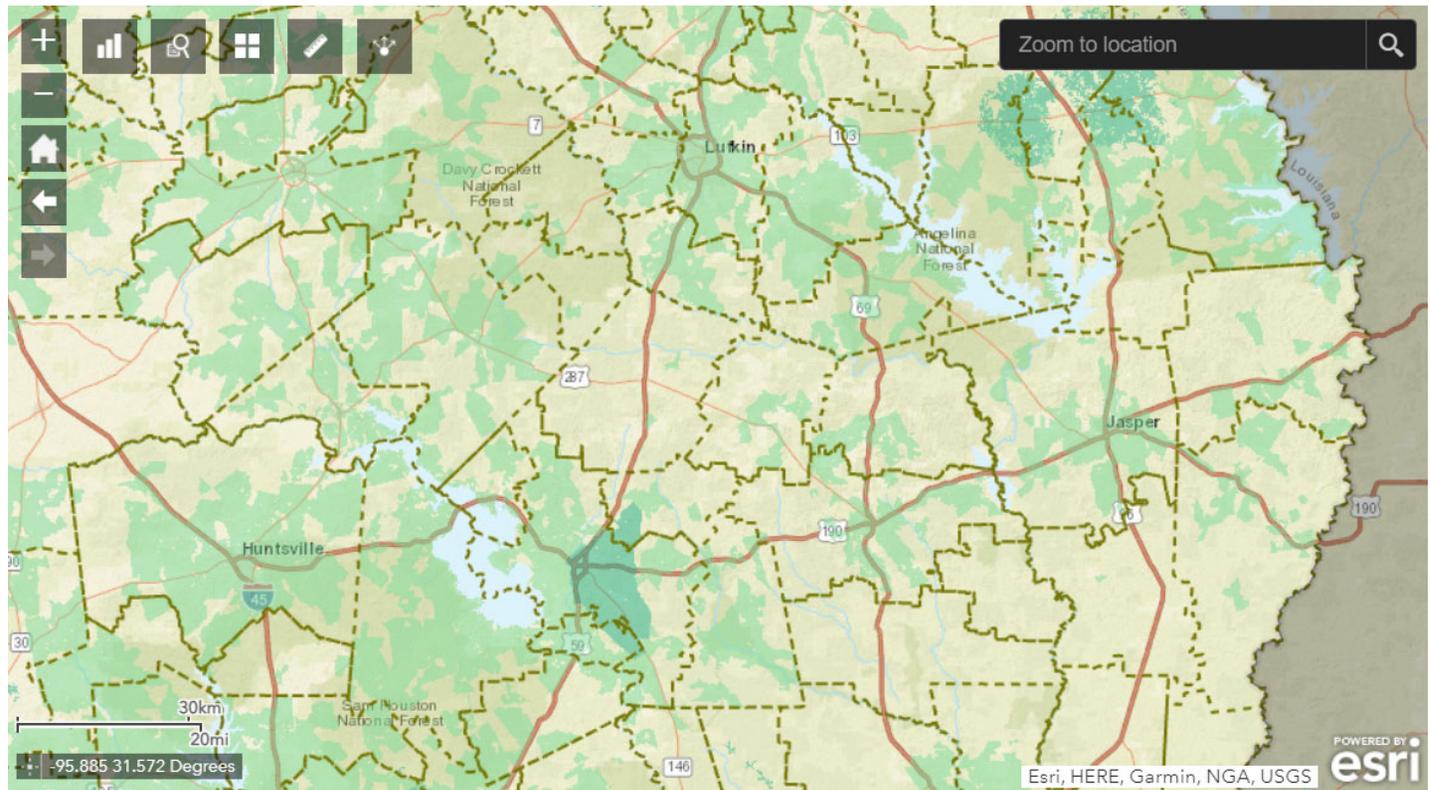
Community Anchor Institutions



- Community Anchor Institutions
- Schools K-12
- Libraries
- Healthcare Facilities
- Public Safety Facilities
- Universities



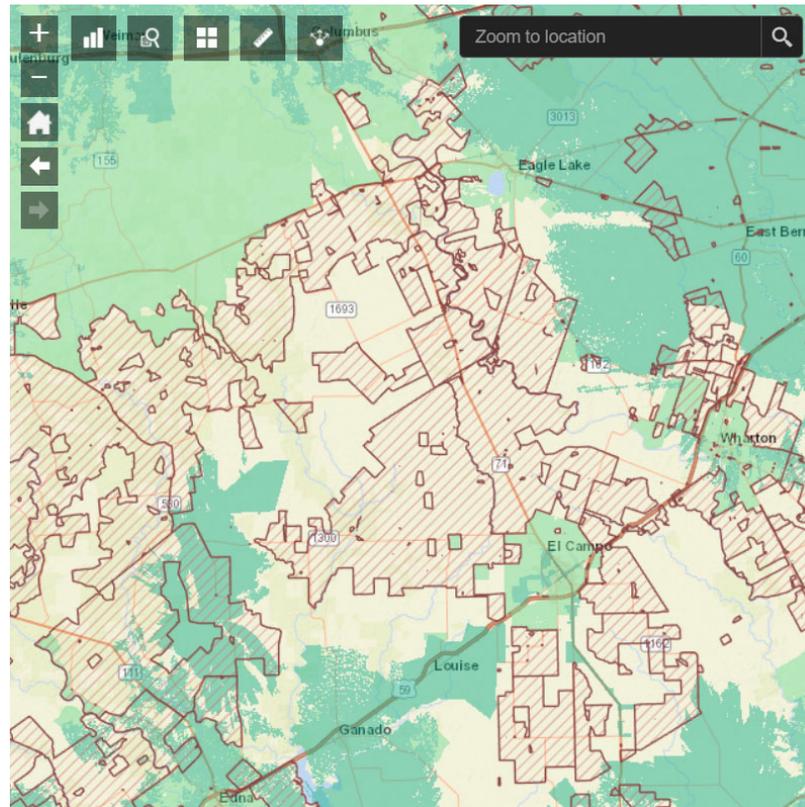
Boundaries/Districts



Federal Buildout Commitments/Eligible Areas



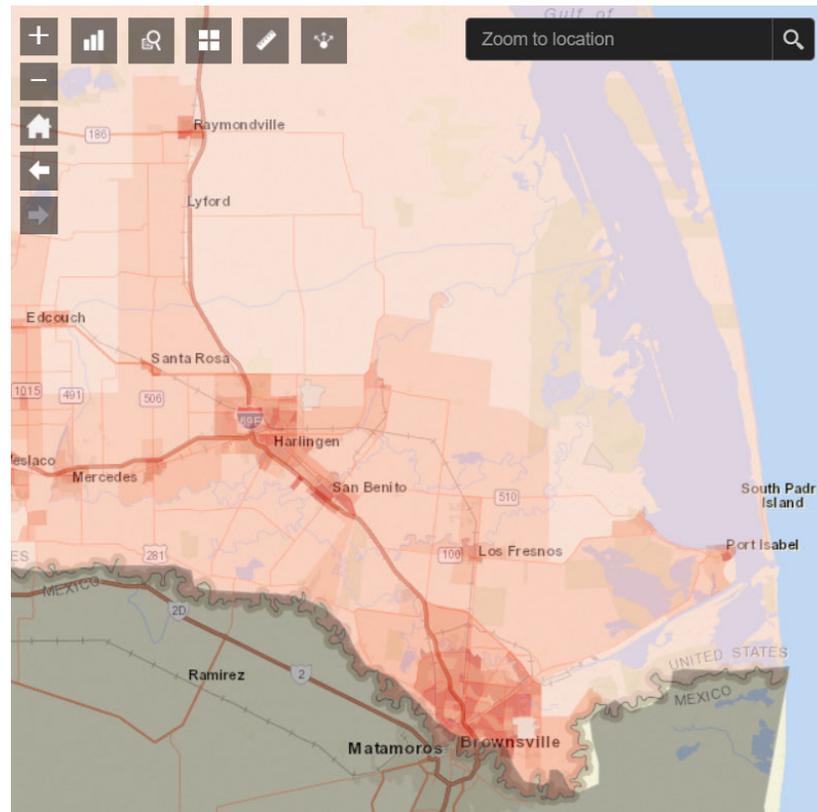
- FCC Commitment Areas and Deployments ...
- Federal Buildout Commitments/Eligible Areas
 - Alternative-Connect America Cost Model (A-CAM) Eligible Areas ...
 - Connect America Fund (CAF) Phase II Auction Winning Bid Areas ...
 - Connect America Fund (CAF) Phase II Commitment Areas ...
 - Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) Phase 1 Winning Bid Areas ...
 - Federal Subsidy Program Deployment (Zoom-in to see actual locations) ...
 - Alternative-Connect America Cost Model (A-CAM I & II) ...
 - Connect America Fund-Broadband Loop Support (CAF-BLS) ...
 - Connect America Fund (CAF) Phase II ...
 - Rural Broadband Experiments (RBE) ...
 - Connect America Fund (CAF) Phase II Auction ...



Broadband Adoption



- Broadband Adoption
- Percent of Households with an Internet Subscription
- Percent of Households with No Internet Subscription
- Density of Households with No Internet Subscription



Questions?

Jennifer Harris

State Program Director, Connected Nation Texas

512.962.8032

jharris@connectednation.org



Texas
Rural
Funders



**CONNECTED
NATIONSM**
Texas

From: [Susan Fletcher](#)
To: [Bruce Sherbet](#)
Subject: Re: Election Integrity questions
Date: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 10:33:22 AM

Thanks. I will mention those things, as I haven't replied yet. The one thing that I was confused about was the certification dates. Could you remind me exactly when we purchased our equipment and when we started using it in elections? Bill mentioned that it wasn't required every year or every two years as it states in the election code, unless the state votes to revoke it, or something like that? It might be easier if we spoke on the phone. I just want to do everything I can to hopefully answer her questions, at least from the county perspective. There's nothing that I can do about the state.

Susan Fletcher
Collin County Commissioner, Pct. 1
SFletcher@CollinCountyTX.gov
972-548-4676 - office
469-343-2166 - mobile

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 23, 2021, at 9:56 AM, Bruce Sherbet <bsherbet@co.collin.tx.us> wrote:

Recovering from knee surgery sounds painful. I hope all goes well and your recovery is as speedy as possible. Nurse Brian better be taking care of his patient!

It seems to me that Debbie's beef is with the EAC and the state. I know Collin County has followed all required protocols regarding the purchase and implementation of our voting system. To me, the video is calling for an expanded statewide audit of the November 2020 election. I think that is exactly why the video was created. I am assuming that would require another special legislative session which I'm not sure the governor is in favor of calling at this time. In fact, the governor has recently stated that the forensic audit that is currently being conducted of the two largest republican and two largest democrat counties is the largest forensic audit of the November 2020 election being performed in the nation. If the audit is expanded or not to the other counties, we will be the recipient of a full forensic audit of the election. I actually welcome it especially if it will restore confidence here in the election processes.

I hope you have a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Bruce

Bruce Sherbet
Elections Administrator
Collin County Elections

2010 Redbud Blvd., Ste 102
McKinney, TX 75069
972-547-1900

From: Susan Fletcher
Sent: Monday, November 22, 2021 5:40 PM
To: Bruce Sherbet <bsherbet@co.collin.tx.us>
Subject: Re: Election Integrity questions

Maybe we can chat on Tuesday... I've been down with recovering from the knee surgery, so I will go ahead and reply now, and ask them specifically what else is needed or unclear.

Thanks!

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To: Bruce Sherbet <bsherbet@co.collin.tx.us>
Cc: Bill Bilyeu <bbilyeu@co.collin.tx.us>
Subject: Election Integrity questions

Hi Bruce,

Two of my constituents, Todd & Debbie Lindstrom, have been very concerned and outspoken about election integrity. They have produced a video containing their concerns, and the laws they feel have been broken.

I know this will be a long ordeal, and I apologize in advance. But please watch this video, and prepare a response to their concerns. If it would help, I will watch with you, and act as secretary to document your responses. Just let me know.

These constituents are also friends of Judge Hill. Below is the text and link sent to me by Todd.

Best regards,
Susan

Susan I told you I would document what I feel are broken laws. I finally have that accomplished. Here are the details.

<https://rumble.com/vphbiz-es-and-s-certification-failures.html>

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Collin County Commissioner, Pct. 1
SFletcher@CollinCountyTX.gov
972-548-4676 - office
469-343-2166 - mobile

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Susan Fletcher](#)
To: [Bruce Sherbet](#)
Subject: Re: Election Integrity questions
Date: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 10:33:54 AM

And by the way, Brian is doing a great job taking care of his patient! And I do hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving as well.

Susan Fletcher
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SFletcher@CollinCountyTX.gov
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469-343-2166 - mobile

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Susan Fletcher](#)
To: [Bruce Sherbet](#)
Subject: Re: Election Integrity questions
Date: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 10:39:50 AM

I've got to go get a blood draw and I'll give you a shout after I get back in the car around 1115 to 1130 if that's OK.

Susan Fletcher
Collin County Commissioner, Pct. 1
SFletcher@CollinCountyTX.gov
972-548-4676 - office
469-343-2166 - mobile

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 23, 2021, at 10:39 AM, Bruce Sherbet <bsherbet@co.collin.tx.us> wrote:

It would probably be easier to answer your questions if we spoke on the phone. I'm in the office today so if you get a minute please call me.

Bruce Sherbet
Elections Administrator
Collin County Elections
2010 Redbud Blvd., Ste 102
McKinney, TX 75069
972-547-1900

From: Susan Fletcher
Sent: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 10:33 AM
To: Bruce Sherbet <bsherbet@co.collin.tx.us>
Subject: Re: Election Integrity questions

Thanks. I will mention those things, as I haven't replied yet. The one thing that I was confused about was the certification dates. Could you remind me exactly when we purchased our equipment and when we started using it in elections? Bill mentioned that it wasn't required every year or every two years as it states in the election code, unless the state votes to revoke it, or something like that? It might be easier if we spoke on the phone. I just want to do everything I can to hopefully answer her questions, at least from the county perspective. There's nothing that I can do about the state.

Susan Fletcher
Collin County Commissioner, Pct. 1
SFletcher@CollinCountyTX.gov
972-548-4676 - office

469-343-2166 - mobile

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 23, 2021, at 9:56 AM, Bruce Sherbet
<bsherbet@co.collin.tx.us> wrote:

Recovering from knee surgery sounds painful. I hope all goes well and your recovery is as speedy as possible. Nurse Brian better be taking care of his patient!

It seems to me that Debbie's beef is with the EAC and the state. I know Collin County has followed all required protocols regarding the purchase and implementation of our voting system. To me, the video is calling for an expanded statewide audit of the November 2020 election. I think that is exactly why the video was created. I am assuming that would require another special legislative session which I'm not sure the governor is in favor of calling at this time. In fact, the governor has recently stated that the forensic audit that is currently being conducted of the two largest republican and two largest democrat counties is the largest forensic audit of the November 2020 election being performed in the nation. If the audit is expanded or not to the other counties, we will be the recipient of a full forensic audit of the election. I actually welcome it especially if it will restore confidence here in the election processes.

I hope you have a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Bruce

Bruce Sherbet
Elections Administrator
Collin County Elections
2010 Redbud Blvd., Ste 102
McKinney, TX 75069
972-547-1900

From: Susan Fletcher
Sent: Monday, November 22, 2021 5:40 PM
To: Bruce Sherbet <bsherbet@co.collin.tx.us>
Subject: Re: Election Integrity questions

Maybe we can chat on Tuesday... I've been down with recovering from the knee surgery, so I will go ahead and reply now, and ask them specifically what else is needed or unclear.

Thanks!

Susan Fletcher
Collin County Commissioner, Pct. 1
SFletcher@CollinCountyTX.gov
972-548-4676 - office
469-343-2166 - mobile

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 22, 2021, at 4:48 PM, Bruce Sherbet
<bsherbet@co.collin.tx.us> wrote:

Commissioner Fletcher,

I had not seen this video but I already responded to Debbie about the issue in a previous email. (I will forward my responding email to you). I would like to speak with you about this issue because I don't know of anything else I can add to it. Debbie and Todd attended the election integrity meeting that I conducted (along with Judge Hill) on October 14. Chris Moody from ES&S was also in attendance and spoke with them there about the Pro V&V certification processes. I guess what is confusing me here is we are already undergoing a complete forensic audit of the November 2020 election by the secretary of state. The governor last week appropriated 4 million dollars to complete the audits of the four counties (Dallas, Tarrant, Harris and Collin) plus the secretary of state is establishing a division that will do nothing but perform audits moving forward. I read an article today that I will forward to you about it. The EAC has addressed the issue (obviously not to Debbie's satisfaction) and the state declared our voting system certified and gave the go ahead for us to purchase it in 2019 (also not to Debbie's satisfaction because she is saying it was not certified). I assume the video is seeking a complete audit of every ES&S county using the ExpressVote voting system in the November 2020 election. I honestly don't know what else I can add other than what I have already said. I am happy to talk you about it more though. Thank you.

Bruce

Bruce Sherbet
Elections Administrator
Collin County Elections
2010 Redbud Blvd., Ste 102
McKinney, TX 75069
972-547-1900

From: Susan Fletcher
Sent: Monday, November 22, 2021 2:12 PM
To: Bruce Sherbet <bsherbet@co.collin.tx.us>
Cc: Bill Bilyeu <bbilyeu@co.collin.tx.us>
Subject: Election Integrity questions

Hi Bruce,

Two of my constituents, Todd & Debbie Lindstrom, have been very concerned and outspoken about election integrity. They have produced a video containing their concerns, and the laws they feel have been broken.

I know this will be a long ordeal, and I apologize in advance. But please watch this video, and prepare a response to their concerns. If it would help, I will watch with you, and act as secretary to document your responses. Just let me know.

These constituents are also friends of Judge Hill. Below is the text and link sent to me by Todd.

Best regards,
Susan

Susan I told you I would document what I feel are broken laws. I finally have that accomplished. Here are the details.

<https://rumble.com/vphbiz-es-and-s-certification-failures.html>

Susan Fletcher
Collin County Commissioner, Pct. 1
SFletcher@CollinCountyTX.gov
972-548-4676 - office
469-343-2166 - mobile

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Darrell Hale](#)
To: [Bruce Sherbet](#)
Subject: Re: ES&S Voting machine Certification failures
Date: Friday, December 3, 2021 4:25:39 PM

The claim is that the certificate to test voting equipment lapsed so the whole system is not a valid test and it is not officially certified. You answered my question without me being very eloquent in my question as I couldn't remember what was out of date. (Pro v and v)

Darrell Hale
Collin County Commissioner, PCT 3
214-471-3584

From: Bruce Sherbet <bsherbet@co.collin.tx.us>
Sent: Friday, December 3, 2021, 4:10 PM
To: Darrell Hale
Subject: RE: ES&S Voting machine Certification failures

Commissioner hale,

I'm not sure I understand your first sentence. I'm not aware of a certification failure of the voting equipment. I have seen the video and it refers to the federal agency (EAC) that oversees the testing labs used for certifying voting equipment. The issue raised in it involves the testing lab Pro V&V certificate to test voting equipment lapsed during the period that the ExpressVote was certified. It is my understanding that the EAC position is that the lapse was an error on their end and Pro V&V never lost accreditation to test equipment. It is also my understanding the EAC has confirmed that the ExpressVote voting system is certified. I can tell you that Collin County followed all of the required protocols confirming through the state that our system is certified for use. The EAC and state confirm the system is certified so I'm not sure what else to do on this end.

To the point regarding the need to conduct of a forensic audit of the November 2020 general election, Collin County is one of the 4 Texas county that the secretary of state's office has publically confirmed will undergo a complete and comprehensive audit of the election. That audit is already underway in Phase One involving voter registration records. Phase Two is scheduled to begin around Spring 2022 and will involve the review of ballots, equipment and documents from the election. My understanding is it will be conducted on-site in Collin County. A couple of weeks ago, the state appropriated 4 million dollars for operations pertaining to the forensic audits.

Bruce Sherbet
Elections Administrator
Collin County Elections
2010 Redbud Blvd., Ste 102
McKinney, TX 75069
972-547-1900

From: Darrell Hale
Sent: Friday, December 3, 2021 2:59 PM
To: Bruce Sherbet <bsherbet@co.collin.tx.us>
Subject: Fwd: ES&S Voting machine Certification failures

This is what you were relaying to us that there was a version updated failure by a couple of weeks of time on one of the test machines that was deminimus in nature to the entire test and certification run.

What has ESS response been and what is your response when presented with this info?

Thanks,
Darrell

Darrell Hale
Collin County Commissioner, PCT 3
214-471-3584

From: Sabine <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, December 3, 2021 12:47:57 PM
To: Hill Judge Chris <chill@collincountytx.gov>; Fletcher Susan <sfletcher@collincountytx.gov>; Williams Cheryl <cdwilliams@collincountytx.gov>; Hale Darrell <dhale@collincountytx.gov>; Webb Duncan <jdwebb@collincountytx.gov>
Subject: ES&S Voting machine Certification failures

***** **WARNING:** External Email. Do not click links or open attachments that are unsafe. *****

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

I was asked to share with you a video presentation that was produced and recently released by a concerned and talented group of Collin County Patriots. This presentation exposes the ES&S Certification process and election software/equipment that were instrumental in committing election fraud in the November 3, 2020 election. Sadly, this fraud was perpetrated in prior elections as well.

Please know that this video was shared with Sheriff Skinner via email on November 19, 2021 so you may already be aware of this information.

This short video presentation gives a comprehensive explanation of why a full forensic audit is necessary to restore the trust of the American people. We are at a point where we will never be able to move forward and regain this trust without full accountability of what happened in the November 3, 2020 election.

After your review, I will be more than happy to introduce you to the appropriate

professionals that can meet with you to answer any and all questions you may have concerning this matter.

Thank you and God bless you for helping to restore faith in our beloved community and country.

Respectfully,

Sabine Wade on behalf of all CC Patriots

<https://rumble.com/vphbiz-es-and-s-certification-failures.html>

From: [Darrell Hale](#)
To: [REDACTED]; [Chris Hill](#); [Susan Fletcher](#); [Cheryl Williams](#); [Duncan Webb](#)
Subject: Re: ES&S Voting machine Certification failures
Date: Friday, December 3, 2021 4:38:16 PM

Mrs. Wade,

I inquired to our elections administrator with regards to the content of the video and this aside from a couple of highlights is his response verbatim. The system is certified and we will be conducting an audit per SOS guidelines.

The issue raised in it 'the video' involves the testing lab Pro V&V certificate to test voting equipment lapsed during the period that the ExpressVote was certified. It is my understanding that the EAC position is that the lapse was an error on their end and Pro V&V never lost accreditation to test equipment. It is also my understanding the EAC has confirmed that the ExpressVote voting system is certified. I can tell you that Collin County followed all of the required protocols confirming through the state that our system is certified for use. **The EAC and state confirm the system is certified** so I'm not sure what else to do on this end.

To the point regarding the need to conduct of a forensic audit of the November 2020 general election, Collin County is one of the 4 Texas county that the secretary of state's office has publically confirmed will undergo a complete and comprehensive audit of the election. That audit is already underway in Phase One involving voter registration records. Phase Two is scheduled to begin around Spring 2022 and will involve the review of ballots, equipment and documents from the election. My understanding is it will be conducted on-site in Collin County. A couple of weeks ago, the state appropriated 4 million dollars for operations pertaining to the forensic audits.

Thank you for sending the video,
Darrell Hale
214-471-3584

From: Sabine <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, December 3, 2021 12:47:57 PM
To: Chris Hill; Susan Fletcher; Cheryl Williams; Darrell Hale; Duncan Webb
Subject: ES&S Voting machine Certification failures

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Respectfully,

Sabine Wade on behalf of all CC Patriots

<https://rumble.com/vphbiz-es-and-s-certification-failures.html>

From: [Duncan Webb](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [Shona Navarre](#)
Bcc: [Duncan Webb](#); [Bruce Sherbet](#)
Subject: RE: ES&S Voting machine Certification failures
Date: Monday, December 6, 2021 8:20:55 AM

Ms. Wade:

Thank you for forwarding us this information. I have reviewed the video and forwarded to our Elections Administrator and County Administrator for their review and investigation. Based upon our discussion of the issues and concerns raised in the video, I asked that our Elections Administrator confirm that the voting system is certified. I have set forth his email response for your information. Also be assured that we will be conducting an audit per SOS guidelines. Voting integrity is paramount.

Bruce Sherbet email response:

“I have seen the video and it refers to the federal agency (EAC) that oversees the testing labs used for certifying voting equipment. The issue raised in it involves the testing lab Pro V&V certificate to test voting equipment lapsed during the period that the ExpressVote was certified. It is my understanding that the EAC position is that the lapse was an error on their end and Pro V&V never lost accreditation to test equipment. It is also my understanding the EAC has confirmed that the ExpressVote voting system is certified. I can tell you that Collin County followed all of the required protocols confirming through the state that our system is certified for use. The EAC and state confirm the system is certified so I’m not sure what else to do on this end.

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Duncan

Duncan Webb

Comissioner for Precinct 4
Collin County
2300 Bloomdale Road, Suite 4192
McKinney, Texas 75071
(972) 548-4631
jdwebb@collincountytx.gov

From: Sabine <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Friday, December 3, 2021 12:48 PM

To: Chris Hill <chill@co.collin.tx.us>; Susan Fletcher <sfletcher@co.collin.tx.us>; Cheryl Williams <cdwilliams@co.collin.tx.us>; Darrell Hale <dhale@co.collin.tx.us>; Duncan Webb <jdwebb@co.collin.tx.us>

Subject: ES&S Voting machine Certification failures

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After your review, I will be more than happy to introduce you to the appropriate professionals that can meet with you to answer any and all questions you may have concerning this matter.

Thank you and God bless you for helping to restore faith in our beloved community and country.

Respectfully,

Sabine Wade on behalf of all CC Patriots

<https://rumble.com/vphbiz-es-and-s-certification-failures.html>

From: [Darrell Hale](#)
To: [Bill Bilyeu](#); [Bruce Sherbet](#)
Subject: Audit update
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 12:30:09 PM

Bruce,

Could you come Monday and do a brief update on the audit requested from the secretary of state during general discussion? Basically a short update of what you have already told me.

Darrell

Darrell Hale
Collin County Commissioner, PCT 3
214-471-3584

From: [Chris Hill](#)
To: [Bruce Sherbet](#); collinlp.org@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Application for nomination fees
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 5:58:09 PM

Thank you, Bruce.

Ed, I will be at my office on Monday (December 13) until 5pm, at which time the building closes to the public. Please let everyone know that I'll make myself available to accept applications and payments.

Chris

Chris Hill
CPA CIA CGMA CFE MBA MSA MA
Collin County Judge
2300 Bloomdale Road
McKinney, Texas 75071
O (972) 548-4632
M (214) 449-5377

From: Bruce Sherbet
Sent: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 5:29 PM
To: collinlp.org@gmail.com
Cc: Chris Hill
Subject: RE: Application for nomination fees

Hi Ed,

I'm glad to see you are still at the helm. I hope all is well on your end.

The check should be made out to Collin County. Section 181.0311(d) of the Texas Election Code states, "A filing fee received by the county judge shall be deposited in the county treasury to the credit of the county general fund." Our county auditor has confirmed the check is preferred to be made out to Collin County because if it is made out to County Judge it will have to be endorsed by him. Either way will be accepted though. It is also suggested that a copy of the application for nomination be included with the check since the original of the application is filed with you. A copy of the application with the check is not required it is just a recommendation. Also, just a reminder, receipt of the filing fee is required by the deadline for application for nomination (December 13). If a filing fee is submitted after the deadline (December 13) it will be returned with a notation that it was filed after the deadline.

Please let me know if you have additional questions or if I can be of further assistance to you. I hope you have a blessed holiday.

Bruce

Bruce Sherbet

Elections Administrator
Collin County Elections
2010 Redbud Blvd., Ste 102
McKinney, TX 75069
972-547-1900

From: Collin County Libertarian Party [<mailto:collinlp.org@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 2:27 PM
To: Micki Meinecke <mmeinecke@co.collin.tx.us>
Subject: Application for nomination fees

***** **WARNING:** External Email. Do not click links or open attachments that are unsafe. *****

Hi Bruce,

As a convention party we now have to submit a fee with our applications for nominations.

Per the instructions:

“Candidates seeking nomination are also required to pay a filing fee or submit a completed Petition in Lieu of a Filing Fee, along with a copy of their application for nomination, to the Secretary of State’s office (for statewide or district offices) or the county judge (for county or precinct offices) by 6:00 p.m. on the second Monday in December of the odd-numbered year preceding the Party’s Nominating Convention.” - Prescribed by Secretary of State, Sections 141.031, 141.039, 141.041, 172.021, 172.024, 181.031, 181.032, Texas Election Code

To whom do we make out the check? Chris Hill? Collin County Judge?

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to email/text me or [click here to schedule a conversation](#).

Peace and courage,
Ed Kless
+1-214-675-8792
Chair
Collin County Libertarian Party

From: [Chris Hill](#)
To: [Todd Debbie Lindstrom](#)
Cc: [Susan Fletcher](#); [Todd Lindstrom](#); [Bill Bilyeu](#); [Bruce Sherbet](#)
Subject: Re: Election Integrity- Certifications and What Now?
Date: Monday, December 13, 2021 9:37:19 AM

Todd & Debbie,

Thank you for your email. I look forward to reading through it. Please note that I have copied our Collin County Administrator and our Collin County Elections Administrator.

Sincerely,
Chris

Chris Hill
CPA CIA CGMA CFE MBA MSA MA
Collin County Judge
2300 Bloomdale Road
McKinney, Texas 75071
O (972) 548-4632
M (214) 449-5377

From: Todd Debbie Lindstrom [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, December 13, 2021 9:09 AM
To: Chris Hill
Cc: Susan Fletcher; Todd Lindstrom
Subject: Election Integrity- Certifications and What Now?

***** **WARNING:** External Email. Do not click links or open attachments that are unsafe. *****

Judge Hill,
CC: Commissioner Fletcher,

We want to thank you for your service to Collin County and for reaching out to us and the citizens of Collin who are concerned about election integrity. It is clear to us that you are concerned about Collin County and its citizens.

After viewing the video about ES&S certification, you reached out to Debbie to inquire about it and what specifics citizens like us want from our county. And so, we have put together several suggestions on what we would like to see from our representatives. This might not be an exhaustive list, but it is a good start.

For reference, here is the video which shows that our machines were not certified, and laws were broken.

<https://rumble.com/vphbiz-es-and-s-certification-failures.html>

COLLIN WAS VIOLATED

The EAC violated the American People in their activities of neglect, excuses, and cover-ups. From 2017 to 2021, the VSTL (Pro V&V) for ES&S (the vendor of Collin county's election machines) was not accredited. There has been no evidence of certification other than a note on the latest certificate with a note that says that the certificate of accreditation was not revoked and therefore it is still valid. The problem is that the HAVA Act is a Congressional Law that requires that the EAC follows certain procedures including expiration dates every two years and a process to renew the accreditation that was not followed. In addition, the State of Texas has laws that require Federal certification from an accredited VSTL. None of this was done, and therefore our machines are not certified.

Not only is there a federal requirement, but the state of Texas also has its own process for certification. The Texas Secretary of State (SoS) office went through its certification of ES&S 6.1.0.0, and in April of 2020, it "certified" the machines. But for an unknown reason, they missed the critical fact that Pro V&V (the certifying lab) was not accredited. They apparently took the EAC at its word, without verification, and certified the election systems for the state of Texas. This may have been intentional or just negligence – but the result is that Texas was violated by the EAC. The question is why did the SoS miss this critical step?

The SoS then communicated to Collin County that our machines were certified for use.

You are now aware of the issue, and we are asking you to act.

Our recommendations to Collin County leadership are these:

- 1) Understand why there is mistrust
- 2) Regain trust
- 3) Demand upstream accountability
- 4) Tighten up county processes
- 5) Perform a limited ballot image audit

6) Demand a true full and forensic audit from the State

WHY IS THERE MISTRUST

If you are in a burning building, you do not start the investigation of how the fire started until the fire is put out. At the same time, you cannot put out the fire until you realize there is a fire.

There is an abundance of data and facts surrounding the Nov. 03, 2020, election that just do not make sense. In the fire analogy – this is “smoke.”

- Biden could not attract a crowd whenever he emerged from his basement. Even so are we to believe that Biden got fifteen million more legal votes than Hillary did in 2016 and Obama in 2012?
- Biden stated on October 24, 2020, said these exact words, “We have put together the most extensive and inclusive voter fraud organization in the history of American politics.” Was this a misstatement or a Freudian slip?
- Voting across the country was rife with issues because officials expanded absentee and early voting.
- In at least one jurisdiction, more mail in ballots were counted than were mailed out.
- There are thousands of affidavits attesting to vote fraud.
- There were mail-in ballots found that were not folded and on different paper.
- There are videos of ballots for Trump being destroyed
- Many jurisdictions found numerous people voted only for president and nothing down-ballot.
- Key states halted vote counting once it appeared that Trump would gain a victory.
- No one has ever lost the Presidency while winning Ohio, Florida, and Iowa, yet Biden lost all three.

We recognize that not all these issues directly apply to Collin County; however, it is important to understand the backdrop of national mistrust that exists.

The Collin County process for cross checks and ballot board verifications appear to be solid. Yet there are some anomalies in our county numbers that do not make sense and need to be investigated. The main question is: did Trump really win by just 4% or was it bigger? Most of the down-ballot races were won by margins of 10-15%. (The average was 13%.) Why was the Trump margin so low especially when his primary numbers were so high?

There are many questions that need to be investigated to restore that trust.

- Are Collin County election machines counting the ballots properly?
- Is the Collin County poll-book of registered voters accurate? Or are there people on the rolls that should not be on it?
- How are the mail-in ballots processed? Why does it appear that 1700 people voted both in person and by mail in the 2020 election?
- Why does the official number from Collin County not match the number given by the SoS?
- Why are there perceived duplicate names in the poll book?
- Why are there some number of voters over 120 years old?
- For November 03, 2020, why are there voters on the SoS list of voters that do not match the County list of voters?
- In like manner – why are there voters on the county list that do not match the SoS list?

There is an old saying, “where there is smoke, there is fire.” We are just citizens, and we see smoke and wonder if there is a fire.

REGAIN TRUST

Where citizens are directly involved in the election process, the procedures appear to be solid.

But there are signs that something is wrong with our elections: there are clear violations in the certifications, the numbers are not adding up, and there is no desire from officials for real transparency.

We are complicating a rather simple process (voting), and this complexity is leading to vulnerabilities.

The bottom line is that the machines cannot be trusted.

Our recommendation is that we refrain from using them until a full, independent forensic investigation is performed.

For the upcoming Primaries in March, we need to return to paper ballots. This would require logistical changes from the county. Here are suggestions:

- Return to voting at the precinct level. No voting centers. This will make it easier to count and easier to audit if necessary.
- Ballots should be counted by hand. No machines.
- Early ballots should not be counted before election day.
- If the precincts are small enough, this should not be a problem.

The bottom line – we must regain trust so that we do not have yet another election mired in controversy and “smoke.”

DEMANDING UPSTREAM ACCOUNTABILITY

There is unmistakable evidence that the accreditation certificate for Pro V & V expired, and there were excuses and cover-ups by the EAC. We can no longer simply accept the word of a person, agency, or company, and accept “just trust us.” President Ronald Reagan famously said, “Trust, but verify.”

We need the receipts. Show us the evidence that the accreditation has been reinstated. What packets of information were submitted to renew the certificate of accreditation as required? Where is the documentation? Where are the emails? Has anyone requested FOIAs for this information? Or are we just trusting some words on a certificate that has redefined the issue?

The EAC is required by congressional law to have an accredited agency certify our election machines, **and** by Texas state law, our election machines are required to be certified by an accredited federal agency. Laws were broken. We need to find the underlying cause of why.

We would like for our county officials to push for state-wide investigations to verify and/or determine:

- Why did the EAC not follow its own procedures for an extended amount of time? (2017-2021)
- Why is the EAC still doubling down on the revoke vs expired excuse?
- Why did the EAC blame Covid-19 for clerical errors in 2017?
- Why was Texas Law broken?
- Why did the Texas ES&S 6000 and 6100 certification committees miss the lapsed certification?
- Why is the SoS assuring county personnel that the machines are in fact certified?
- Is the reason for all the anomalies in our disputed numbers between Collin County and the SOS due to this lapse in certification?

Collin County officials, including Sheriff Skinner, cannot do this alone, and this issue may be beyond the scope of the county. But we want to see our officials asking for these investigations. We need to understand why we continue to vote on uncertified machines and have been since 2017.

This cannot be done in back rooms behind closed doors. We, the citizens of Collin County, need to see that you are standing up for us and fighting for integrity. Transparency is the key to solving this problem.

We would also like for County officials to stop claiming that the machines are in fact certified and giving cover to the EAC. When this issue was first brought to the county's attention, the explanation was that these issues are at the state or federal level, and there was nothing that could be done. Then more recently we are hearing that the machines are in fact certified. This is willful and blind trust in an agency that has misled, ignored policy, lied, given excuses, and seemingly tried to cover it up. It would be refreshing to hear an acknowledgement from our county officials that something is wrong with the certifications.

TIGHTEN UP PROCESSES

It has already been said that many of the Collin County processes appear to be very solid. The places where we can improve – or increase transparency are the following:

1. The POLL BOOK needs review
 - a. Investigate duplicates
 - b. Investigate 120-year-old voters
 - c. Investigate names that are exact or very close
 - d. Investigate citizenship and residency
 - e. Investigate those with missing voter ids
2. The interface between the county and the state in terms of numbers, counts, and voter lists is not in sync. The reporting process needs to be tightened up so that the numbers and the voter's names and IDs match. The SoS has already thrown the counties under the bus by saying that any discrepancy is due to data provided by the counties. We want Collin County officials to push back when the numbers and the voter names it provides do not match from county to state. We realize that the county may not have the resources to go through all of this on its own, but there are numerous citizens who are willing to help if needed. Finally, when these issues are in fact tightened up, please make it public and transparent so that the citizens of Collin County will see progress and gain more confidence in the system. Now concerning the November 03, 2020, election – there are specific issues that need to be investigated.

FIRST-LINE INVESTIGATION

The first investigation that can be made is to do a limited audit on the election ballot images that were preserved from the USB thumb drives on each ES&S machine and stored. Note that Texas Election code TEC 66.058 specifically states the following:

*"Except as permitted by this code, a ballot box or other secure container **containing voted ballots** may not be opened during the preservation period."*

Words matter and this is only saying that voted ballots cannot be disturbed without the Secretary of State approval. So, an audit of the Ballot Images should be allowed under this statute without SoS guidance.

Now what to do with these images.

1. BALLOT CONSISTENCY
 - a. Are there variations in the printing on the ballots (variations are expected)?
 - b. Or do the barcodes line up exactly (indicating a generated ballot not a scanned ballot)?
2. Does the English vote match the barcode vote?
3. Is the background white value the same for each tabulation device?
4. Does the count of all Ballot Images match the count that the ES&S machines gave at the end of early voting and at the end of election day?

This process would not violate any secrecy since no names would be present on the ballot images.

All it would take is a computer program to make this happen. This software likely is not created yet, but these are simple operations consisting of:

- OCR recognition of all English text
 - Each barcode interpreted and match to English text based on precinct ballot differences
 - Data exported to a spreadsheet from which a final report can be generated for each race
- There are citizens of Collin County willing to help with software efforts and even do so without charge. The more that citizens can be involved with a transparent investigation, the more we will regain trust in the system.

If this investigation is allowed, we would get a better feel for the reliability of the **scanned ballot** images – but ultimately the ballot images are not the election source of truth, so this limited audit is unfortunately not enough to validate that the counts are correct.

A TRUE FORENSIC AUDIT

The printed ballots are the source of truth for the election.

The Texas SoS is currently performing a supposed full forensic audit of Collin County – and yet it is neither full nor forensic as outlined by their own documentation.

<https://www.sos.texas.gov/about/forms/9-28-21-forensic-audit-summary.pdf>

A true forensic audit primarily examines the source of truth and compares with the machine results and examines other issues for consistency.

The following would be part of a full forensic audit.

1. Performed and controlled by an independent third-party – Not Collin County and not the Secretary of State's office.
2. Finding the backed-up ballot images (as proposed in the limited audit above) (BALLOT-IMAGE)
3. Scanning the source of truth ballots (TRUTH-IMAGE)
4. Comparing the ballot images to the truth images and making sure they match 1:1
5. Analysis of the paper used in the paper ballots for consistency of color and make and feel
6. Double check of internet access in the election office and poll places (including machine logs that would reveal internet or wireless transactions)
7. Double check of signature verification for mail-in ballots and envelopes
8. Double check voter lists for duplicates and anomalies

This is not an exhaustive list. There may be more things involved that an independent third-party authority on forensic audits could add here. But this could be viewed as a minimum standard for what we expect.

But the main thing to take away from this is that the Texas SoS is NOT going to do this full forensic part unless they find clerical evidence of procedures not followed or other irregularities.

"After a thorough examination of the abovementioned records and materials in each county, irregularities or deviations from election administration procedures that may have affected the accuracy of the electronic voting system ballot count **could trigger** a full manual recount of ballots in the affected precincts or polling locations, pursuant to the Secretary of State's authority to ensure the accuracy of the tabulation of electronic voting system results (Sec. 127.202)."

We must do the full audit – anything less is not going to satisfy the public – and it will only engender more mistrust in the system if the SoS does not do a full audit.

Even the Collin County GOP issued a resolution that stated it wanted to see a full forensic audit of the Nov 3, 2020, election and cited Representative Steve Toth's HB 17 for the definition of a full forensic audit.

Again, we appreciate all that you do and know that you are just as interested as us in free and fair elections. We must get to the bottom of these issues, and we hope that you will stand with us so that Collin will be a beacon for the rest of the state and our nation.

Sincerely,

Todd and Debbie Lindstrom

From: [Susan Fletcher](#)
To: [Todd Lindstrom](#)
Subject: Fwd: Letter from Secretary Scott
Date: Tuesday, December 14, 2021 7:50:14 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Texas Secretary of State Letter Full Forensic Audit Phase 2.pdf](#)

Greetings Todd & Debbie,

I look forward to seeing these results.

Best regards,
Susan

Susan Fletcher
Collin County Commissioner, Pct. 1
SFletcher@CollinCountyTX.gov
972-548-4676 - office
469-343-2166 - mobile

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Bruce Sherbet <bsherbet@co.collin.tx.us>
Date: December 13, 2021 at 7:52:44 PM CST
To: Chris Hill <chill@co.collin.tx.us>, Susan Fletcher <sfletcher@co.collin.tx.us>, Cheryl Williams <cdwilliams@co.collin.tx.us>, Darrell Hale <dhale@co.collin.tx.us>, Duncan Webb <jdwebb@co.collin.tx.us>, Bill Bilyeu <bbilyeu@co.collin.tx.us>
Subject: Fwd: Letter from Secretary Scott

Judge Hill and Commissioners,

Attached is a memo from Secretary of State Scott outlining the specifics of the forensic audit that is being performed by the state. I can confirm without a doubt that it is the most extensive audit that I have have seen performed by the state since I started in elections in 1980.

I will keep you informed when I get more details.

Thank you,

Bruce

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Christina Adkins <CADkins@sos.texas.gov>
Date: December 10, 2021 at 4:31:51 PM CST
To: Bruce Sherbet <bsherbet@co.collin.tx.us>, "Dallas - Michael J. Scarpello (michael.scarpello@dallascounty.org)" <michael.scarpello@dallascounty.org>, "Heider I. Garcia" <HIGarcia@tarrantcounty.com>, "Harris - Isabel Longoria (Isabel.Longoria@vote.hctx.net)" <Isabel.Longoria@vote.hctx.net>
Subject: Letter from Secretary Scott

***** **WARNING:** External Email. Do not click links or open attachments that are unsafe. *****

Please see the attached correspondence from Secretary Scott.

Thank you,

Christina Worrell Adkins

Legal Director – Elections Division

Office of the Texas Secretary of State

1019 Brazos Street | Rudder Building, 2nd Floor | Austin, Texas 78701

512-463-9859 (direct) | 1.800.252.VOTE (8683)

elections@sos.texas.gov | www.sos.texas.gov

For Voter Related Information, please visit:

The information contained in this email is intended to provide advice and assistance in election matters per §31.004 of the Texas Election Code. It is not intended to serve as a legal opinion for any matter. Please review the law yourself, and consult with an attorney when your legal rights are involved.

VOTE TEXAS.GOV

1-21-1804-A-000090

POWERED BY THE **TEXAS SECRETARY OF STATE**

AMERICAN
OVERSIGHT



The State of Texas

Elections Division
P.O. Box 12060
Austin, Texas 78711-2060
www.sos.texas.gov
www.votetexas.gov



Phone: 512-463-5650
Fax: 512-475-2811
Dial 7-1-1 For Relay Services
(800) 252-VOTE (8683)

John B. Scott
Secretary of State

December 10, 2021

Bruce Sherbet
Collin County Elections Administrator
2010 Redbud Blvd, Suite 102
McKinney, TX 75069

Isabel Longoria
Harris County Elections Administrator
1001 Preston
Houston, TX 77002

Michael Scarpello
Dallas County Elections Administrator
1520 Round Table Drive
Dallas, TX 75247

Heider Garcia
Tarrant County Elections Administrator
100 E. Weatherford
Fort Worth, Texas 76196

Dear Bruce, Michael, Isabel and Heider:

Thank you for your service to Texas voters and for your commitment to transparency in our election process. As indicated in our office's previous communications, the Texas Secretary of State's office is conducting the largest and most comprehensive forensic audit of the November 2020 General Election in your respective counties. The purpose of this audit is to provide clarity and confidence for Texas voters that all applicable laws and procedures were followed during the 2020 Election, and to identify any irregularities or issues that need to be addressed going forward.

Enclosed, please find a comprehensive list of documents and records our office will be examining as part of Phase 2 of the Full Forensic Audit, as well as requests for information from your office that will be instrumental in completing the audit process. We request that your respective offices begin locating the documents listed to prepare for our Forensic Audit Division's on-site examinations, which will be coordinated at a mutually convenient time in January 2022.

In the near term, we request that you provide us the following information, in writing, to our office by **Tuesday, December 21st** in order to guide the next phase of the forensic audit process:

- **A list of Early Voting or Election Day polling locations that had a discrepancy of one percent or more between the number of voters that checked in to the number of votes cast at that location.**
- **Whether any voting sites were closed or added due to an emergency or other necessity**
- **Any known procedural or chain of custody defects**
- **Any other issues discovered that you would like to disclose now that may be relevant to our audit process**

- **A list of complaints received and resolved, with a description of any known investigative steps or known resolution.**
- **A detailed accounting of the following:**
 - **Total Early Voting Ballots by Mail Requested**
 - **Total Early Voting Ballots by Mail Sent out**
 - **Total Early Voting Ballots requested by FPCA**
 - **Breakdown of Early Voting Ballots by Mail accepted/rejected**
 - **Total number of mail ballot voters that cancelled their mail ballot without surrendering the mailed ballot and voted in person**
 - **Total number of mail ballot voters that surrendered their mail ballot and voted in person**
- **A detailed accounting of the following:**
 - **Total Number of Provisional Votes Cast**
 - **A list of Provisional Voters by reason for voting provisionally**
 - **Total Number of Provisional Votes cast for voters lacking ID**
 - **Total number of Provisional Voted Accepted/Rejected**
- **List of entities that conducted recounts or had election contests**

We thank you in advance for your responses to this initial audit survey and request that you begin preparing the enclosed list of documents and records for our agency's review.

Please feel free to reach out to our office directly if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



John B. Scott
Texas Secretary of State

Encl.: 2020 Forensic Election Audit – Phase 2: Comprehensive Records Examination

2020 Forensic Election Audit

Phase 2: Comprehensive Records Examination

The purpose of this document is to outline the records and procedures that the Texas Secretary of State's office is reviewing for the forensic audit of the 2020 General Election in Collin, Dallas, Tarrant, and Harris counties. The specific review process for each category will be based on the county's response to the initial survey questions provided. Once the scope is established on a county-by-county basis, we will provide detailed documentation regarding the specific review of each applicable category.

We recognize that some counties may use different terminology for certain forms and procedures. The terminology used in this document is based on commonly used terms in the Texas Election Code and based on industry standards. To the extent that counties use different terminologies to describe the election materials and procedures used in the November 2020 General Election, county election officials will have the opportunity to provide an explanation in their responses ahead of our office's on-site visits.

Election Security

The following questions pertain to each county's election security measures. Please elaborate to the fullest extent possible in your responses:

- Do you have badge-controlled access to your election office?
- Do you keep track of who enters into the office, especially sensitive areas?
- Are visitors escorted at all times?
- Do you keep track of who enters the ballot programming area? Are the number of people authorized to access the programming area limited?
- Did your county attend Texas Secretary of State webinars that discussed the [Election Security Toolkit](#)?
- Did your county create individual versions of all six documents that address the procedures in your county?
- If you did not complete all 6 documents, which of these did you complete?
 - Vendor Risk Management Policy (VRMP)
 - Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)
 - Incident Response Plan (IRP)
 - Election Information Security Policy (EISP)
 - Election System Security Plan (ESSP)
 - Election Security Best Practices
- Does your county have an offsite version of the Election Security Toolkit in a printed or electronically stored format?
- Does your county have a segmented election network?
- Does your county have a next generation firewall?

- Does your county IT Department regularly patch and maintain the latest software version throughout the division?
- Does your county employ the Principle of Least Privilege?

Acceptance Testing Records if New Voting System was Used for the First Time

An examination of the following records will gauge the percentage of equipment that did not pass the acceptance testing and, therefore, was not operable during the November 2020 General Election:

- Logs for each device tested
- Logs that show if a device did not function properly or had to be returned for vendor review or service

L&A Testing Records

An examination of the following documents and records will determine if the voting system accurately recorded the test voters' choices and therefore demonstrated that the voting system accurately recorded voters' ballot choices:

- Public Notice of Logic and Accuracy (L&A) Test
- All test ballots voted in the election
- Tally Sheets
- Test Deck Records
- List of participants who voted test ballots
- Records showing test outcomes and if tests had to be repeated
- Testing media, including:
 - memory sticks
 - mobile ballot boxes (MBBs)
 - paper ballots used for L&A test voting and tabulation)
- All testing seals or other test materials

Election Preparation

An examination of the following documents and records will determine whether or not protocols to secure the voting system and ballot were followed to protect the integrity of the election:

- List of Presiding Judges and Alternate Judges by Precinct and Party
- Notification of Election Training Program
- Ballot Programming: Please indicate whether your vendor programmed your ballot or if the ballot was programmed by in-house staff.
- Electronic Poll Books (EPBs) programming: Please indicate how your EPBs were programmed and at what intervals was the Official List of Registered Voters on the EPB updated.

Early Voting In Person

An examination of the following documents will provide a summary of all processes executed to conduct in-person Early Voting:

- **Election Workers**
 - List of Early Voting Deputies, Alternate Deputies and Early Voting Clerks
 - Lists of Early Voting Workers who dropped out of the election, the date they dropped out and the names of the replacement workers
 - Please indicate the training that any emergency replacement workers received.
 - List of “no show” Early Voting workers
- **Documentation related to Ordering and Providing Notice of the Election**
 - Order of November General Election for State and County Officers (GESCO)
 - Location of the Main Early Voting Polling Place as noted on the Order of Election
 - List of Early Voting Branch Polling Places as noted on the Order of Election
 - Notice of General Election (copy of posted notice and publication)
 - Record for Posting Notice of Election if posted in this manner
- **Documentation for Ballot Corrections, if applicable**
 - Notice of Ballot Correction, if applicable
 - Notice of Ballot Destruction, if applicable
 - Record of Ballot Destruction, if applicable
 - Notice of Ballot Reprint Order, if applicable
- **Documentation for Tracking Ballots**
 - Register of Official Ballots for Early Voting at the Main Location (if ballots are pre-serialized, if not the number of ballot cards delivered)
 - Register of Official Ballots for Early Voting at a Branch Location (if ballots are pre-serialized, if not the number of ballot cards delivered)
- **Polling Place Paperwork**
 - Combination Forms for each day of Early Voting OR a report generated by the general custodian to accurately create a summary of all processes that were required to be executed as noted on paper Combination Forms
 - Daily Balancing Envelope or Report (contain copy of daily returns for Early Voting, to the extent possible)
 - Ballot Styles of voters who were given a ballot vs. how many votes of each ballot style should have been cast, based on voter registration precinct (this identifies when a voter is given the wrong ballot style)
 - Results Tapes/Suspend Reports
 - List of Declared Write-In Candidates for posting in the voting booth
 - Reasonable Impediment Declarations, if applicable
 - Statements of Residence, if applicable
 - Standard Affidavits

- Registration Omissions List
- **Other Information to be Reviewed**
 - List of Registered Voters that was used in the 2020 Presidential Election (electronic copy).
 - List of any Early Voting Site that had to be closed or changed according to county records
 - Signature Roster for Hand Delivery of a Ballot by Mail Forms (usually this process is only done only on Election Day, but the hand delivery period was extended only for the November 3, 2020 General Election)
- **Chain of Custody Paperwork**
 - Chain of Custody forms (Record of Early Voting Ballot Seals) that document the seals on the ballot boxes for each day of Early Voting
 - Chain of Custody delivery of equipment to voting sites (with seal numbers and equipment serial numbers noted) (signatures of persons who delivered equipment)
 - Chain of Custody of pickup of equipment from voting sites (with seal numbers and equipment serial numbers noted) (signatures of persons who picked up equipment)
 - Chain of Custody forms for when troubleshooters picked up completed forms from Early Voting sites for daily processing
 - List of Early Voting Daily seals for Provisional Secure Container
- **Voting System Equipment Management**
 - Trouble Logs and equipment replacement records
 - Troubleshooter visit logs
 - Equipment returned to vendor for technical support
 - Call Center Event/Complaint Logs
- **Poll Watcher Paperwork**
 - Poll Watcher Certificates of Appointment

Ballot by Mail – Early Voting

An examination of these documents and records will determine whether Early Voting by Mail was conducted in accordance with state and federal law:

- Applications for Ballot by Mail (ABBM)s
- List of Annual ABBM Voters
- List of Declared Write-In Candidates
- Notices of Improper Delivery (and to whom they were sent)
- Emails from the county to voters regarding ABBM and Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) rejections
- Notices of Rejected ABBMs and reasons
- **Mail Ballot Cancellation Paperwork**
 - Request to Cancel a Ballot by Mail for Use in the Polling Place

- Request to Cancel a Ballot by Mail for Use in the Early Voting Clerk's Office
- Notice of Denial of Request to Cancel Application for a Ballot by Mail
- Notice of ABBM or FPCA Cancellation (Formerly Notice to Presiding Judge)
- **Ballot By Mail Forms**
 - A sample of the November 3, 2020 Special Ballot Envelope to demonstrate that the correct version was used
 - A sample of the November 3, 2020 Special Carrier Envelope to demonstrate that the correct version was used
 - Special Carrier Insert for an ABBM voter for November 3, 2020 Election to demonstrate that the correct version was used
- **Other Information to be Reviewed**
 - List of FPCA ballots transmitted by email to the voter
 - List of FPCAs that were physically mailed to the voter
 - List of Voters Mailed a Corrected Ballot, if applicable
 - Statistics of how many uncorrected ballots were returned and counted as well as how many corrected ballots were returned and counted, if applicable.
 - List of Voters who were required to complete and return a Statement of Residence with their Ballot by Mail
- **Special Early Voting Forms**
 - Restricted Ballot Rosters for Chapter 112, 113 and 114 Ballots
 - Poll List of Voters Voting a Limited Ballot by Personal Appearance
 - Applications for a Limited Ballot
 - Notice to Voter Registrar of Application for a Presidential Ballot
 - Applications for an Emergency Early Voting Ballot Due to Sickness or Physical Disability
 - Applications for Emergency Ballot Due to Death in the Family
 - List of persons who voted on a space flight, if any

Election Day

An examination of the following documents and records from voting sites will determine if election officials followed proper chain of custody procedures, produce documentation of the chain of custody of ballots and election materials, and determine whether all state and federal laws were followed:

Election Workers

- Final List of Election Day Polling Places
- List of Presiding Judges and Alternate Judges by Precinct and Party
- Order of Appointment of Election Judges and Alternates
- Notifications of Appointment as Election Judge
- Writs of Election for the General Election for State and County Officers

- List of emergency appointments for Election Day Workers
- Lists of Election Day Workers who dropped out of the election, the date they dropped out and the names of the replacement workers.
 - Please indicate the training that any emergency replacement workers received.
- List of “no show” workers on Election Day

Election Day Forms

- Combination Forms for election day OR a report generated by the general custodian to accurately create a summary of all processes that were required to be executed as noted on paper Combination Forms
- Ballot Styles of voters who were given a ballot vs. how many votes of each ballot style should have been cast based on voter registration precinct (this identifies when a voter is given the wrong ballot style)
- Results Tapes/Suspend Reports
- List of Declared Write-In Candidates for posting in the voting booth
- Reasonable Impediment Declarations, if needed
- Statements of Residence, if needed
- Standard Affidavits
- Registration Omissions List
- Envelope Containing Spoiled Ballots with the Register of Spoiled Ballots
- Defectively Printed Ballots
- Ballot by Mail Cancellation Requests attached to the surrendered ballots
- Register of Official Ballots for each Polling Place or the Combined Ballot and Seal Certificate and Official Ballot Register
- Ballot and Seal Certificates by Polling Location or the Combined Ballot and Seal Certificate and Official Ballot Register
- Applications to Cancel a Ballot by Mail for Use in the Polling Place

Chain of Custody Paperwork

- Chain of Custody delivery of equipment to voting sites (with seal numbers and equipment serial numbers noted) (signatures of persons who delivered equipment)
- Chain of custody of pickup of equipment from voting sites (with seal numbers and equipment serial numbers noted) (signatures of persons who picked up equipment)
- Chain of custody forms for when troubleshooters picked up completed forms from Election Day sites for processing (if performed on Election Day)
- List of seals put on equipment for Election Day, including:
 - Those put on at elections office in the morning; and
 - Those put on by Presiding Judge at the polling place in the evening when voting has concluded

Election Day Notices

- Notices of Consolidated Precincts and records of which staff member posted the notices at the various sites, if any

- Record for Posting Notice of Election if posted in this manner
- Notices of Previous Precinct and records of which staff member posted the notices at the various sites, if any
- Notices of Four Nearest Countywide Polling Places and records of which staff member posted the notices at the various sites, if any

Additional Items for Consideration

- All sign-out sheets for those picking up supplies for Election Day.
 - Please indicate who picked up supplies for Election Day.
- List of any Election Day Site that had to be closed or changed and the reason for the closure or change
- Trouble Logs and equipment replacement records
- Names of individuals who returned supplies to the Receiving Substation/Central Receiving Station
- Names of individuals who received the supplies into his or her custody when the supplies were returned by election workers

Provisional Ballots

An examination of the Provisional Forms will determine if voters' provisional ballots were accepted or rejected according to the law, as well as determine the percentage of provisional ballots accepted vs. rejected:

- Affidavits of Provisional Voter
- Early Voting List of Provisional Voters
- Election Day List of Provisional Voters
- Summary of Provisional Ballots
- List of Seals for Provisional Secure Containers for Early Voting and chain of custody forms where they were documented
- List of Seals for Provisional Secure Containers for Election Day and chain of custody forms where they were documented
- Notice of Delivery of Provisional Ballots – To Voter Registrar on Election Night
- List of Rejected Provisional Ballots and reason
- Number of Provisional Ballots cured for lack of ID
- Verification of Provisional Ballots and Seal Numbers
- Review Notices of Outcome to Provisional Voter
 - Number of provisional ballots accepted
 - Number of provisional ballots rejected
- Breakdown of percentage of Provisional Ballots counted and rejected

Signature Verification Committee

An examination of the following documents related to the Signature Verification Committee (SVC) will determine whether there was party balance on the Committee and who was responsible for the processes of accepting and rejecting signatures:

- Order Calling for Signature Verification Committee – date posted
- Notification of Appointed Members to SVC
- Notice of Appointment of SVC
- Chain of custody forms when ballots were transmitted to Central Counting Station from SVC
- Poll Watcher Certificates of Appointment for SVC

Early Voting Ballot Board

An examination of the following documents related to the Early Voting Ballot Board (EVBB) will determine whether there was party balance and properly review adjudications, acceptances and rejections, as well as who was responsible for those processes:

- Order for EVBB
- Notice of Convening of EVBB
- Notification of members appointed to the EVBB
- Notice of appointment of the EVBB
- Notice of delivery of balloting materials to the EVBB (Receipt of Sealed Early Voting Ballot Boxes)
- Chain of Custody forms when ballots were delivered to the EVBB
- Samples of Notice of Rejected Ballot by Mail and reasons for rejection
- Samples of Notice of Rejected FPCAs Carriers and reasons for rejection
- Poll Watcher Certificates of Appointment

Central Counting Station

An examination of these documents will determine whether the Central Counting Station (CCS) Plan was followed along with all applicable laws and procedures, and whether proper Chain of Custody procedures for voted ballots were followed:

- Central Counting Station Plan
 - Please indicate whether it posted 5 days before Election Day, as required by law.
- Public Notice of Test of Automatic Tabulating Equipment
- Certification of First Test of Automated Tabulating Equipment
- Oaths for Early Voting Ballot Board and Central Counting Station Personnel
- Chain of Custody documents related to the transmittal of ballots to the CCS from Election Day polling places, Early Voting Clerk's storage, or Early Voting Ballot Board.

Partial Manual Count Records

An examination of these documents and records will determine whether the Partial Manual Count was performed according to the law, as well as who performed the count:

- All records associated with the post-election Partial Manual Count
 - Please indicate who performed the partial manual count.
- Record of the Partial Manual Count results submitted to the Texas Secretary of State's office
- Poll Watcher Certificates of Appointment, if any

Post-Election and Canvass Records

An examination of these documents will determine whether certification of election results was conducted properly and whether proper documentation to support the official results was provided:

- Canvass of the General Election
- Summary of Precinct Returns
- Canvass reports by official in charge of certifying results
- Records of any recounts requested and performed after the election
- Records related to any election contests filed

Records Retention

An examination of these documents and records will determine whether Chain of Custody of records was maintained, and whether officials properly followed the 1st to 60th day rule and the 61st day to 22-month retention rule. If records must be opened, please supply a copy of the court order:

- Records of seal numbers put on and taken off records when the initial 60-day period for records retention ended
- Record of seals that were placed on the ballots and other materials on the 61st day for the remainder of the 22-month record retention period
 - Please indicate whether records were stored in a locked in a surveilled room.
- Please indicate whether county officials keep a log of anyone accessing the room where the records/ballots are stored.
- Please indicate whether any court order necessitated the unsealing of the records.
 - Provide a copy of any court order requesting opening of the records.

Central Counting Station Test Records

An examination of these records will validate the test procedures that were performed before and after counting on the automatic tabulating equipment:

- Central Counting Station (CCS) Plan
- Certification of 1st test of automated tabulating equipment
- Records from 2nd Logic and Accuracy (L&A) test before ballots are counted in the CCS
- Certification of the 3rd L&A test after ballots were counted at the Central Counting Station
- Records indicating whether there was a + or – 4 ballots tabulated that necessitated a recounting of ballots at the CCS
- Copy of final reports (unofficial results, precinct returns) signed by the presiding judge of the CCS

Training Materials

An examination of these materials will determine whether poll workers were trained according to all state and federal laws and procedures. Examining the training materials allows auditors to know if the poll workers were instructed to perform their duties accurately:

- Manuals, PowerPoint presentations, materials that were used in poll worker training and sent to the field
- An example of the forms kit that was deployed to the field, if possible
- Training attendance records, including in-person and online training

General

Any video surveillance records that were recorded from the time the election was ordered until the canvass was completed.

Additional Audit Compliance Questions

1. Are any of your election materials that are required for the audit, stored at facility not under your control?
2. How quickly could you access the materials from the storage vendor?
3. Will it take longer than one month to locate and have your records ready for examination?
4. Do you still have the same voting systems as when your county conducted the 2020 Presidential Election?
5. Of the records listed in the Audit requirements, please specify which are electronically stored and which are physical copies.
6. Are there any records that you may not be able to produce? If so, why?
7. Are there any permanent staff members who have left your office since the Presidential Election? Please give names and job duties.

From: [Darrell Hale](#)
To: johnwstufflebeam@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Letter from Secretary Scott
Date: Tuesday, December 14, 2021 11:27:43 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[ATT00001.htm](#)
[Texas Secretary of State Letter Full Forensic Audit Phase 2.pdf](#)
[ATT00002.htm](#)

Darrell Hale
Collin County Commissioner, PCT 3
214-471-3584

From: Bruce Sherbet <bsherbet@co.collin.tx.us>
Sent: Monday, December 13, 2021 7:52:43 PM
To: Chris Hill <chill@co.collin.tx.us>; Susan Fletcher <sfletcher@co.collin.tx.us>; Cheryl Williams <cdwilliams@co.collin.tx.us>; Darrell Hale <dhale@co.collin.tx.us>; Duncan Webb <jdwebb@co.collin.tx.us>; Bill Bilyeu <bbilyeu@co.collin.tx.us>
Subject: Fwd: Letter from Secretary Scott

Judge Hill and Commissioners,

Attached is a memo from Secretary of State Scott outlining the specifics of the forensic audit that is being performed by the state. I can confirm without a doubt that it is the most extensive audit that I have have seen performed by the state since I started in elections in 1980.

I will keep you informed when I get more details.

Thank you,

Bruce

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Christina Adkins <CAdkins@sos.texas.gov>
Date: December 10, 2021 at 4:31:51 PM CST
To: Bruce Sherbet <bsherbet@co.collin.tx.us>, "Dallas - Michael J. Scarpello (michael.scarpello@dallascounty.org)" <michael.scarpello@dallascounty.org>, "Heider I. Garcia" <HIGarcia@tarrantcounty.com>, "Harris - Isabel Longoria (Isabel.Longoria@vote.hctx.net)" <Isabel.Longoria@vote.hctx.net>
Subject: Letter from Secretary Scott

**** **WARNING:** External Email. Do not click links or open attachments that are unsafe. ****

Please see the attached correspondence from Secretary Scott.

Thank you,

Christina Worrell Adkins

Legal Director – Elections Division

Office of the Texas Secretary of State

1019 Brazos Street | Rudder Building, 2nd Floor | Austin, Texas 78701

512-463-9859 (direct) | 1.800.252.VOTE (8683)

elections@sos.texas.gov | www.sos.texas.gov

For Voter Related Information, please visit:

VOTE TEXAS.GOV

1-21-1804-A-000105

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The information contained in this email is intended to provide advice and assistance in election matters per §31.004 of the Texas Election Code. It is not intended to serve as a legal opinion for any matter. Please review the law yourself, and consult with an attorney when your legal rights are involved.

The State of Texas

Elections Division
P.O. Box 12060
Austin, Texas 78711-2060
www.sos.texas.gov
www.votetexas.gov



Phone: 512-463-5650
Fax: 512-475-2811
Dial 7-1-1 For Relay Services
(800) 252-VOTE (8683)

John B. Scott
Secretary of State

December 10, 2021

Bruce Sherbet
Collin County Elections Administrator
2010 Redbud Blvd, Suite 102
McKinney, TX 75069

Isabel Longoria
Harris County Elections Administrator
1001 Preston
Houston, TX 77002

Michael Scarpello
Dallas County Elections Administrator
1520 Round Table Drive
Dallas, TX 75247

Heider Garcia
Tarrant County Elections Administrator
100 E. Weatherford
Fort Worth, Texas 76196

Dear Bruce, Michael, Isabel and Heider:

Thank you for your service to Texas voters and for your commitment to transparency in our election process. As indicated in our office's previous communications, the Texas Secretary of State's office is conducting the largest and most comprehensive forensic audit of the November 2020 General Election in your respective counties. The purpose of this audit is to provide clarity and confidence for Texas voters that all applicable laws and procedures were followed during the 2020 Election, and to identify any irregularities or issues that need to be addressed going forward.

Enclosed, please find a comprehensive list of documents and records our office will be examining as part of Phase 2 of the Full Forensic Audit, as well as requests for information from your office that will be instrumental in completing the audit process. We request that your respective offices begin locating the documents listed to prepare for our Forensic Audit Division's on-site examinations, which will be coordinated at a mutually convenient time in January 2022.

In the near term, we request that you provide us the following information, in writing, to our office by **Tuesday, December 21st** in order to guide the next phase of the forensic audit process:

- **A list of Early Voting or Election Day polling locations that had a discrepancy of one percent or more between the number of voters that checked in to the number of votes cast at that location.**
- **Whether any voting sites were closed or added due to an emergency or other necessity**
- **Any known procedural or chain of custody defects**
- **Any other issues discovered that you would like to disclose now that may be relevant to our audit process**

- **A list of complaints received and resolved, with a description of any known investigative steps or known resolution.**
- **A detailed accounting of the following:**
 - **Total Early Voting Ballots by Mail Requested**
 - **Total Early Voting Ballots by Mail Sent out**
 - **Total Early Voting Ballots requested by FPCA**
 - **Breakdown of Early Voting Ballots by Mail accepted/rejected**
 - **Total number of mail ballot voters that cancelled their mail ballot without surrendering the mailed ballot and voted in person**
 - **Total number of mail ballot voters that surrendered their mail ballot and voted in person**
- **A detailed accounting of the following:**
 - **Total Number of Provisional Votes Cast**
 - **A list of Provisional Voters by reason for voting provisionally**
 - **Total Number of Provisional Votes cast for voters lacking ID**
 - **Total number of Provisional Voted Accepted/Rejected**
- **List of entities that conducted recounts or had election contests**

We thank you in advance for your responses to this initial audit survey and request that you begin preparing the enclosed list of documents and records for our agency's review.

Please feel free to reach out to our office directly if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



John B. Scott
Texas Secretary of State

Encl.: 2020 Forensic Election Audit – Phase 2: Comprehensive Records Examination

2020 Forensic Election Audit

Phase 2: Comprehensive Records Examination

The purpose of this document is to outline the records and procedures that the Texas Secretary of State's office is reviewing for the forensic audit of the 2020 General Election in Collin, Dallas, Tarrant, and Harris counties. The specific review process for each category will be based on the county's response to the initial survey questions provided. Once the scope is established on a county-by-county basis, we will provide detailed documentation regarding the specific review of each applicable category.

We recognize that some counties may use different terminology for certain forms and procedures. The terminology used in this document is based on commonly used terms in the Texas Election Code and based on industry standards. To the extent that counties use different terminologies to describe the election materials and procedures used in the November 2020 General Election, county election officials will have the opportunity to provide an explanation in their responses ahead of our office's on-site visits.

Election Security

The following questions pertain to each county's election security measures. Please elaborate to the fullest extent possible in your responses:

- Do you have badge-controlled access to your election office?
- Do you keep track of who enters into the office, especially sensitive areas?
- Are visitors escorted at all times?
- Do you keep track of who enters the ballot programming area? Are the number of people authorized to access the programming area limited?
- Did your county attend Texas Secretary of State webinars that discussed the [Election Security Toolkit](#)?
- Did your county create individual versions of all six documents that address the procedures in your county?
- If you did not complete all 6 documents, which of these did you complete?
 - Vendor Risk Management Policy (VRMP)
 - Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)
 - Incident Response Plan (IRP)
 - Election Information Security Policy (EISP)
 - Election System Security Plan (ESSP)
 - Election Security Best Practices
- Does your county have an offsite version of the Election Security Toolkit in a printed or electronically stored format?
- Does your county have a segmented election network?
- Does your county have a next generation firewall?

- Does your county IT Department regularly patch and maintain the latest software version throughout the division?
- Does your county employ the Principle of Least Privilege?

Acceptance Testing Records if New Voting System was Used for the First Time

An examination of the following records will gauge the percentage of equipment that did not pass the acceptance testing and, therefore, was not operable during the November 2020 General Election:

- Logs for each device tested
- Logs that show if a device did not function properly or had to be returned for vendor review or service

L&A Testing Records

An examination of the following documents and records will determine if the voting system accurately recorded the test voters' choices and therefore demonstrated that the voting system accurately recorded voters' ballot choices:

- Public Notice of Logic and Accuracy (L&A) Test
- All test ballots voted in the election
- Tally Sheets
- Test Deck Records
- List of participants who voted test ballots
- Records showing test outcomes and if tests had to be repeated
- Testing media, including:
 - memory sticks
 - mobile ballot boxes (MBBs)
 - paper ballots used for L&A test voting and tabulation)
- All testing seals or other test materials

Election Preparation

An examination of the following documents and records will determine whether or not protocols to secure the voting system and ballot were followed to protect the integrity of the election:

- List of Presiding Judges and Alternate Judges by Precinct and Party
- Notification of Election Training Program
- Ballot Programming: Please indicate whether your vendor programmed your ballot or if the ballot was programmed by in-house staff.
- Electronic Poll Books (EPBs) programming: Please indicate how your EPBs were programmed and at what intervals was the Official List of Registered Voters on the EPB updated.

Early Voting In Person

An examination of the following documents will provide a summary of all processes executed to conduct in-person Early Voting:

- **Election Workers**
 - List of Early Voting Deputies, Alternate Deputies and Early Voting Clerks
 - Lists of Early Voting Workers who dropped out of the election, the date they dropped out and the names of the replacement workers
 - Please indicate the training that any emergency replacement workers received.
 - List of “no show” Early Voting workers
- **Documentation related to Ordering and Providing Notice of the Election**
 - Order of November General Election for State and County Officers (GESCO)
 - Location of the Main Early Voting Polling Place as noted on the Order of Election
 - List of Early Voting Branch Polling Places as noted on the Order of Election
 - Notice of General Election (copy of posted notice and publication)
 - Record for Posting Notice of Election if posted in this manner
- **Documentation for Ballot Corrections, if applicable**
 - Notice of Ballot Correction, if applicable
 - Notice of Ballot Destruction, if applicable
 - Record of Ballot Destruction, if applicable
 - Notice of Ballot Reprint Order, if applicable
- **Documentation for Tracking Ballots**
 - Register of Official Ballots for Early Voting at the Main Location (if ballots are pre-serialized, if not the number of ballot cards delivered)
 - Register of Official Ballots for Early Voting at a Branch Location (if ballots are pre-serialized, if not the number of ballot cards delivered)
- **Polling Place Paperwork**
 - Combination Forms for each day of Early Voting OR a report generated by the general custodian to accurately create a summary of all processes that were required to be executed as noted on paper Combination Forms
 - Daily Balancing Envelope or Report (contain copy of daily returns for Early Voting, to the extent possible)
 - Ballot Styles of voters who were given a ballot vs. how many votes of each ballot style should have been cast, based on voter registration precinct (this identifies when a voter is given the wrong ballot style)
 - Results Tapes/Suspend Reports
 - List of Declared Write-In Candidates for posting in the voting booth
 - Reasonable Impediment Declarations, if applicable
 - Statements of Residence, if applicable
 - Standard Affidavits

- Registration Omissions List
- **Other Information to be Reviewed**
 - List of Registered Voters that was used in the 2020 Presidential Election (electronic copy).
 - List of any Early Voting Site that had to be closed or changed according to county records
 - Signature Roster for Hand Delivery of a Ballot by Mail Forms (usually this process is only done only on Election Day, but the hand delivery period was extended only for the November 3, 2020 General Election)
- **Chain of Custody Paperwork**
 - Chain of Custody forms (Record of Early Voting Ballot Seals) that document the seals on the ballot boxes for each day of Early Voting
 - Chain of Custody delivery of equipment to voting sites (with seal numbers and equipment serial numbers noted) (signatures of persons who delivered equipment)
 - Chain of Custody of pickup of equipment from voting sites (with seal numbers and equipment serial numbers noted) (signatures of persons who picked up equipment)
 - Chain of Custody forms for when troubleshooters picked up completed forms from Early Voting sites for daily processing
 - List of Early Voting Daily seals for Provisional Secure Container
- **Voting System Equipment Management**
 - Trouble Logs and equipment replacement records
 - Troubleshooter visit logs
 - Equipment returned to vendor for technical support
 - Call Center Event/Complaint Logs
- **Poll Watcher Paperwork**
 - Poll Watcher Certificates of Appointment

Ballot by Mail – Early Voting

An examination of these documents and records will determine whether Early Voting by Mail was conducted in accordance with state and federal law:

- Applications for Ballot by Mail (ABBM)s
- List of Annual ABBM Voters
- List of Declared Write-In Candidates
- Notices of Improper Delivery (and to whom they were sent)
- Emails from the county to voters regarding ABBM and Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) rejections
- Notices of Rejected ABBMs and reasons
- **Mail Ballot Cancellation Paperwork**
 - Request to Cancel a Ballot by Mail for Use in the Polling Place

- Request to Cancel a Ballot by Mail for Use in the Early Voting Clerk's Office
 - Notice of Denial of Request to Cancel Application for a Ballot by Mail
 - Notice of ABBM or FPCA Cancellation (Formerly Notice to Presiding Judge)
- **Ballot By Mail Forms**
 - A sample of the November 3, 2020 Special Ballot Envelope to demonstrate that the correct version was used
 - A sample of the November 3, 2020 Special Carrier Envelope to demonstrate that the correct version was used
 - Special Carrier Insert for an ABBM voter for November 3, 2020 Election to demonstrate that the correct version was used
- **Other Information to be Reviewed**
 - List of FPCA ballots transmitted by email to the voter
 - List of FPCAs that were physically mailed to the voter
 - List of Voters Mailed a Corrected Ballot, if applicable
 - Statistics of how many uncorrected ballots were returned and counted as well as how many corrected ballots were returned and counted, if applicable.
 - List of Voters who were required to complete and return a Statement of Residence with their Ballot by Mail
- **Special Early Voting Forms**
 - Restricted Ballot Rosters for Chapter 112, 113 and 114 Ballots
 - Poll List of Voters Voting a Limited Ballot by Personal Appearance
 - Applications for a Limited Ballot
 - Notice to Voter Registrar of Application for a Presidential Ballot
 - Applications for an Emergency Early Voting Ballot Due to Sickness or Physical Disability
 - Applications for Emergency Ballot Due to Death in the Family
 - List of persons who voted on a space flight, if any

Election Day

An examination of the following documents and records from voting sites will determine if election officials followed proper chain of custody procedures, produce documentation of the chain of custody of ballots and election materials, and determine whether all state and federal laws were followed:

Election Workers

- Final List of Election Day Polling Places
- List of Presiding Judges and Alternate Judges by Precinct and Party
- Order of Appointment of Election Judges and Alternates
- Notifications of Appointment as Election Judge
- Writs of Election for the General Election for State and County Officers

- List of emergency appointments for Election Day Workers
- Lists of Election Day Workers who dropped out of the election, the date they dropped out and the names of the replacement workers.
 - Please indicate the training that any emergency replacement workers received.
- List of “no show” workers on Election Day

Election Day Forms

- Combination Forms for election day OR a report generated by the general custodian to accurately create a summary of all processes that were required to be executed as noted on paper Combination Forms
- Ballot Styles of voters who were given a ballot vs. how many votes of each ballot style should have been cast based on voter registration precinct (this identifies when a voter is given the wrong ballot style)
- Results Tapes/Suspend Reports
- List of Declared Write-In Candidates for posting in the voting booth
- Reasonable Impediment Declarations, if needed
- Statements of Residence, if needed
- Standard Affidavits
- Registration Omissions List
- Envelope Containing Spoiled Ballots with the Register of Spoiled Ballots
- Defectively Printed Ballots
- Ballot by Mail Cancellation Requests attached to the surrendered ballots
- Register of Official Ballots for each Polling Place or the Combined Ballot and Seal Certificate and Official Ballot Register
- Ballot and Seal Certificates by Polling Location or the Combined Ballot and Seal Certificate and Official Ballot Register
- Applications to Cancel a Ballot by Mail for Use in the Polling Place

Chain of Custody Paperwork

- Chain of Custody delivery of equipment to voting sites (with seal numbers and equipment serial numbers noted) (signatures of persons who delivered equipment)
- Chain of custody of pickup of equipment from voting sites (with seal numbers and equipment serial numbers noted) (signatures of persons who picked up equipment)
- Chain of custody forms for when troubleshooters picked up completed forms from Election Day sites for processing (if performed on Election Day)
- List of seals put on equipment for Election Day, including:
 - Those put on at elections office in the morning; and
 - Those put on by Presiding Judge at the polling place in the evening when voting has concluded

Election Day Notices

- Notices of Consolidated Precincts and records of which staff member posted the notices at the various sites, if any

- Record for Posting Notice of Election if posted in this manner
- Notices of Previous Precinct and records of which staff member posted the notices at the various sites, if any
- Notices of Four Nearest Countywide Polling Places and records of which staff member posted the notices at the various sites, if any

Additional Items for Consideration

- All sign-out sheets for those picking up supplies for Election Day.
 - Please indicate who picked up supplies for Election Day.
- List of any Election Day Site that had to be closed or changed and the reason for the closure or change
- Trouble Logs and equipment replacement records
- Names of individuals who returned supplies to the Receiving Substation/Central Receiving Station
- Names of individuals who received the supplies into his or her custody when the supplies were returned by election workers

Provisional Ballots

An examination of the Provisional Forms will determine if voters' provisional ballots were accepted or rejected according to the law, as well as determine the percentage of provisional ballots accepted vs. rejected:

- Affidavits of Provisional Voter
- Early Voting List of Provisional Voters
- Election Day List of Provisional Voters
- Summary of Provisional Ballots
- List of Seals for Provisional Secure Containers for Early Voting and chain of custody forms where they were documented
- List of Seals for Provisional Secure Containers for Election Day and chain of custody forms where they were documented
- Notice of Delivery of Provisional Ballots – To Voter Registrar on Election Night
- List of Rejected Provisional Ballots and reason
- Number of Provisional Ballots cured for lack of ID
- Verification of Provisional Ballots and Seal Numbers
- Review Notices of Outcome to Provisional Voter
 - Number of provisional ballots accepted
 - Number of provisional ballots rejected
- Breakdown of percentage of Provisional Ballots counted and rejected

Signature Verification Committee

An examination of the following documents related to the Signature Verification Committee (SVC) will determine whether there was party balance on the Committee and who was responsible for the processes of accepting and rejecting signatures:

- Order Calling for Signature Verification Committee – date posted
- Notification of Appointed Members to SVC
- Notice of Appointment of SVC
- Chain of custody forms when ballots were transmitted to Central Counting Station from SVC
- Poll Watcher Certificates of Appointment for SVC

Early Voting Ballot Board

An examination of the following documents related to the Early Voting Ballot Board (EVBB) will determine whether there was party balance and properly review adjudications, acceptances and rejections, as well as who was responsible for those processes:

- Order for EVBB
- Notice of Convening of EVBB
- Notification of members appointed to the EVBB
- Notice of appointment of the EVBB
- Notice of delivery of balloting materials to the EVBB (Receipt of Sealed Early Voting Ballot Boxes)
- Chain of Custody forms when ballots were delivered to the EVBB
- Samples of Notice of Rejected Ballot by Mail and reasons for rejection
- Samples of Notice of Rejected FPCAs Carriers and reasons for rejection
- Poll Watcher Certificates of Appointment

Central Counting Station

An examination of these documents will determine whether the Central Counting Station (CCS) Plan was followed along with all applicable laws and procedures, and whether proper Chain of Custody procedures for voted ballots were followed:

- Central Counting Station Plan
 - Please indicate whether it posted 5 days before Election Day, as required by law.
- Public Notice of Test of Automatic Tabulating Equipment
- Certification of First Test of Automated Tabulating Equipment
- Oaths for Early Voting Ballot Board and Central Counting Station Personnel
- Chain of Custody documents related to the transmittal of ballots to the CCS from Election Day polling places, Early Voting Clerk's storage, or Early Voting Ballot Board.

Partial Manual Count Records

An examination of these documents and records will determine whether the Partial Manual Count was performed according to the law, as well as who performed the count:

- All records associated with the post-election Partial Manual Count
 - Please indicate who performed the partial manual count.
- Record of the Partial Manual Count results submitted to the Texas Secretary of State's office
- Poll Watcher Certificates of Appointment, if any

Post-Election and Canvass Records

An examination of these documents will determine whether certification of election results was conducted properly and whether proper documentation to support the official results was provided:

- Canvass of the General Election
- Summary of Precinct Returns
- Canvass reports by official in charge of certifying results
- Records of any recounts requested and performed after the election
- Records related to any election contests filed

Records Retention

An examination of these documents and records will determine whether Chain of Custody of records was maintained, and whether officials properly followed the 1st to 60th day rule and the 61st day to 22-month retention rule. If records must be opened, please supply a copy of the court order:

- Records of seal numbers put on and taken off records when the initial 60-day period for records retention ended
- Record of seals that were placed on the ballots and other materials on the 61st day for the remainder of the 22-month record retention period
 - Please indicate whether records were stored in a locked in a surveilled room.
- Please indicate whether county officials keep a log of anyone accessing the room where the records/ballots are stored.
- Please indicate whether any court order necessitated the unsealing of the records.
 - Provide a copy of any court order requesting opening of the records.

Central Counting Station Test Records

An examination of these records will validate the test procedures that were performed before and after counting on the automatic tabulating equipment:

- Central Counting Station (CCS) Plan
- Certification of 1st test of automated tabulating equipment
- Records from 2nd Logic and Accuracy (L&A) test before ballots are counted in the CCS
- Certification of the 3rd L&A test after ballots were counted at the Central Counting Station
- Records indicating whether there was a + or – 4 ballots tabulated that necessitated a recounting of ballots at the CCS
- Copy of final reports (unofficial results, precinct returns) signed by the presiding judge of the CCS

Training Materials

An examination of these materials will determine whether poll workers were trained according to all state and federal laws and procedures. Examining the training materials allows auditors to know if the poll workers were instructed to perform their duties accurately:

- Manuals, PowerPoint presentations, materials that were used in poll worker training and sent to the field
- An example of the forms kit that was deployed to the field, if possible
- Training attendance records, including in-person and online training

General

Any video surveillance records that were recorded from the time the election was ordered until the canvass was completed.

Additional Audit Compliance Questions

1. Are any of your election materials that are required for the audit, stored at facility not under your control?
2. How quickly could you access the materials from the storage vendor?
3. Will it take longer than one month to locate and have your records ready for examination?
4. Do you still have the same voting systems as when your county conducted the 2020 Presidential Election?
5. Of the records listed in the Audit requirements, please specify which are electronically stored and which are physical copies.
6. Are there any records that you may not be able to produce? If so, why?
7. Are there any permanent staff members who have left your office since the Presidential Election? Please give names and job duties.

From: Susan Fletcher
To: Todd Lindstrom
Subject: Re: Letter from Secretary Scott
Date: Tuesday, December 14, 2021 5:26:22 PM

I believe that they are trying to answer multiple questions that have been asked There was also hours of testimony in Austin and the legislature was clear about changes needed

Just my \$0 02

Best,
Susan

Susan Fletcher
Collin County Commissioner, Pct 1
SFletcher@CollinCountyTX.gov
972-548-4676 - office
469-343-2166 - mobile

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 14, 2021, at 3:21 PM, Todd Lindstrom <tlawork@gmail.com> wrote:

***** WARNING: External Email. Do not click links or open attachments that are unsafe. *****

Susan,
When you read the letter from the Secretary of State, and you see the (admittedly voluminous) stuff that they are going to do in the audit, my question for you is this:

What question are the auditors trying to answer?

TODDL

On Tue, Dec 14, 2021 at 7:50 AM Susan Fletcher <sfletcher@co.collin.tx.us> wrote:
Greetings Todd & Debbie,

I look forward to seeing these results

Best regards,
Susan

Susan Fletcher
Collin County Commissioner, Pct 1
SFletcher@CollinCountyTX.gov
972-548-4676 - office
469-343-2166 - mobile

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Bruce Sherbet <bsherbet@co.collin.tx.us>
Date: December 13, 2021 at 7:52:44 PM CST
To: Chris Hill <chill@co.collin.tx.us>, Susan Fletcher <sfletcher@co.collin.tx.us>, Cheryl Williams <cdwilliams@co.collin.tx.us>, Darrell Hale <dhale@co.collin.tx.us>, Duncan Webb <jdwebb@co.collin.tx.us>, Bill Bilyeu <bbilyeu@co.collin.tx.us>
Subject: Fwd: Letter from Secretary Scott

Judge Hill and Commissioners,

Attached is a memo from Secretary of State Scott outlining the specifics of the forensic audit that is being performed by the state I can confirm without a doubt that it is the most extensive audit that I have have seen performed by the state since I started in elections in 1980

I will keep you informed when I get more details

Thank you,

Bruce

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Christina Adkins <CAdkins@sos.texas.gov>
Date: December 10, 2021 at 4:31:51 PM CST
To: Bruce Sherbet <bsherbet@co.collin.tx.us>, "Dallas - Michael J. Scarpello (michael.scarpello@dallascounty.org)" <michael.scarpello@dallascounty.org>, "Heider I Garcia" <HIGarcia@tarrantcounty.com>, "Harris - Isabel Longoria (Isabel.Longoria@vote.texas.gov)" <Isabel.Longoria@vote.texas.gov>
Subject: Letter from Secretary Scott

***** WARNING: External Email Do not click links or open attachments that are unsafe *****

Please see the attached correspondence from Secretary Scott

Thank you,

Christina Worrell Adkins
Legal Director – Elections Division
Office of the Texas Secretary of State
1019 Brazos Street | Rudder Building, 2nd Floor | Austin, Texas 78701
512-463-9859 (direct) | 1.800.252.VOTE (8683)
elections@sos.texas.gov | www.sos.texas.gov | [AMERICAN
OVERSIGHT](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A-gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com-3Furl-3Dhttp-253A-252F-252Fwww.sos.texas.gov-252F-26data-3D02-257C01-257CCAdkins-2540sos.texas.gov-257Ce561d09b97f84ea9666708d7d756b35b-257C760188e0f63443a096dfeclb8eca6719-257C0-257C0-257C637214639690715283-26sdata-3Dd09la9p7BqXicWyDzH3h2ld0jWKUd5l0skyFX9P90-253D-26reserved-3D0&d=DwMEAw&c=D-0IXqICE-NcgAMEQqfUJuglvOFWD-e2lSylf6Ne5tg&r=M91eie5F9PUJKTdwlJkwsDlqVFBfmwllUW7Sim5EnU&m=h0GdQDzWfhhlmfWbtDHBb9tkv7U2oqrMgBgME_wAgLCf51yx1_dg2xbIrRdKOsm&s=VhZwg2-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

[3vFLO_EZOzD4sWpNuDBGtuNm_Aa7wHLit_OY&e=>](#)

For Voter Related Information, please visit:

The information contained in this email is intended to provide advice and assistance in election matters per §31.004 of the Texas Election Code. It is not intended to serve as a legal opinion for any matter. Please review the law yourself, and consult with an attorney when your legal rights are involved.

--
TODDL

What is the best vitamin for a Christian? B1.

From: [Darrell Hale](#)
To: [Bruce Sherbet](#)
Subject: Copy of the list of certified voting machines
Date: Wednesday, December 15, 2021 12:36:40 PM

Can you provide me with a link to the secretary of state or something official (letter) from them showing the verified machines.

Darrell Hale
Collin County Commissioner, PCT 3
214-471-3584

Bruce Sherbet

From: Keith Ingram <KIngram@sos.texas.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2021 8:30 PM
To: Bruce Sherbet
Subject: Fwd: Texas Secretary of State's Office Announces Full Forensic Audit of 2020 General Election in Four Texas Counties

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From: Texas Secretary of State Press Office <TXSoSPress@public.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2021 7:21 PM
To: Keith Ingram
Subject: Texas Secretary of State's Office Announces Full Forensic Audit of 2020 General Election in Four Texas Counties

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Texas Secretary of State

For Immediate Distribution
September 23, 2021

Contact: Sam Taylor
smtaylor@sos.texas.gov
(512) 463-6116

Texas Secretary of State's Office Announces Full Forensic Audit of 2020 General Election in Four Texas Counties

AUSTIN - Under existing Texas laws, the Secretary of State has the authority to conduct a full and comprehensive forensic audit of any election and has already begun the process in Texas' two largest Democrat counties and two largest Republican counties—Dallas, Harris, Tarrant, and Collin—for the 2020 election. We anticipate the Legislature will provide funds for this purpose.

###

Please DO NOT REPLY to this message. It comes from an un-monitored mailbox. If you have any questions regarding this announcement, please e-mail Sam Taylor at smtaylor@sos.texas.gov

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This email was sent to kingram@sos.texas.gov using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: Texas Secretary of State · 707 17th St, Suite 4000 · Denver, CO 80202

Bruce Sherbet

From: Bruce Sherbet <bsherbet@co.collin.tx.us>
Sent: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 8:09 PM
To: Micki Meinecke
Subject: 9.28.2021_Full Forensic Audit Summary_Texas Secretary of State.pdf
Attachments: 9.28.2021_Full Forensic Audit Summary_Texas Secretary of State.pdf; ATT00001.txt

FYI. I asked Cheryl to let everyone know we will meet at 10:00 am tomorrow to go over this press release from the state

Bruce Sherbet

From: Bruce Sherbet
Sent: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 10:03 AM
To: 'Steven.Young@FOX.COM'
Subject: RE: Forensic Audit

Hi Steve,

The state has not communicated with us about their schedule or audit procedures so we current have no information to go on other than the press release. In terms of processes already done on the audit, I'm not aware of what that would be. I would rather not go on camera because I have nothing to add at this time. Thanks

Bruce

Bruce Sherbet
Elections Administrator
Collin County Elections
2010 Redbud Blvd., Ste 102
McKinney, TX 75069
972-547-1900

From: Micki Meinecke
Sent: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 9:46 AM
To: Bruce Sherbet <bsherbet@co.collin.tx.us>
Subject: FW: Forensic Audit

From: Young, Steven [<mailto:Steven.Young@FOX.COM>]
Sent: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 9:30 AM
To: Micki Meinecke <mmeinecke@co.collin.tx.us>
Subject: Forensic Audit

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Bruce: Has your office received any additional details about this "comprehensive forensic audit" announced last week? The 2-sentence release says they have "already begun the process" in the 4 counties mentioned including Collin. Is that the case? Is this anything you would be willing to talk about on camera with us? Thanks. Steve Young. Fox4 News.

Texas Secretary of State's Office Announces Full Forensic Audit of 2020 General Election in Four Texas Counties

September 23, 2021

Contact: Sam Taylor

512-463-6116

AUSTIN - Under existing Texas laws, the Secretary of State has the authority to conduct a full and comprehensive forensic audit of any election and has already begun the process in Texas' two largest Democrat counties and two largest Republican counties—Dallas, Harris, Tarrant, and Collin—for the 2020 election. We anticipate the Legislature will provide funds for this purpose.

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Bruce Sherbet

From: Bruce Sherbet
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 10:34 AM
To: Erin Anderson
Subject: Re: 2020 Election Audit

Hi Erin,

I am waiting to get details from the state on the audit processes but we are prepared to assist in any way requested. I'm happy to answer questions though. I'm not in the office today but am checking emails. Thanks

Bruce

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 24, 2021, at 10:24 AM, Erin Anderson <eanderson@texasscorecard.com> wrote:

***** **WARNING: External Email. Do not click links or open attachments that are unsafe.** *****

Hi Bruce:

I saw the announcement from SOS about conducting "comprehensive forensic audits" of the 2020 election starting in four counties, including Collin.

Wondering if you're able to talk about that at all. If so, may I send you a few questions?

THANKS for your time,
Erin

--

Erin Anderson
Senior Journalist
Texas Scorecard
eanderson@texasscorecard.com
281-804-9048 | @TrueTexasTea

www.TexasScorecard.com

Bruce Sherbet

From: Bruce Sherbet
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2021 9:04 PM
To: Micki Meinecke; Cheryl Gorena; Kaleb Breaux; Billy Pratt; Brian Griesbach; Johnny Franco
Subject: Fwd: Texas Secretary of State's Office Announces Full Forensic Audit of 2020 General Election in Four Texas Counties

All, here is a press release from the sec of state about a forensic recount. It includes the 2 top republican counties and two top democratic counties (which included us). I spoke to Keith and it will begin after the November election (provided they get funding for it). I am out of the office tomorrow (Friday) but we can get together on Monday to go over things. The SOS will be the one's overseeing it.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Hoy, Robbie" <rhoy@cbs.com>
Date: September 23, 2021 at 8:28:40 PM CDT
To: Bruce Sherbet <bsherbet@co.collin.tx.us>
Subject: FW: Texas Secretary of State's Office Announces Full Forensic Audit of 2020 General Election in Four Texas Counties

***** **WARNING:** External Email. Do not click links or open attachments that are unsafe. *****

From: Texas Secretary of State Press Office <TXSoSPress@public.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2021 7:21 PM
To: @KTVT News Desk All <KTVTNewsDeskAll@cbs.com>
Subject: Texas Secretary of State's Office Announces Full Forensic Audit of 2020 General Election in Four Texas Counties

External Email



Texas Secretary of State

For Immediate Distribution
September 23, 2021

Contact: Sam Taylor
smtaylor@sos.texas.gov
(512) 463-6116

Texas Secretary of State's Office Announces Full Forensic Audit of 2020 General Election in Four Texas Counties

AUSTIN - Under existing Texas laws, the Secretary of State has the authority to conduct a full and comprehensive forensic audit of any election and has already begun the process in Texas' two largest Democrat counties and two largest Republican counties—Dallas, Harris, Tarrant, and Collin—for the 2020 election. We anticipate the Legislature will provide funds for this purpose.

###

Please DO NOT REPLY to this message. It comes from an un-monitored mailbox. If you have any questions regarding this announcement, please e-mail Sam Taylor at smtaylor@sos.texas.gov

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This email was sent to news@ktvt.com using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: Texas Secretary of State · 707 17th St, Suite 4000 · Denver, CO 80202

Bruce Sherbet

From: Keith Ingram <KIngram@sos.texas.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 6:00 PM
To: Bruce Sherbet; Dallas - Michael J. Scarpello (michael.scarpello@dallascounty.org); Harris - Isabel Longoria (Isabel.Longoria@vote.hctx.net); Heider I. Garcia
Subject: audit information
Attachments: 9.28.2021_Full Forensic Audit Summary_Texas Secretary of State.pdf
Sensitivity: Personal

***** WARNING: External Email. Do not click links or open attachments that are unsafe. *****

Good evening everyone, attached is additional information regarding the audit our office announced last week.

Keith Ingram
Director, Elections Division
Office of the Secretary of State
800-252-VOTE(8683)
www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/index.shtml
For Voter Related Information, please visit:

VOTETEXAS.GOV
POWERED BY THE TEXAS SECRETARY OF STATE

The information contained in this email is intended to provide advice and assistance in election matters per §31.004 of the Texas Election Code. It is not intended to serve as personal legal advice to you for any matter. Please review the law yourself, and consult with an attorney when your legal rights are involved.

Texas Secretary of State Full Forensic Audit of 2020

General Election

The Texas Secretary of State's office has announced a full forensic audit of the 2020 General Election in Dallas, Harris, Tarrant and Collin counties. The full forensic audit is being conducted in two phases, the first of which is already underway. The purpose of this audit is to ensure all Texas voters can have confidence in the elections systems in our state, and to address any outstanding issues county election officials may face that undermines the integrity of our elections.

Phase 1: Testing Voting Machine Accuracy, Cybersecurity Assessments, and Identifying and Removing Ineligible Voters Who Cast Ballots in 2020 (Already Completed or Underway)

- After every single Texas election, counties are required to conduct a partial manual count of electronic voting system ballots within 72 hours of the polls closing to ensure the accuracy of the tabulation of electronic voting systems results ([Sec. 127.201](#)).
- All counties are required to undergo an Election Security Assessment (ESA) of the county's election system ([Sec. 279.003](#)). All 254 counties have completed these assessments.
- Under both state and federal law, the Texas Secretary of State's office is empowered to maintain the accuracy of the statewide voter registration list to ensure that ineligible voters – including deceased individuals, individuals registered in multiple states or counties, and non-U.S. citizens – do not remain on the voter rolls ([Secs. 18.061 – 18.0681](#)).
- As part of the audit process, the office has received reports from the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) regarding voters who may have voted twice in state and across state lines. We have also received a report of persons who may have been deceased when a vote was cast in their name. Finally, we have identified potential non-U.S. citizen voters and have directed county voter registrars to take action to verify the eligibility of registered voters and cancel their registration if they do not present proof of eligibility. Once that action has been taken, our office evaluates the persons cancelled and refers any instances of possible illegal voting to the Office of the Texas Attorney General for investigation ([Sec. 31.006](#)).

Phase 2: Comprehensive Election Records Examination (Spring 2022)

- As part of the Texas Secretary of State's duty to assist and advise all election authorities with regard to the application, operation, and interpretation of the Texas Election Code ([Sec. 31.004](#)) and to obtain and maintain uniformity in the application of the Code ([Sec. 31.003](#)), the office will conduct a comprehensive election records examination over the next several months to ensure election

administration procedures were properly followed during the 2020 General Election.

- The records examined from each county will include – but are not limited to – the following types of documents:
 - Logic & Accuracy Testing Records for Voting Machines, including:
 - All test ballots voted
 - Test Deck Records
 - Testing Media
 - Early Voting and Election Day Materials, including:
 - List of registered voters used in the 2020 General Election
 - Daily Early Voting Rosters for in-person voting
 - Chain of Custody forms that document the seals on the ballot boxes
 - Chain of Custody delivery and pickup of equipment at voting sites
 - Statements of Residence
 - Reasonable Impediment Declarations
 - Limited Ballot Applications
 - Audit Logs from applicable Voting System Devices
 - List of Rejected Provisional Ballots and reason for rejection
 - Ballot and Seal Certificates
 - Hand Delivery of a Ballot by Mail Roster and Forms
 - Receipts of Sealed Early Voting Ballot Boxes
 - Signature Verification Committee Materials
 - Early Voting Ballot Board Materials, including:
 - Receipt of Sealed Early Voting Ballot Boxes
 - Poll List of Mail Voters
 - Notice of Rejected Carriers and reasons
 - Central Counting Station Plan
 - Training Materials
- County election officials must retain these records for 22 months under both federal law ([52 USC 20701](#)) and state law ([Texas Election Code Sec. 66.058](#)).
- All of this information is available to the general public ([Sec. 1.012](#)).
- After a thorough examination of the abovementioned records and materials in each county, irregularities or deviations from election administration procedures that may have affected the accuracy of the electronic voting system ballot count could trigger a full manual recount of ballots in the affected precincts or polling locations, pursuant to the Secretary of State's authority to ensure the accuracy of the tabulation of electronic voting system results ([Sec. 127.202](#)).

Bruce Sherbet

From: Bruce Sherbet
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 4:16 PM
To: Linda Riggs
Subject: Forensic Audit of the November 3, 2020 Presidential Election
Attachments: Full Forensic Audit Summary_Texas Secretary of State.pdf

Linda,

Attached is the press release you are requested. Thanks,

Bruce

Bruce Sherbet
Elections Administrator
Collin County Elections
2010 Redbud Blvd., Ste 102
McKinney, TX 75069
972-547-1900

Texas Secretary of State Full Forensic Audit of 2020

General Election

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- Under both state and federal law, the Texas Secretary of State's office is empowered to maintain the accuracy of the statewide voter registration list to ensure that ineligible voters – including deceased individuals, individuals registered in multiple states or counties, and non-U.S. citizens – do not remain on the voter rolls ([Secs. 18.061 – 18.0681](#)).
- As part of the audit process, the office has received reports from the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) regarding voters who may have voted twice in state and across state lines. We have also received a report of persons who may have been deceased when a vote was cast in their name. Finally, we have identified potential non-U.S. citizen voters and have directed county voter registrars to take action to verify the eligibility of registered voters and cancel their registration if they do not present proof of eligibility. Once that action has been taken, our office evaluates the persons cancelled and refers any instances of possible illegal voting to the Office of the Texas Attorney General for investigation ([Sec. 31.006](#)).

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Bruce Sherbet

From: Chiquillo, Julieta <jchiquillo@dallasnews.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 14, 2021 1:42 PM
To: Bruce Sherbet
Subject: Request from DMN

***** **WARNING: External Email. Do not click links or open attachments that are unsafe.** *****

Hi, Mr. Sherbet,

This is Julieta, with the Dallas Morning News editorial board. We spoke a few months ago about the forensic audit of the November 2020 election, and at the time you were still waiting for instructions from the Secretary of State. I see that SOS John Scott has formally requested certain information, and I wanted to reach out and ask if you have time to talk about what amount of time and resources this will require from your office, and how the audit may be affecting preparations for the 2022 primaries.

Thanks for your time.

--

Julieta Chiquillo
Editorial Writer
The Dallas Morning News

O: 214-977-8709

M: 682-203-0916



Bruce Sherbet

From: Bruce Sherbet
Sent: Thursday, December 2, 2021 11:42 AM
To: 'sbritton@iwcsolutions.com'
Subject: RE: Audit Question

That sounds great.

Bruce Sherbet
Elections Administrator
Collin County Elections
2010 Redbud Blvd., Ste 102
McKinney, TX 75069
972-547-1900

From: Scott Britton [mailto:sbritton@iwcsolutions.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 2, 2021 11:31 AM
To: Bruce Sherbet <bsherbet@co.collin.tx.us>
Subject: RE: Audit Question

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Bruce, ok sounds good! I've got a breakfast scheduled with John Scott next week in Tarrant CO and maybe I can get some more information about where they are in the audit and what their future plans are.

Talk to you later!

Thanks!
Scott Britton
sbritton@iwcsolutions.com
(214) 208-5051
Collin County GOP PCT 179 Captain

From: Bruce Sherbet [mailto:bsherbet@co.collin.tx.us]
Sent: Thursday, December 2, 2021 11:23 AM
To: 'sbritton@iwcsolutions.com' <sbritton@iwcsolutions.com>
Subject: RE: Audit Question

Hi Scott,

No updates yet from the state regarding where they are in the audit. I know they are conducting Phase 1 which deals with the voter registration records. For example, they are doing cross-state checks and reviewing other voter file maintenance processes. The state doesn't need to be on-site for the Phase 1 processes. I was in Austin attending the state election law conference for cities and schools yesterday and no additional information concerning audit schedules and processes were discussed there.

We are not scheduled for any software updates for the voting system. I am not aware of any for the pollbook which is a different vendor (Votec).

Thanks,

Bruce

Bruce Sherbet
Elections Administrator
Collin County Elections
2010 Redbud Blvd., Ste 102
McKinney, TX 75069
972-547-1900

From: Scott Britton [<mailto:sbritton@iwcsolutions.com>]
Sent: Thursday, December 2, 2021 11:12 AM
To: Bruce Sherbet <bsherbet@co.collin.tx.us>
Subject: Audit Question

***** **WARNING: External Email. Do not click links or open attachments that are unsafe.** *****

Bruce, hello. Hope everything is going well with you. I was curious if there has been any more movement on the 4-county audit from the SOS in Collin County? The meeting you and Chris Hill had a couple months ago was great.

Also wondering if you have any planned software updates for any of the ES&S or poll book equipment in the near future? I'm also working on the Tarrant County Audit and I know Heider is planning a software update to all the Hart machines and we are trying to make sure no machine images (or information) is lost during the upgrade.

Thanks!
Scott Britton
sbritton@iwcsolutions.com
(214) 208-5051
Collin County GOP PCT 179 Captain

Bruce Sherbet

From: Bruce Sherbet
Sent: Tuesday, December 14, 2021 7:56 PM
To: Cheryl Gorena
Subject: Re: Elections Audit

Excellent!

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 14, 2021, at 4:05 PM, Cheryl Gorena <cgorena@co.collin.tx.us> wrote:

Bruce had me check with L'Cena in Records to see if we might be able to utilize their space during the audit, and she said yes. Their conference room will be available to work with the state auditors, so that we can pull documents there and not have to bring the boxes back over here.

Cheryl Gorena
Office Administrator
Collin County Elections
2010 Redbud Blvd., Ste 102
McKinney, TX 75069

Phone – 972-547-1902

Fax – 972-547-1914

For Election Information, Polling Locations and Sample Ballots, visit
www.collincountytexas.gov/elections

From: L'Cena Parsons
Sent: Tuesday, December 14, 2021 2:56 PM
To: Cheryl Gorena <cgorena@co.collin.tx.us>
Subject: RE: Elections Boxes Chain of Custody Form

Absolutely! We have a conference room that you are welcome to utilize.

Thanks,

L'Cena Parsons, CRM
Collin County Records Management Officer
972-548-5562

<image001.jpg>

The State of Texas

Elections Division
P.O. Box 12060
Austin, Texas 78711-2060
www.sos.texas.gov
www.votetexas.gov



Phone: 512-463-5650
Fax: 512-475-2811
Dial 7-1-1 For Relay Services
(800) 252-VOTE (8683)

John B. Scott
Secretary of State

December 10, 2021

Bruce Sherbet
Collin County Elections Administrator
2010 Redbud Blvd, Suite 102
McKinney, TX 75069

Isabel Longoria
Harris County Elections Administrator
1001 Preston
Houston, TX 77002

Michael Scarpello
Dallas County Elections Administrator
1520 Round Table Drive
Dallas, TX 75247

Heider Garcia
Tarrant County Elections Administrator
100 E. Weatherford
Fort Worth, Texas 76196

Dear Bruce, Michael, Isabel and Heider:

Thank you for your service to Texas voters and for your commitment to transparency in our election process. As indicated in our office's previous communications, the Texas Secretary of State's office is conducting the largest and most comprehensive forensic audit of the November 2020 General Election in your respective counties. The purpose of this audit is to provide clarity and confidence for Texas voters that all applicable laws and procedures were followed during the 2020 Election, and to identify any irregularities or issues that need to be addressed going forward.

Enclosed, please find a comprehensive list of documents and records our office will be examining as part of Phase 2 of the Full Forensic Audit, as well as requests for information from your office that will be instrumental in completing the audit process. We request that your respective offices begin locating the documents listed to prepare for our Forensic Audit Division's on-site examinations, which will be coordinated at a mutually convenient time in January 2022.

In the near term, we request that you provide us the following information, in writing, to our office by **Tuesday, December 21st** in order to guide the next phase of the forensic audit process:

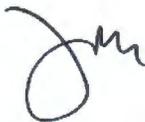
- **A list of Early Voting or Election Day polling locations that had a discrepancy of one percent or more between the number of voters that checked in to the number of votes cast at that location.**
- **Whether any voting sites were closed or added due to an emergency or other necessity**
- **Any known procedural or chain of custody defects**
- **Any other issues discovered that you would like to disclose now that may be relevant to our audit process**

- **A list of complaints received and resolved, with a description of any known investigative steps or known resolution.**
- **A detailed accounting of the following:**
 - **Total Early Voting Ballots by Mail Requested**
 - **Total Early Voting Ballots by Mail Sent out**
 - **Total Early Voting Ballots requested by FPCA**
 - **Breakdown of Early Voting Ballots by Mail accepted/rejected**
 - **Total number of mail ballot voters that cancelled their mail ballot without surrendering the mailed ballot and voted in person**
 - **Total number of mail ballot voters that surrendered their mail ballot and voted in person**
- **A detailed accounting of the following:**
 - **Total Number of Provisional Votes Cast**
 - **A list of Provisional Voters by reason for voting provisionally**
 - **Total Number of Provisional Votes cast for voters lacking ID**
 - **Total number of Provisional Voted Accepted/Rejected**
- **List of entities that conducted recounts or had election contests**

We thank you in advance for your responses to this initial audit survey and request that you begin preparing the enclosed list of documents and records for our agency's review.

Please feel free to reach out to our office directly if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



John B. Scott
Texas Secretary of State

Encl.: 2020 Forensic Election Audit – Phase 2: Comprehensive Records Examination

2020 Forensic Election Audit

Phase 2: Comprehensive Records Examination

The purpose of this document is to outline the records and procedures that the Texas Secretary of State's office is reviewing for the forensic audit of the 2020 General Election in Collin, Dallas, Tarrant, and Harris counties. The specific review process for each category will be based on the county's response to the initial survey questions provided. Once the scope is established on a county-by-county basis, we will provide detailed documentation regarding the specific review of each applicable category.

We recognize that some counties may use different terminology for certain forms and procedures. The terminology used in this document is based on commonly used terms in the Texas Election Code and based on industry standards. To the extent that counties use different terminologies to describe the election materials and procedures used in the November 2020 General Election, county election officials will have the opportunity to provide an explanation in their responses ahead of our office's on-site visits.

Election Security

The following questions pertain to each county's election security measures. Please elaborate to the fullest extent possible in your responses:

- Do you have badge-controlled access to your election office?
- Do you keep track of who enters into the office, especially sensitive areas?
- Are visitors escorted at all times?
- Do you keep track of who enters the ballot programming area? Are the number of people authorized to access the programming area limited?
- Did your county attend Texas Secretary of State webinars that discussed the [Election Security Toolkit](#)?
- Did your county create individual versions of all six documents that address the procedures in your county?
- If you did not complete all 6 documents, which of these did you complete?
 - Vendor Risk Management Policy (VRMP)
 - Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)
 - Incident Response Plan (IRP)
 - Election Information Security Policy (EISP)
 - Election System Security Plan (ESSP)
 - Election Security Best Practices
- Does your county have an offsite version of the Election Security Toolkit in a printed or electronically stored format?
- Does your county have a segmented election network?
- Does your county have a next generation firewall?

- Does your county IT Department regularly patch and maintain the latest software version throughout the division?
- Does your county employ the Principle of Least Privilege?

Acceptance Testing Records if New Voting System was Used for the First Time

An examination of the following records will gauge the percentage of equipment that did not pass the acceptance testing and, therefore, was not operable during the November 2020 General Election:

- Logs for each device tested
- Logs that show if a device did not function properly or had to be returned for vendor review or service

L&A Testing Records

An examination of the following documents and records will determine if the voting system accurately recorded the test voters' choices and therefore demonstrated that the voting system accurately recorded voters' ballot choices:

- Public Notice of Logic and Accuracy (L&A) Test
- All test ballots voted in the election
- Tally Sheets
- Test Deck Records
- List of participants who voted test ballots
- Records showing test outcomes and if tests had to be repeated
- Testing media, including:
 - memory sticks
 - mobile ballot boxes (MBBs)
 - paper ballots used for L&A test voting and tabulation)
- All testing seals or other test materials

Election Preparation

An examination of the following documents and records will determine whether or not protocols to secure the voting system and ballot were followed to protect the integrity of the election:

- List of Presiding Judges and Alternate Judges by Precinct and Party
- Notification of Election Training Program
- Ballot Programming: Please indicate whether your vendor programmed your ballot or if the ballot was programmed by in-house staff.
- Electronic Poll Books (EPBs) programming: Please indicate how your EPBs were programmed and at what intervals was the Official List of Registered Voters on the EPB updated.

Early Voting In Person

An examination of the following documents will provide a summary of all processes executed to conduct in-person Early Voting:

- **Election Workers**
 - List of Early Voting Deputies, Alternate Deputies and Early Voting Clerks
 - Lists of Early Voting Workers who dropped out of the election, the date they dropped out and the names of the replacement workers
 - Please indicate the training that any emergency replacement workers received.
 - List of “no show” Early Voting workers

- **Documentation related to Ordering and Providing Notice of the Election**
 - Order of November General Election for State and County Officers (GESCO)
 - Location of the Main Early Voting Polling Place as noted on the Order of Election
 - List of Early Voting Branch Polling Places as noted on the Order of Election
 - Notice of General Election (copy of posted notice and publication)
 - Record for Posting Notice of Election if posted in this manner

- **Documentation for Ballot Corrections, if applicable**
 - Notice of Ballot Correction, if applicable
 - Notice of Ballot Destruction, if applicable
 - Record of Ballot Destruction, if applicable
 - Notice of Ballot Reprint Order, if applicable

- **Documentation for Tracking Ballots**
 - Register of Official Ballots for Early Voting at the Main Location (if ballots are pre-serialized, if not the number of ballot cards delivered)
 - Register of Official Ballots for Early Voting at a Branch Location (if ballots are pre-serialized, if not the number of ballot cards delivered)

- **Polling Place Paperwork**
 - Combination Forms for each day of Early Voting OR a report generated by the general custodian to accurately create a summary of all processes that were required to be executed as noted on paper Combination Forms
 - Daily Balancing Envelope or Report (contain copy of daily returns for Early Voting, to the extent possible)
 - Ballot Styles of voters who were given a ballot vs. how many votes of each ballot style should have been cast, based on voter registration precinct (this identifies when a voter is given the wrong ballot style)
 - Results Tapes/Suspend Reports
 - List of Declared Write-In Candidates for posting in the voting booth
 - Reasonable Impediment Declarations, if applicable
 - Statements of Residence, if applicable
 - Standard Affidavits

- Registration Omissions List
- **Other Information to be Reviewed**
 - List of Registered Voters that was used in the 2020 Presidential Election (electronic copy).
 - List of any Early Voting Site that had to be closed or changed according to county records
 - Signature Roster for Hand Delivery of a Ballot by Mail Forms (usually this process is only done only on Election Day, but the hand delivery period was extended only for the November 3, 2020 General Election)
- **Chain of Custody Paperwork**
 - Chain of Custody forms (Record of Early Voting Ballot Seals) that document the seals on the ballot boxes for each day of Early Voting
 - Chain of Custody delivery of equipment to voting sites (with seal numbers and equipment serial numbers noted) (signatures of persons who delivered equipment)
 - Chain of Custody of pickup of equipment from voting sites (with seal numbers and equipment serial numbers noted) (signatures of persons who picked up equipment)
 - Chain of Custody forms for when troubleshooters picked up completed forms from Early Voting sites for daily processing
 - List of Early Voting Daily seals for Provisional Secure Container
- **Voting System Equipment Management**
 - Trouble Logs and equipment replacement records
 - Troubleshooter visit logs
 - Equipment returned to vendor for technical support
 - Call Center Event/Complaint Logs
- **Poll Watcher Paperwork**
 - Poll Watcher Certificates of Appointment

Ballot by Mail – Early Voting

An examination of these documents and records will determine whether Early Voting by Mail was conducted in accordance with state and federal law:

- Applications for Ballot by Mail (ABBM)s
- List of Annual ABBM Voters
- List of Declared Write-In Candidates
- Notices of Improper Delivery (and to whom they were sent)
- Emails from the county to voters regarding ABBM and Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) rejections
- Notices of Rejected ABBMs and reasons
- **Mail Ballot Cancellation Paperwork**
 - Request to Cancel a Ballot by Mail for Use in the Polling Place

- Request to Cancel a Ballot by Mail for Use in the Early Voting Clerk's Office
- Notice of Denial of Request to Cancel Application for a Ballot by Mail
- Notice of ABBM or FPCA Cancellation (Formerly Notice to Presiding Judge)
- **Ballot By Mail Forms**
 - A sample of the November 3, 2020 Special Ballot Envelope to demonstrate that the correct version was used
 - A sample of the November 3, 2020 Special Carrier Envelope to demonstrate that the correct version was used
 - Special Carrier Insert for an ABBM voter for November 3, 2020 Election to demonstrate that the correct version was used
- **Other Information to be Reviewed**
 - List of FPCA ballots transmitted by email to the voter
 - List of FPCAs that were physically mailed to the voter
 - List of Voters Mailed a Corrected Ballot, if applicable
 - Statistics of how many uncorrected ballots were returned and counted as well as how many corrected ballots were returned and counted, if applicable.
 - List of Voters who were required to complete and return a Statement of Residence with their Ballot by Mail
- **Special Early Voting Forms**
 - Restricted Ballot Rosters for Chapter 112, 113 and 114 Ballots
 - Poll List of Voters Voting a Limited Ballot by Personal Appearance
 - Applications for a Limited Ballot
 - Notice to Voter Registrar of Application for a Presidential Ballot
 - Applications for an Emergency Early Voting Ballot Due to Sickness or Physical Disability
 - Applications for Emergency Ballot Due to Death in the Family
 - List of persons who voted on a space flight, if any

Election Day

An examination of the following documents and records from voting sites will determine if election officials followed proper chain of custody procedures, produce documentation of the chain of custody of ballots and election materials, and determine whether all state and federal laws were followed:

Election Workers

- Final List of Election Day Polling Places
- List of Presiding Judges and Alternate Judges by Precinct and Party
- Order of Appointment of Election Judges and Alternates
- Notifications of Appointment as Election Judge
- Writs of Election for the General Election for State and County Officers

- List of emergency appointments for Election Day Workers
- Lists of Election Day Workers who dropped out of the election, the date they dropped out and the names of the replacement workers.
 - Please indicate the training that any emergency replacement workers received.
- List of “no show” workers on Election Day

Election Day Forms

- Combination Forms for election day OR a report generated by the general custodian to accurately create a summary of all processes that were required to be executed as noted on paper Combination Forms
- Ballot Styles of voters who were given a ballot vs. how many votes of each ballot style should have been cast based on voter registration precinct (this identifies when a voter is given the wrong ballot style)
- Results Tapes/Suspend Reports
- List of Declared Write-In Candidates for posting in the voting booth
- Reasonable Impediment Declarations, if needed
- Statements of Residence, if needed
- Standard Affidavits
- Registration Omissions List
- Envelope Containing Spoiled Ballots with the Register of Spoiled Ballots
- Defectively Printed Ballots
- Ballot by Mail Cancellation Requests attached to the surrendered ballots
- Register of Official Ballots for each Polling Place or the Combined Ballot and Seal Certificate and Official Ballot Register
- Ballot and Seal Certificates by Polling Location or the Combined Ballot and Seal Certificate and Official Ballot Register
- Applications to Cancel a Ballot by Mail for Use in the Polling Place

Chain of Custody Paperwork

- Chain of Custody delivery of equipment to voting sites (with seal numbers and equipment serial numbers noted) (signatures of persons who delivered equipment)
- Chain of custody of pickup of equipment from voting sites (with seal numbers and equipment serial numbers noted) (signatures of persons who picked up equipment)
- Chain of custody forms for when troubleshooters picked up completed forms from Election Day sites for processing (if performed on Election Day)
- List of seals put on equipment for Election Day, including:
 - Those put on at elections office in the morning; and
 - Those put on by Presiding Judge at the polling place in the evening when voting has concluded

Election Day Notices

- Notices of Consolidated Precincts and records of which staff member posted the notices at the various sites, if any

- Record for Posting Notice of Election if posted in this manner
- Notices of Previous Precinct and records of which staff member posted the notices at the various sites, if any
- Notices of Four Nearest Countywide Polling Places and records of which staff member posted the notices at the various sites, if any

Additional Items for Consideration

- All sign-out sheets for those picking up supplies for Election Day.
 - Please indicate who picked up supplies for Election Day.
- List of any Election Day Site that had to be closed or changed and the reason for the closure or change
- Trouble Logs and equipment replacement records
- Names of individuals who returned supplies to the Receiving Substation/Central Receiving Station
- Names of individuals who received the supplies into his or her custody when the supplies were returned by election workers

Provisional Ballots

An examination of the Provisional Forms will determine if voters' provisional ballots were accepted or rejected according to the law, as well as determine the percentage of provisional ballots accepted vs. rejected:

- Affidavits of Provisional Voter
- Early Voting List of Provisional Voters
- Election Day List of Provisional Voters
- Summary of Provisional Ballots
- List of Seals for Provisional Secure Containers for Early Voting and chain of custody forms where they were documented
- List of Seals for Provisional Secure Containers for Election Day and chain of custody forms where they were documented
- Notice of Delivery of Provisional Ballots – To Voter Registrar on Election Night
- List of Rejected Provisional Ballots and reason
- Number of Provisional Ballots cured for lack of ID
- Verification of Provisional Ballots and Seal Numbers
- Review Notices of Outcome to Provisional Voter
 - Number of provisional ballots accepted
 - Number of provisional ballots rejected
- Breakdown of percentage of Provisional Ballots counted and rejected

Signature Verification Committee

An examination of the following documents related to the Signature Verification Committee (SVC) will determine whether there was party balance on the Committee and who was responsible for the processes of accepting and rejecting signatures:

- Order Calling for Signature Verification Committee – date posted
- Notification of Appointed Members to SVC
- Notice of Appointment of SVC
- Chain of custody forms when ballots were transmitted to Central Counting Station from SVC
- Poll Watcher Certificates of Appointment for SVC

Early Voting Ballot Board

An examination of the following documents related to the Early Voting Ballot Board (EVBB) will determine whether there was party balance and properly review adjudications, acceptances and rejections, as well as who was responsible for those processes:

- Order for EVBB
- Notice of Convening of EVBB
- Notification of members appointed to the EVBB
- Notice of appointment of the EVBB
- Notice of delivery of balloting materials to the EVBB (Receipt of Sealed Early Voting Ballot Boxes)
- Chain of Custody forms when ballots were delivered to the EVBB
- Samples of Notice of Rejected Ballot by Mail and reasons for rejection
- Samples of Notice of Rejected FPCAs Carriers and reasons for rejection
- Poll Watcher Certificates of Appointment

Central Counting Station

An examination of these documents will determine whether the Central Counting Station (CCS) Plan was followed along with all applicable laws and procedures, and whether proper Chain of Custody procedures for voted ballots were followed:

- Central Counting Station Plan
 - Please indicate whether it posted 5 days before Election Day, as required by law.
- Public Notice of Test of Automatic Tabulating Equipment
- Certification of First Test of Automated Tabulating Equipment
- Oaths for Early Voting Ballot Board and Central Counting Station Personnel
- Chain of Custody documents related to the transmittal of ballots to the CCS from Election Day polling places, Early Voting Clerk's storage, or Early Voting Ballot Board.

Partial Manual Count Records

An examination of these documents and records will determine whether the Partial Manual Count was performed according to the law, as well as who performed the count:

- All records associated with the post-election Partial Manual Count
 - Please indicate who performed the partial manual count.
- Record of the Partial Manual Count results submitted to the Texas Secretary of State's office
- Poll Watcher Certificates of Appointment, if any

Post-Election and Canvass Records

An examination of these documents will determine whether certification of election results was conducted properly and whether proper documentation to support the official results was provided:

- Canvass of the General Election
- Summary of Precinct Returns
- Canvass reports by official in charge of certifying results
- Records of any recounts requested and performed after the election
- Records related to any election contests filed

Records Retention

An examination of these documents and records will determine whether Chain of Custody of records was maintained, and whether officials properly followed the 1st to 60th day rule and the 61st day to 22-month retention rule. If records must be opened, please supply a copy of the court order:

- Records of seal numbers put on and taken off records when the initial 60-day period for records retention ended
- Record of seals that were placed on the ballots and other materials on the 61st day for the remainder of the 22-month record retention period
 - Please indicate whether records were stored in a locked in a surveilled room.
- Please indicate whether county officials keep a log of anyone accessing the room where the records/ballots are stored.
- Please indicate whether any court order necessitated the unsealing of the records.
 - Provide a copy of any court order requesting opening of the records.

Central Counting Station Test Records

An examination of these records will validate the test procedures that were performed before and after counting on the automatic tabulating equipment:

- Central Counting Station (CCS) Plan
- Certification of 1st test of automated tabulating equipment
- Records from 2nd Logic and Accuracy (L&A) test before ballots are counted in the CCS
- Certification of the 3rd L&A test after ballots were counted at the Central Counting Station
- Records indicating whether there was a + or – 4 ballots tabulated that necessitated a recounting of ballots at the CCS
- Copy of final reports (unofficial results, precinct returns) signed by the presiding judge of the CCS

Training Materials

An examination of these materials will determine whether poll workers were trained according to all state and federal laws and procedures. Examining the training materials allows auditors to know if the poll workers were instructed to perform their duties accurately:

- Manuals, PowerPoint presentations, materials that were used in poll worker training and sent to the field
- An example of the forms kit that was deployed to the field, if possible
- Training attendance records, including in-person and online training

General

Any video surveillance records that were recorded from the time the election was ordered until the canvass was completed.

Additional Audit Compliance Questions

1. Are any of your election materials that are required for the audit, stored at facility not under your control?
2. How quickly could you access the materials from the storage vendor?
3. Will it take longer than one month to locate and have your records ready for examination?
4. Do you still have the same voting systems as when your county conducted the 2020 Presidential Election?
5. Of the records listed in the Audit requirements, please specify which are electronically stored and which are physical copies.
6. Are there any records that you may not be able to produce? If so, why?
7. Are there any permanent staff members who have left your office since the Presidential Election? Please give names and job duties.