

Subject: RE: Public Information Request (TX-SOS-22-0092) PIR 22-0134
Date: Friday, April 29, 2022 at 4:30:41 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: GeneralCounsel
To: AO Records
CC: GeneralCounsel
Attachments: 4.29.22 Documents.zip

EXTERNAL SENDER

Good afternoon,

Consistent with our April 1 email, please find the attached zipped folder containing documents responsive to your request for information under Chapter 552 of the Texas Government Code.

The responsive documents contain email addresses of the general public. An email address of a member of the public is confidential under section 552.137 of the Texas Government Code. The attorney general authorized all governmental bodies to withhold an email address of a member of the public without first requesting an attorney general opinion in Open Records Decision No. 684 (2009). Thus, this information has been redacted.

We appreciate your patience as we continue to process your request in accordance with the terms of the PIA. We require additional time to review our records and produce additional responsive documents. We will provide you any additional responsive documents—to the extent such information is not excepted from disclosure under state or federal law—by 5:00 p.m. on May 27, 2022. *See* Tex. Gov't Code § 552.221(d).

Kind regards,

Jennifer Williams
Legal Assistant to the General Counsel
Office of the Texas Secretary of State

From: GeneralCounsel <GeneralCounsel@sos.texas.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 1, 2022 2:24 PM
To: 'AO Records' <records@americanoversight.org>
Cc: GeneralCounsel <GeneralCounsel@sos.texas.gov>
Subject: RE: Public Information Request (TX-SOS-22-0092) PIR 22-0134

Good afternoon,

We appreciate your patience as we continue to process your request in accordance with the terms of the PIA. We require additional time to review our records and produce additional responsive documents. We will provide you any additional responsive documents—to the extent such information is not excepted from disclosure under state or federal law—by 5:00 p.m. on April 29, 2022. *See* Tex. Gov't Code § 552.221(d).

Kind regards,

Jennifer Williams
Legal Assistant to the General Counsel
Office of the Texas Secretary of State

From: GeneralCounsel <GeneralCounsel@sos.texas.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2022 3:32 PM
To: 'AO Records' <records@americanoversight.org>
Cc: GeneralCounsel <GeneralCounsel@sos.texas.gov>
Subject: RE: Public Information Request (TX-SOS-22-0092) PIR 22-0134

Good afternoon,

Regarding our February 28 email, we appreciate your patience as we continue to process your request in accordance with the terms of the PIA. We require additional time to review our records and produce additional responsive documents. We will provide you any additional responsive documents—to the extent such information is not excepted from disclosure under state or federal law—by 5:00 p.m. on April 1, 2022. *See* Tex. Gov't Code § 552.221(d).

Kind regards,

Jennifer Williams
Legal Assistant to the General Counsel
Office of the Texas Secretary of State

From: GeneralCounsel <GeneralCounsel@sos.texas.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2022 4:38 PM
To: 'AO Records' <records@americanoversight.org>
Cc: GeneralCounsel <GeneralCounsel@sos.texas.gov>
Subject: RE: Public Information Request (TX-SOS-22-0092) PIR 22-0134

Good afternoon,

Consistent with our February 7 letter, please see the attached document containing information responsive to Items 1-5 of your request. We appreciate your patience as we continue to process this portion of your request in accordance with the terms of the PIA. We require additional time to review our records and produce additional responsive documents. We will provide you any additional responsive documents—to the extent such information is not excepted from disclosure under state or federal law—by 5:00 p.m. on March 21, 2022. *See* Tex. Gov't Code § 552.221(d).

We received your clarification with respect to Items 6 and 7 and will address this clarified portion of the request on March 4, 2022.

Kind regards,

Jennifer Williams
Legal Assistant to the General Counsel
Office of the Texas Secretary of State

From: GeneralCounsel <GeneralCounsel@sos.texas.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 3:51 PM
To: 'AO Records' <records@americanoversight.org>
Cc: GeneralCounsel <GeneralCounsel@sos.texas.gov>
Subject: RE: Public Information Request (TX-SOS-22-0092) PIR 22-0134

Good afternoon,

Please see the attached letter in response to your request for information under Chapter 552 of the Texas Government Code.

Kind regards,

Jennifer Williams
Legal Assistant to the General Counsel
Office of the Texas Secretary of State

From: GeneralCounsel
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 2:03 PM
To: 'AO Records' <records@americanoversight.org>
Subject: RE: Public Information Request (TX-SOS-22-0092) PIR 22-0134

Thank you for contacting the Office of the Texas Secretary of State. This email acknowledges receipt of your request for information under the Public Information Act, and we will process it in accordance with Chapter 552 of the Texas Government Code.

We will let you know if we have any questions or need clarification.

Regards,

Office of the Texas Secretary of State

From: AO Records <records@americanoversight.org>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 2:28 PM
To: GeneralCounsel <GeneralCounsel@sos.texas.gov>
Subject: Public Information Request (TX-SOS-22-0092)

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unless you are expecting the email and know that the content is safe. If you believe this to be a malicious or phishing email, please send this email as an attachment to informationsecurity@sos.texas.gov.

Dear Public Information Officer:

Please find attached a request for records under the Texas Public Information Act.

Sincerely,

--

Sarah Wishingrad

Pronouns: she/her

Paralegal

American Oversight

records@americanoversight.org

www.americanoversight.org | @weareoversight

PIR: TX-SOS-22-0092

From: [Sam Taylor](#)
To: "michael.scarpello@dallascounty.org"
Cc: [John Scott](#); [Keith Ingram](#)
Subject: Dallas County - Partial Manual Count - November 2020
Date: Wednesday, December 29, 2021 4:37:08 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Dallas County Partial Manual Count November 2020 Election.xlsx](#)
Sensitivity: Personal

Hi Michael,

Thanks for chatting earlier and apologies for bothering you on your travels! I've attached the chart of the partial manual count numbers that your office provided us after the November 2020 election.

You'll see the red highlighted cells (J15 and K15) show that the electronic count for candidate Matt Sterett was 1, while the manual count was 11. We presume this was because of a data entry/clerical error, but wanted to make sure and confirm with your office.

Please let us know if y'all have any information on this you'd like to provide so we can note it in our progress report.

Much appreciated!

Best,

Sam Taylor

Assistant Secretary of State for Communications

Office of the Texas Secretary of State

smtaylor@sos.texas.gov

Office: 512-463-6116

Cell: 512-538-5293



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: [Governor Greg Abbott Press Office](#)
To: [Sam Taylor](#)
Subject: Governor Abbott Approves Funding To Launch Election Audit Division Within Texas Secretary Of State's Office
Date: Friday, November 19, 2021 3:01:37 PM

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GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

For Immediate Distribution | November 19, 2021 | (512) 463-1826

Governor Abbott Approves Funding To Launch Election Audit Division Within Texas Secretary Of State's Office

AUSTIN - Governor Greg Abbott [today approved](#) a Legislative Budget Board proposal transferring the funding needed for the Texas Secretary of State's office to establish a new Election Audit Division. This division will be conducting comprehensive forensic audits in the State of Texas. Currently, the Texas Secretary of State is conducting the largest forensic audit in the country.

The Governor requested [these funds on Thursday](#). The Lt. Governor and Speaker issued a proposal for the transfer this morning and the Governor approved it.

"Ensuring the integrity of our elections is critical to our democracy, and the Texas Secretary of State's office deserves the resources and support needed to thoroughly complete this ongoing task," said Governor Abbott. "The people of Texas must have trust and confidence in the election process, as well as the outcomes of our elections, which is why the state of Texas will transfer funding needed so that the Texas Secretary of State can create a division dedicated entirely to this important issue."

###

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From: [Texas Secretary of State Press Office](#)
To: [Sam Taylor](#)
Subject: ICYMI: Secretary John Scott: Full Forensic Audit will Restore Faith in Texas Elections
Date: Monday, November 22, 2021 11:03:27 AM

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Texas Secretary of State

John B. Scott

For Immediate Distribution
November 22, 2021

Contact: Sam Taylor
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ICYMI: Secretary John Scott: Full Forensic Audit will Restore Faith in Texas Elections

AUSTIN — Writing in the *Houston Chronicle* yesterday, Texas Secretary of State John Scott explained the need for the full forensic audit of the 2020 General Election currently underway, highlighting that the ultimate goal of the audit is to restore Texas voters' trust in our state's election systems. The column comes after Governor Abbott and state legislative leadership [approved \\$4 million for the creation of a permanent Election Audit Division](#) within the Texas Secretary of State's office to [complete the ongoing full forensic audit of the 2020 General Election and subsequent audits required by Senate Bill 1](#).

"For the past several election cycles, voters have faced a crisis of confidence in the very system that underpins our representative form of government," Secretary Scott [wrote in the column](#).

"Whether it was the specter of foreign interference in our elections or allegations of widespread mail ballot fraud during the pandemic, voters have been hit with a barrage of reasons to doubt the system. And, unsurprisingly, it's starting to take its toll on their faith in the integrity of our elections..."

"...This is why, in order to restore voters' confidence in the strength and resilience of our

election systems, Texas is conducting the largest and most comprehensive forensic audit of the 2020 General Election."

Secretary Scott continued: "While county election officials have already conducted partial manual recounts, election security assessments and voter eligibility verification, the Texas Forensic Audit goes well beyond any other legislative election audit proposals or models in other states. Our audit examines, among other items: chain of custody records of voted ballots and voting equipment, audit logs from electronic voting systems, and materials from Early Voting Ballot Boards and Signature Verification Committees to ensure that mail ballots were not subjected to tampering and match the list of voters who requested them.

"Importantly, this will be the country's most comprehensive 'forensic' audit of the 2020 election, using analytical tools to examine the literal nuts and bolts of election administration to determine if any illegal activity may have occurred. Using the authority given to our agency by the Legislature, we will conduct additional full manual recounts of any and all precincts affected by election irregularities.

"We will follow the facts, follow the evidence and ensure any cases of illegal voting or election crimes are investigated by the proper law enforcement authorities, including the Texas Attorney General's Office.

"Texans should be encouraged by the dedicated county election officials who work cycle after cycle to conduct elections with the integrity and professionalism that voters deserve.

"But voters also need peace of mind — they need assurances that Texas election law and federal laws protecting the rights of legal, eligible voters are being followed at every step in the process. When irregularities occur, no matter how inconsequential they may seem, it takes a concerted effort to restore voters' faith in elections."

[Read Secretary Scott's full column in the *Houston Chronicle*.](#)

###

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The State of Texas

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(800) 252-VOTE (8683)

John B. Scott
Secretary of State

December 31, 2021

Phase 1 Progress Report: **Full Forensic Audit of November 2020 General Election**

On September 23, 2021, the office of the Texas Secretary of State (SOS) announced a full forensic audit of the November 2020 General Election in Collin, Dallas, Harris and Tarrant counties. Combined, a total of 3,885,875 votes were cast in these four counties in the November 2020 election – approximately 35% of the roughly 11.3 million votes cast statewide.

During Phase 1 of the full forensic audit, the SOS announced it would review available data and documents concerning the security and accuracy of voting systems used in each of the four counties, as well as the counties' work to maintain the accuracy of their respective lists of registered voters.

The below progress report on Phase 1 of the full forensic audit outlines the SOS's findings within four categories:

- I. Completion of the statutorily required partial manual count of electronic voting system ballots;
- II. Completion of statutorily required Election Security Assessments (ESAs) and dedication of remediation funds to address any gaps in security;
- III. Maintaining the accuracy of the statewide voter registration database; and
- IV. Identifying potential non-U.S. citizens who are registered to vote in Texas and who cast a ballot in the November 2020 election, individuals registered in Texas and another state who cast more than one ballot in the November 2020 election, and potential votes cast in the name of deceased people.

This information, together with [each of the four counties' timely responses to the SOS's pre-audit survey](#), will help guide the SOS's in-person [comprehensive document examinations conducted in Phase 2](#). To the extent any information was not made available to our office before the publication of this report, the SOS will endeavor to include any outstanding data figures in the final forensic audit report released after the completion of Phase 2.

I. Partial Manual Count of Electronic Voting System Ballots

Pursuant to [Section 127.201 of the Texas Election Code](#), Texas counties are required to initiate a partial manual count of electronic voting system ballots within 72 hours of the polls closing, and are required to complete the partial manual count not later than the 21st day after Election Day. The purpose of this requirement is to ensure that votes cast and counted on electronic voting systems were tabulated accurately. To be used in Texas elections, voting systems must be certified

by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and certified by the State of Texas through an examination by the SOS and the Office of the Texas Attorney General, under [TEC Chapter 122](#). All information regarding voting system certification is [available on the Texas SOS web site](#).

Under [TEC Section 127.201](#), counties are required to conduct a manual count in at least one percent of the election precincts or in three precincts, whichever is greater, in which an electronic voting system was used in a general election. The SOS is responsible for choosing the race(s) and precinct(s) used to conduct the partial manual count in a general election. For the November 2020 Election, the office of Texas Railroad Commissioner was chosen as the race for which counties conducted their respective partial manual counts. In order to protect the security and integrity of the voted ballots, the SOS has provided alternate Election Day locations for the partial manual count for counties that are part of the [Countywide Polling Place Program \(CWPP\)](#). This is done to ensure that the accuracy of the voting system equipment is thoroughly audited in a specific location while also ensuring that fewer election office personnel are handling voted ballots from across the county. None of the four counties reported any discrepancies in Election Day ballots counted electronically versus those counted by hand.

Under [Sec. 127.201\(e\)](#), counties are required to deliver a written report of the results of the partial manual count to the SOS within three days of completing the count.

In Collin County, precincts 126, 209 and 66 were chosen for the partial manual count. Among these three precincts, the results provided to the SOS office showed a 17 vote discrepancy between electronic and hand counts. Collin County indicated that the discrepancy between the electronic count and hand count in these precincts was due to the use of direct-recording electronic (DRE) voting machines in curbside voting for individuals who are physically unable to enter the polling place. The DREs that Collin County employed for curbside voting do not produce a paper record and therefore were not included in the manual count. The SOS office will verify this explanation during its on-site examination of records in Collin County as part of Phase 2 of the full forensic audit.

Collin County Partial Manual Count November 2020

Precinct	Mail Ballot Electronic Count	Mail Ballot Hand Count	Early Voting In Person Electronic Count	Early Voting In Person Hand Count	Election Day Electronic Count	Election Day Hand Count	Count Discrepancy
126	198	197	2,906	2,899	175	175	8
209	32	32	611	609	308	308	2
66	141	137	1,266	1,263	127	127	7
						Total Discrepancy:	17

In Dallas County, precincts 1062, 1111, 1726, 2003, 3401, 4046 and 4269 were included in the partial manual count. Among these seven precincts, the results of the partial manual count provided to the SOS office showed a 10 vote discrepancy between electronic and hand counts. The 10 vote discrepancy in early in-person votes in precinct 1111 appears to have resulted from a data entry error by county officials when transmitting the partial manual count report to the SOS. The SOS office will verify the cause of this discrepancy during its on-site examination of records in Dallas County as part of Phase 2 of the full forensic audit.

Dallas County Partial Manual Count November 2020

Precinct	Mail Ballot Electronic Count	Mail Ballot Hand Count	Early Voting In Person Electronic Count	Early Voting In Person Hand Count	Election Day Electronic Count	Election Day Hand Count	Count Discrepancy
1062	2	2	16	16	142	142	0
1111	23	23	540	550	427	427	10
1726	121	121	805	805	91	91	0
2003	294	294	1,764	1,764	336	336	0
3401	0	0	3	3	142	142	0
4046	50	50	434	434	137	137	0
4629	51	51	656	656	0	0	0
						Total Discrepancy:	10

In Harris County, precincts 130, 188, 553, 600, 668, 783, 791, 924, 948 and 952 were included in the partial manual count. Among these 10 precincts, the results of the partial manual count provided to the SOS office showed a 5 vote discrepancy between electronic and hand counts. Because Harris County employed DRE devices during the November 2020 General Election, a hand count of ballots cast on DRE systems was impossible. Therefore, Harris County was only able to provide electronic and manual count figures for mail ballots cast. Harris County indicated that the 5 ballot discrepancy occurred due to an error in the manual counting of mail-in ballots. The SOS office will verify this explanation during its on-site examination of Harris County's records as part of Phase 2.

Harris County Partial Manual Count November 2020

Precinct	Mail Ballot Electronic Count	Mail Ballot Hand Count	Count Discrepancy
130	352	348	4
188	68	68	0
553	127	127	0
600	354	353	1
668	278	278	0
783	15	15	0
791	3	3	0
924	0	0	0
948	0	0	0
952	7	7	0
		Total Discrepancy:	5

In Tarrant County, precincts 1061, 1460, 2381, 3160, 4285, 4452 and 4591 were included in the partial manual count. Among these seven precincts, the results of the partial manual count provided to the SOS office showed a 0 vote discrepancy between electronic and hand counts.

Tarrant County Partial Manual County November 2020

Precinct	Mail Ballot Electronic Count	Mail Ballot Hand Count	Early Voting In Person Electronic Count	Early Voting In Person Hand Count	Election Day Electronic Count	Election Day Hand Count	Count Discrepancy
1061	17	17	103	103	594	594	0
1460	109	109	1,295	1,295	106	106	0
2381	14	14	287	287	437	437	0
3160	118	118	1,358	1,358	402	402	0
4285	23	23	331	331	0	0	0
4452	69	69	2,029	2,029	0	0	0
4591	89	89	1,780	1,780	0	0	0
						Total Discrepancy:	0

II. Election Security Assessments

Pursuant to [Section 279.003 of the Texas Election Code](#), all 254 Texas counties are required to undergo an Election Security Assessment (ESA) to identify potential gaps in the cybersecurity and physical security postures of each county's election office, and recommend steps the county must take to address the issues identified. In 2018, the EAC [released \\$23,252,604 in Help America Vote Act \(HAVA\) funds to strengthen the security of Texas' election infrastructure](#). While a portion of those funds were used to conduct the ESAs at no cost to the counties, additional funding was reserved for remediation in the event that county elections offices needed assistance to fill gaps in their respective cybersecurity postures.

Contracts for the ESAs were executed with each county through the Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR) Managed Security Services (MSS) program. Although the results of these assessments are confidential under state law, we are able to disclose the following information regarding each county's request for remediation funds to enhance election security:

- **Collin County's** ESA was completed in July 2020. The county requested \$120,000 in federal HAVA funds, which required \$16,000 in matching funds from the county. Collin County used a portion of these funds for security enhancements that included additional ballot scanners and security cameras.
- **Dallas County's** ESA was completed in February 2019. The county requested \$120,000 in federal HAVA funds, requiring a \$16,000 match from the county. Security enhancements included products to secure band service to help improve and secure network communication between E-pollbooks and the data center. The combination of features provide for an end-to-end, highly secure encrypted environment to transport voter registration data.

- **Harris County**'s ESA was completed in February 2020. The county requested \$120,000 in federal HAVA funds, which required \$16,000 in county matching funds. Security enhancements included E-pollbook software development and maintenance.
- **Tarrant County**'s ESA was completed in October 2020. The county requested \$120,000 in federal HAVA funds, requiring a \$16,000 county match. Security enhancements included: upgrading and repairing election equipment containers used to transport and secure equipment during distribution to polling locations; curbside voting equipment; security components for the voter registration system; and security cameras and video surveillance equipment.

III. Accuracy of Statewide Voter Registration List¹

The National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA) requires states to adopt and implement procedures to maintain accurate and current voter registration lists. Additionally, states are required to implement a voter registration list maintenance program that makes a reasonable effort to remove ineligible persons from the voter lists in accordance with the NVRA and state law.

Likewise, the Texas Election Code (TEC) enumerates the importance of maintaining accurate voter registration lists through defining the acquisition of data from other specified agencies, outlining the procedures and processes required of the SOS and county voter registrars, and identifying the criteria used to match this information with the statewide voter registration list. Specifically, Sections [18.068](#) and [18.0681](#) of the Texas Election Code require the SOS to conduct comparative reviews of the statewide voter registration list with information received under [TEC Chapter 16](#). Following the identification of matched records, the SOS is required to send this information to county voter registrars for further review. It is the responsibility of the county voter registrar to review these records on the grounds of eligibility and/or to eliminate duplicative records to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the county voter list.

Each county voter registrar, pursuant to [TEC Section 18.061](#), is required to provide to the SOS on an expedited basis the information necessary to maintain the registration list for their respective counties. This includes the electronic submission of all voter registration related maintenance activities. Data collected and represented in this progress report is dependent on the electronic submission of information from the counties included in this audit to the statewide voter registration database. All four counties currently use an independent voter registration system.

Please note that removal of ineligible and/or deceased voters from the statewide voter registration list in and of itself does not indicate that any illegal votes were cast. These maintenance activities are prescribed by state law to ensure the integrity and accuracy of the statewide voter registration list. Voter list maintenance is performed on a regular and ongoing basis in Texas to prevent ineligible voters from casting ballots and to prevent individuals from casting ballots using another person's voter registration information.

¹ The data in this section reflects information in the SOS's statewide voter registration database as of December 7, 2021.

Ineligibility Due to Death

[Section 18.068](#) of the Texas Election Code requires a quarterly comparison of the statewide voter registration list to identify all potential deceased voters. To meet this requirement, the SOS implemented a comparative analysis of the statewide system to records provided by the Local Registrars of Death, Clerks of the Court, the Bureau of Vital Statistics, the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), and the Social Security Administration, in accordance with the Texas Election Code.

Based on the matching criteria outlined in [TEC 18.068](#) and the SOS's administrative rules ([1 Tex. Admin. Code § 81.6\(a\)](#)), records that are strong matched with the above identified sources are cancelled by the state system. 'Strong' matches are those whose last name, date of birth, and full Social Security Number are all an exact match. Records that are considered 'weak' matches, on the other hand, require an additional review process to be conducted by each individual county voter registrar. Since November 2020, 190,227 strong matched records have been cancelled by the state and 67,551 weak matched records have been provided to county voter registrars statewide for further review. Overall, since November 2020, a review of the voter registration system indicates that 257,778 potential deceased voters were identified through the statewide voter registration system, resulting in the identification and cancellation of 224,585 voter registrations for deceased voters.

An overview of the data of the counties included in this audit is indicated below for the time period of November 2020 to the present.

Cancellation of Deceased Voter Registrations

County	Strong Matches Cancelled by State	Weak Matches Provided to County	Number of Reviews Completed by County	Number of Reviews Remaining Unresolved	Weak Matches Cancelled by County	Total Number of Cancellations
Collin	4,074	1,674	1,619	55	815	4,889
Dallas	12,507	6,153	6,153	0	2,419	14,926
Harris	19,064	11,361	11,356	5	4,850	23,914
Tarrant	11,876	4,740	4,730	10	2,079	13,955

Ineligibility due to Felony Conviction

[TEC Section 16.003](#) requires the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to prepare and file an abstract of final judgment of a felony conviction for any person 18 years of age or over each weekday. The SOS compares this information to the statewide voter registration records and provides this information to county voter registrars for further review.

A review of the [cancellation trend reports](#) indicates that 1,628 potential felon voters were identified, investigated and had their voter registrations cancelled statewide since November 2020. Specifically, a review of data related to the felon process for the respective counties examined in this audit found the following information since November 2020:

Cancellation of Felon Voter Registrations

County	Number of Reviews Remaining Unresolved	Total Number of Cancellations
Collin	114	0
Dallas	46	16
Harris	65	13
Tarrant	103	4

The SOS has limited visibility into all notices provided to county voter registrars from various local and court authorities, which occur independent of the statewide system. However, when these records are cancelled, those cancellations are ultimately reported in the SOS's statewide voter registration database.

Ineligibility due to Non-U.S. Citizenship

[TEC Section 18.068](#), [TEC Section 16.0332](#), and [Section 62.113](#) of the Government Code require the SOS to compare the statewide voter registration records to identify any possible non-U.S. citizen records and to provide this information to county voter registrars for further review. Voting records in need of review are identified through a comparison of voter registration records, data provided by DPS, and information reported under [Section 62.113](#) of the Texas Government Code.

Based on the matching criteria outlined in the TEC, all records that matched with the above identified sources are sent to county voter registrars for further review. As with the felon process, information obtained through the numerous court authorities prevents the SOS from tracking the overall number of notices provided to county voter registrars from these sources as some notifications are independent of the statewide system. However, all voter registration cancellations are reported to the SOS through the statewide voter registration system. Since November 2020, a review of the cancellation trend reports suggest that 74 potential non-U.S. citizen voters were identified, investigated and voter registrations cancelled statewide from data provided by local and court authorities, including responses to jury summons in which an individual indicated that he or she is not a U.S. citizen.

Beginning in September of 2021, the SOS [implemented a comparative process utilizing DPS citizenship data pursuant to a 2019 settlement agreement](#). Since that time, 11,737 possible non-U.S. citizen voter records have been sent to county registrars for review statewide. Of the 11,737 records, 278 voting records have been cancelled due to confirmation of non-U.S. citizenship by the county. Additionally, 2,049 voter records have been cancelled for failure to respond to a notice from the county voter registrar requesting documentation of proof of citizenship. Overall, 2,327 voting records have been removed from the active statewide voter registration list as a result of this agreed-upon process, which has now been codified into state law.

A review of data specifically related to this maintenance activity for Collin, Dallas, Harris and Tarrant counties is listed below. Voting records currently under review and/or pending response from a voter as part of the examination process are not reflected as this information has not been electronically submitted to the statewide voter registration system. It is important to note that some

voter records may have been examined and resolved as part of the deceased, felony, and/or duplicate process.

Cancellation of Non-U.S. Citizen Voter Registrations

County	Number of Records Provided to County	Number of Cancellations for Confirmed Non-U.S. citizenship	Number of Cancellations for Failure to Respond to Notice of Examination	Number of Reviews Remaining in State System	Total Number of Cancellations
Collin	327	0	0	14	0
Dallas	1,385	5	1,188	0	1,193
Harris	3,063	0	0	11	0
Tarrant	708	1	0	528	1

Due to the lack of data available to track the status of this maintenance activity, the SOS requested an update from all Texas counties on the agreed-upon noncitizen review process. Collin County indicated that 273 notices had been sent to possible noncitizens requesting proof of citizenship and the review of these records remains in progress at this time. Tarrant County indicated that it was in the process of reviewing each of the records and confirming citizenship documentation with DPS. No status update was provided from Dallas or Harris County. Dallas County has reported no outstanding reviews to complete. The SOS will work to determine what steps were taken to investigate these records in Harris County.

The NVRA requires that states complete their generalized programs to remove voters from the rolls not later than 90 days before a federal primary or general election ([52 U.S.C. § 20507\(c\)](#)). The SOS has provided notice to county registrars that the 90-day period for the March 1, 2022 primary election has begun. Under the NVRA, the only permissible voter removal programs that voter registrars may undertake until after the primary election, and any subsequent primary runoff election, is to remove voters who voluntarily cancel their voter registration, voters who are deceased, and voters who are finally convicted of a felony or adjudicated mentally incompetent for voting.

Duplicate Registration Records

[TEC Section 18.0681](#) requires the SOS to periodically compare the county voter registration records to determine if any voters have more than one voter registration record on file. Upon completion of the statewide database comparative process, potentially duplicative records are sent to county voter registrars with the oldest registration record for further investigation.

If the duplicative records are within the same county, the voter registrar may merge the records following a determination that each record belongs to the same voter using the procedure for the correction of registration records under [TEC Section 15.022](#). If the records are located in more than one county, the registrar of the county with the oldest record may deliver a written confirmation notice in accordance with [Section 15.051](#) or cancel the registration of the voter in accordance with [Section 16.031\(a\)\(1\)](#), provided that the voter's record in the county with the newest registration record is not on the suspense list.

A review of the [cancellation trend reports](#) from the statewide voter registration system indicated that during the timeline included in this audit, 11,803 duplicative records were within the same county of registration. This figure does not include records that were reviewed and merged within the same county of registration to retain voting participation information. Additionally, the review reveals that 437,559 duplicative records were cancelled for voters having a voter registration record in more than one county. Overall, the state review process resulted in the identification and removal of 449,362 duplicate voter registrations from the statewide voter registration list.

A review of data specifically for Collin, Dallas, Harris and Tarrant counties is listed below for the timeframe of November 2020 to the present.

Cancellation of Duplicate Voter Registrations

County	Number of Cancellations Within the Same County	Number of Cancellations Outside the County	Number of Reviews Remaining in State System	Total Number of Cancellations
Collin	200	19,564	66	19,764
Dallas	81	39,717	1	39,798
Harris	1,117	53,255	7,801	54,372
Tarrant	615	30,160	28	30,775

IV. Non-U.S. Citizen Voters, Cross-State Duplicate Voters and Deceased Voters

Non-U.S. Citizen Voters

As noted above, the SOS comparative process utilizing DPS citizenship data [pursuant to a 2019 settlement agreement](#) has identified 11,737 possible non-U.S. citizen voter records statewide. Those records have been sent to county voter registrars for further review. Potential non-U.S. citizen records do not indicate an illegal vote has been cast, and are not resolved until the county investigation is complete and the voter has been removed from the statewide voter list due to non-U.S. citizenship.

In the four counties included in this audit, the breakdown of the possible non-U.S. citizen voter records were as follows:

County	Possible non-U.S. citizen voter records identified
Collin	327
Dallas	1,385
Harris	3,063
Tarrant	708

The SOS is actively reviewing the 2,327 voting records that have recently been cancelled throughout the state as part of this review process for voter participation history. Of those 2,327, county voter registrars reported 278 registered voters as confirmed non-U.S. citizens. The SOS, in coordination with county voter registrars, continues to verify the number of non-U.S. citizens registered to vote statewide to identify those that may have voted in the November 2020 election.

All records with voting history suggesting the potential of an illegal vote cast will be referred to the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) for further investigation, pursuant to [Sec. 31.006 of the Texas Election Code](#).

While several counties took action promptly to work their potential non-U.S. citizen matches, others did not begin investigating or send notices of examination until mid to late November of 2021. As a result, the 30-day window in which the registrant could provide proof of U.S. citizenship fell *after* the federally-required NVRA moratorium on voter registration cancellations had begun. This means that many potential non-U.S. citizens identified through the agreed-upon process would have until, at the latest, May 25th, 2022 to respond to a notice of examination before their voter registration is cancelled.

Cross-State Duplicate Voters

[Section 18.062](#) of the Texas Election Code requires the SOS to participate in an interstate crosscheck program to prevent duplication of registration in more than one state or jurisdiction. As a member of the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), the State of Texas—through the SOS’s Elections Division—works with the 31 other member states to compare voter registration lists and voter participation records to identify voters whose addresses may have changed, as well as to identify any voters who may have voted in more than one state or jurisdiction.

The SOS, in collaboration with other states, is currently conducting a thorough review of voters who may have voted in more than one state or jurisdiction as well as voters that have been identified through the cross-state program as deceased. This extensive review includes the sharing of information such as voter identification verification and voter participation records.

Though this collaborative work is still in progress with other states or jurisdictions, the SOS is actively engaged in a review of 509 voter records in which the voter may have cast a vote in the 2020 November General Election in more than one state or jurisdiction. Initially, the work involves the elimination of any records that were erroneously matched due to missing or incomplete data and/or data entry errors to clearly identify remaining records that warrant further investigation. The continued review of the remaining records is expected to be completed in January 2022, contingent upon timely information sharing from other ERIC member states in which cross-state duplicate votes may have been cast. Upon completion of the review process, all records indicating potential illegal voter registration and/or voter participation across more than one state or jurisdiction will be referred to the OAG for further investigation. Below is a breakdown of the information specific to the counties included in this audit review.²

County	Number of Potential Cross-State Voters Under Review
Collin	9
Dallas	12
Harris	27
Tarrant	12

² These figures are current as of December 29, 2021.

Deceased Voters

Additionally, the SOS has completed an initial review of 236 potentially deceased voters who were recorded as having voted in the 2020 November General Election. Like the cross-state review process, the initial work involves the elimination of any records that were erroneously matched due to missing or incomplete data and/or data entry errors to clearly identify remaining records that warrant further investigation. Of the 236 potential deceased voters included on the initial review list, 169 have been eliminated as erroneous matches. The investigation of the remaining 67 records is ongoing and is expected to be completed in January 2022. Below is a breakdown of the information specific to the counties included in this audit review.³

County	Number of Potentially Deceased Voters Under Review
Collin	3
Dallas	9
Harris	4
Tarrant	1

³ These figures are current as of December 29, 2021.

From: [Laura Varela](#)
To: [Christina Adkins](#)
Cc: [Nicholas Solorzano](#); [Michael Scarpello](#)
Subject: RE: [External Sender]Letter from Secretary Scott
Date: Wednesday, December 22, 2021 2:22:33 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
Importance: High
Sensitivity: Personal

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Hi Christina,

Last night Michael send documentation in response to the correspondence from Secretary Scott. There were two files that were too big to email. On a separate email from Serv-U you will be able to retrieve and download those documents. The following is your password to access the files:

██████████

Let me know if you have any additional questions.

Best,

Laura Varela
Alternate Language Coordinator
Dallas County Elections Department
1520 Round Table Drive
Dallas, TX 75247
214-819-6009

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From: Michael Scarpello <Michael.Scarpello@dallascounty.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 22, 2021 1:58 PM
To: Laura Varela <Laura.Varela@dallascounty.org>
Subject: FW: [External Sender]Letter from Secretary Scott

Sensitivity: Personal

Michael Scarpello

Dallas County Elections Administrator
1520 Round Table Drive
Dallas, TX 75247
(214) 819-6335

From: Michael Scarpello
Sent: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 6:54 PM
To: Christina Adkins <CAdkins@sos.texas.gov>
Subject: RE: [External Sender]Letter from Secretary Scott
Sensitivity: Personal

Christina, please see the attached documents in response to the correspondence from Secretary Scott.

Michael Scarpello

Dallas County Elections Administrator
1520 Round Table Drive
Dallas, TX 75247
(214) 819-6335

From: Christina Adkins <CAdkins@sos.texas.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 10, 2021 4:32 PM
To: Collin - Bruce Sherbet (bsherbet@co.collin.tx.us) <bsherbet@co.collin.tx.us>; Michael Scarpello <Michael.Scarpello@dallascounty.org>; Heider I. Garcia <HIGarcia@tarrantcounty.com>; Harris - Isabel Longoria (Isabel.Longoria@vote.hctx.net) <Isabel.Longoria@vote.hctx.net>
Subject: [External Sender]Letter from Secretary Scott
Sensitivity: Personal

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.

This message came from outside of Dallas County Government. Please be thoughtful before you click a link or provide your login information!

Disclaimer

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From: [Sam Taylor](#)
To: "Wiersema, Alisa"
Subject: RE: ABC News Question
Date: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 2:08:51 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi Alisa,

Thanks for reaching out – just to be clear, we asked that the county election officials provide us responses to the questions in the initial audit survey (the bolded, bulleted list included in the [cover letter of the document request](#)) by today. We expect at least two counties will be providing us the information requested for the initial survey by today's deadline, and look forward to hearing from all four counties so that our office can prepare for the on-site visits next year. The on-site visits will cover the remaining documents and records listed in the [comprehensive records examination portion of the request](#).

Hope this helps – and Merry Christmas to you and your family as well!

Best,

Sam Taylor

Assistant Secretary of State for Communications

Office of the Texas Secretary of State

smtaylor@sos.texas.gov

Office: 512-463-6116

Cell: 512-538-5293



From: Wiersema, Alisa <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 1:42 PM
To: Sam Taylor <SMTaylor@sos.texas.gov>
Subject: ABC News Question

CAUTION: This email originated from OUTSIDE of the SOS organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the email and know that the content is safe. If you believe this to be a malicious or phishing email, please send this email as an attachment to Informationsecurity@sos.texas.gov.

Good afternoon, Sam,

I hope you and yours are looking forward to a Merry Christmas in the coming days!

I want to follow up on whether all four counties that were required to turn over information for the next phase of the 2020 election audit had already done so, or whether the timeline was extended in any way?

Thank you for your help.

Best,
Alisa

Alisa Wiersema
ABC News | Politics Producer
O: [202.222.7039](tel:202.222.7039) | C: [202.812.7161](tel:202.812.7161)
[@alisawiersema](mailto:alisawiersema)

From: [Sam Taylor](#)
To: ["Wiersema, Alisa"](#)
Subject: RE: ABC News Question
Date: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 3:08:48 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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We expect and encourage Tarrant, Dallas and Harris counties to respond to the survey in a timely manner.

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Assistant Secretary of State for Communications

Office of the Texas Secretary of State

smtaylor@sos.texas.gov

Office: 512-463-6116

Cell: 512-538-5293



From: Wiersema, Alisa <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 2:17 PM
To: Sam Taylor <SMTaylor@sos.texas.gov>
Subject: Re: ABC News Question

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Alisa Wiersema
ABC News | Politics Producer
O: 202.222.7039 | C: 202.812.7161
@alisawiersema

From: Sam Taylor <SMTaylor@sos.texas.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 3:08 PM
To: Wiersema, Alisa [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: ABC News Question

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ABC News | Politics Producer
O: 202.222.7039 | C: 202.812.7161
@alisawiersema

From: [Sam Taylor](#)
To: [Wiersema, Alisa](#)
Subject: Re: ABC News Question
Date: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 4:26:40 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

No problem — yes that was me!

Also another update: Tarrant County has also responded to our audit survey. That leaves Dallas and Harris that still need to respond, as of 4:30pm CT this afternoon.

Best,

-Sam

From: Wiersema, Alisa [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 3:49:26 PM
To: Sam Taylor <SMTaylor@sos.texas.gov>
Subject: Re: ABC News Question

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Thank you, Sam.

And apologies if I missed you-- I was in a meeting and saw a missed call from an Austin area code afterwards.

I'm sure we will be in touch more. In the meantime, enjoy the holiday season!

Alisa Wiersema
ABC News | Politics Producer
O: 202.222.7039 | C: 202.812.7161
[@alisawiersema](mailto:alisawiersema)

From: Sam Taylor <SMTaylor@sos.texas.gov>
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To: Wiersema, Alisa [REDACTED] >
Subject: RE: ABC News Question

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@alisawiersema

From: Sam Taylor <SMTaylor@sos.texas.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 3:08 PM

To: Wiersema, Alisa <[REDACTED]>

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Alisa

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O: 202.222.7039 | C: 202.812.7161
@alisawiersema

From: [Sam Taylor](#)
To: [Wiersema, Alisa](#)
Subject: Re: ABC News Question
Date: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 7:35:30 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Additional update: Dallas County has also responded to our audit survey request. That leaves Harris County which has yet to respond as of 7:15 pm Today.

Best,

-Sam

From: Sam Taylor <SMTaylor@sos.texas.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 4:26:38 PM
To: Wiersema, Alisa <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: ABC News Question

No problem — yes that was me!

Also another update: Tarrant County has also responded to our audit survey. That leaves Dallas and Harris that still need to respond, as of 4:30pm CT this afternoon.

Best,

-Sam

From: Wiersema, Alisa <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 3:49:26 PM
To: Sam Taylor <SMTaylor@sos.texas.gov>
Subject: Re: ABC News Question

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Thank you, Sam.

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Alisa Wiersema
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O: 202.222.7039 | C: 202.812.7161
@alisawiersema

From: Sam Taylor <SMTaylor@sos.texas.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 4:08 PM

To: Wiersema, Alisa [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: ABC News Question

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Office of the Texas Secretary of State

smtaylor@sos.texas.gov

Office: 512-463-6116

Cell: 512-538-5293



From: Wiersema, Alisa [REDACTED] >

Sent: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 2:17 PM

To: Sam Taylor <SMTaylor@sos.texas.gov>

Subject: Re: ABC News Question

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Sent: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 1:42 PM
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Subject: ABC News Question

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O: 202.222.7039 | C: 202.812.7161
@alisawiersema

From: [Sam Taylor](#)
To: [Wiersema, Alisa](#)
Subject: Re: ABC News Question
Date: Wednesday, December 22, 2021 8:02:26 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Harris County responded by 10:00 p.m. last night. All 4 counties are in.

Best,

-Sam

From: Wiersema, Alisa <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 8:27:55 PM
To: Sam Taylor <SMTaylor@sos.texas.gov>
Subject: Re: ABC News Question

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Got it, thank you!

Alisa Wiersema
ABC News | Politics Producer
O: 202.222.7039 | C: 202.812.7161
[@alisawiersema](#)

From: Sam Taylor <SMTaylor@sos.texas.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 8:35:28 PM
To: Wiersema, Alisa <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: ABC News Question

Additional update: Dallas County has also responded to our audit survey request. That leaves Harris County which has yet to respond as of 7:15 pm Today.

Best,

-Sam

From: Sam Taylor <SMTaylor@sos.texas.gov>
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To: Wiersema, Alisa <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: ABC News Question

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To: Sam Taylor <SMTaylor@sos.texas.gov>
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[portion of the request.](#)

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ABC News | Politics Producer

O: 202.222.7039 | C: 202.812.7161

@alisawiersema

From: [Sam Taylor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Audit
Date: Thursday, December 30, 2021 5:19:48 PM
Attachments: [Initial Audit Survey Responses 12.21.21.pdf](#)

Yes I will! Here you go – attached here are the four counties’ responses.

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, December 30, 2021 3:32 PM
To: Sam Taylor <SMTaylor@sos.texas.gov>
Subject: Audit

CAUTION: This email originated from OUTSIDE of the SOS organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the email and know that the content is safe. If you believe this to be a malicious or phishing email, please send this email as an attachment to informationsecurity@sos.texas.gov.

Hi Sam,

Can you send me the responses from the election administrators for the Dec. 21 survey?

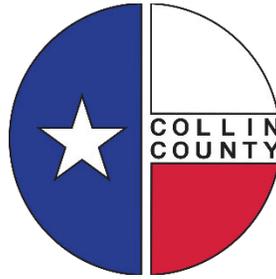
Also, will you be in tomorrow morning? I’ve got a couple of follow up questions.

I truly appreciate the time you’ve given me already.

Darlene McCormick Sanchez

214-578-9477

Bruce Sherbet
Elections Administrator



2010 Redbud Blvd. Ste 102
McKinney, Texas 75069
972-547-1990 / 800-687-8546
972-424-1460 Ext 1990 Metro
Fax 972-547-1914

December 21, 2021

John B. Scott
Secretary of State
State of Texas
P.O. Box 12060
Austin, TX 78711-2060

RE: Initial Audit Survey

Dear Secretary Scott,

Thank you so much for reaching out to our office, and also for your kind words in regards to the transparency in the election process that we strive for here in Collin County. With every passing election we become more efficient and adept in what we are asked to do as an election department in the great State of Texas. It is our hope that through this audit process our hard work and dedication to transparency is evident in the findings and documentation that we are able to provide to you.

As requested in your previous letter (dated December 10, 2021), the following are the responses of the Collin County Election Department to the initial audit survey that was contained within said letter. We hope that the information provided below helps guide you into Phase 2 of this audit. The following are our responses:

- **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.**

We had no locations that had a 1% discrepancy 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**

We had no voting sites that were closed or added due to an emergency during the November 2020 General and Special Election.

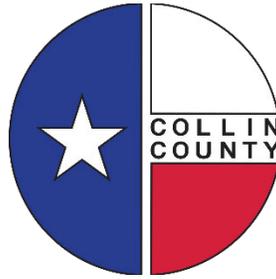
- **Any known procedural or chain of custody defects**

Looking back on the November 2020 General and Special Election we can acknowledge some defects in our chain of custody process that was in play then. It is important to note that we are constantly enhancing our processes to become more efficient each election. An area of deficiency that we noticed from the November 2020 election was the tracking of full ballot boxes as they moved from a polling location to our office. We were able to indicate what location a full ballot box came from, however, there was some uncertainty about what specific tabulator the box was in at the location. Some of our larger locations had multiple DS200s, adding a level of difficulty in tracking this information. We have since changed how we track each piece of equipment that we have at each location by adding serialized barcodes to all hardware devices. These barcodes were also added to location tabulator USB/media sticks, which we noticed was another deficiency in our process. We now know specifically what USB/media stick went into each device pre-delivery and tabulation instead of the backend of the process. These changes have enhanced our security and chain of custody moving forward.

- **Any other issues discovered that you would like to disclose now that may be relevant to our audit process**

There are no other issues that we have discovered that may be relevant to the Secretary of State's audit process.

Bruce Sherbet
Elections Administrator



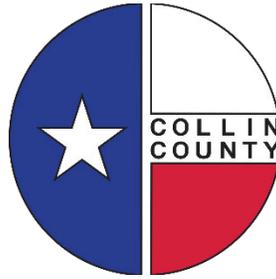
2010 Redbud Blvd. Ste 102
McKinney, Texas 75069
972-547-1990 / 800-687-8546
972-424-1460 Ext 1990 Metro
Fax 972-547-1914

- **A list of complaints received and resolved, with a description of any known investigative steps or known resolution.**

Below is a list of complaints received by the Collin County Election Department during the November 2020 General and Special Elections. For more detailed information regarding these complaints, please refer to the attached PDF titled "November 2020 General and Special Election Complaints – Compiled", which is document containing the scanned images of these complaints, including some of the resolutions of the complaints.

- **BBM Complaints**
 - Dr. Elvira White-Lewis
 - Joseph Michael Phillips
 - Kennedy Pickering
 - Michael and Marsha Santarcangelo
 - Nate Fox
 - Rita and Carl Fischer
- Curbside Voting Complaint – David Spangler
- Election Complaint Filed with SOS - Alemtsehay Bayyan
- J. Springfield Response to B. Brown RE Alleged Voter Fraud-10-14-21
- Notice of Outcome to Provisional Voter-Brianna Jones
- Polling Place Complaints
 - McKinney Fire Station #5
 - Parr Library
 - Patrick Dalrymple
 - Richardson Office Complex
- Polling Place Procedure Complaint - Joy Bergmann
- Rejected Provisional-Ramiro Edgar Ojeda Garcia
- State of Texas vs. Fred Lusk - 11-3-20
- Voter Registration Complaint - Judy Cote
- Voting Concerns - Scot Bontrager
- Voting Machine Complaint - Joanne Summit
- Election results and voting equipment certification question
- **A detailed accounting of the following:**
 - **Total Early Voting Ballots by Mail Requested**
 - 43,931 Early Voting Mail Ballots requested
 - **Total Early Voting Ballots by Mail Sent out**
 - 43,814 Early Voting Mail Ballots sent out
 - **Total Early Voting Ballots requested by FPCA**
 - 3,581 Early Voting Mail Ballots requested by FPCA
 - **Breakdown of Early Voting Ballots by Mail accepted/rejected**
 - 35,650 Early Voting Mail Ballots accepted
 - 27 Early Voting Mail Ballots rejected
 - **Total number of mail ballot voters that cancelled their mail ballot without surrendering the mailed ballot and voted in person**
 - 2,393 voters did not surrender their mail ballots and voted in person during Early Voting
 - 81 voters did not surrender their mail ballots and voted in person on Election Day
 - A total of 2,474 voters did not surrender their mail ballots and voted in person during the November 2020 General and Special Election

Bruce Sherbet
Elections Administrator



2010 Redbud Blvd. Ste 102
McKinney, Texas 75069
972-547-1990 / 800-687-8546
972-424-1460 Ext 1990 Metro
Fax 972-547-1914

- **Total number of mail ballot voters that surrendered their mail ballot and voted in person**
 - 4,764 mail ballot voters surrendered their mail ballot and voted in person during Early Voting
 - 68 mail ballot voters surrendered their mail ballot and voted in person on Election Day
 - A total of 4,832 mail ballot voters surrendered their mail ballot and voted in person during the November 2020 General and Special Election

- **A detailed accounting of the following:**
 - **Total Number of Provisional Votes Cast**
 - 4,162 Provisional Ballots were cast during Early Voting
 - 2,087 Provisional Ballots were cast on Election Day
 - A total of 6,249 Provisional Ballots were cast during the November 2020 General and Special Election
 - **A list of Provisional Voters by reason for voting provisionally**
 - A list and Provisional Ballot voters report in PDF and Excel formats titled “20201103_Provisional Ballot Tracking” have been included with this letter. Please review this document for more information.
 - **Total Number of Provisional Votes cast for voters lacking ID**
 - 10 Provisional Ballots cast for voters lacking ID during Early Voting
 - 10 Provisional Ballots cast for voters lacking ID on Election Day
 - A total of 20 Provisional Ballots cast for voters lacking ID during the November 2020 General and Special Election
 - **Total number of Provisional Voted Accepted/Rejected**
 - 2,725 Provisional Ballots cast during Early Voting were accepted
 - 1,437 Provisional Ballots cast during Early Voting were rejected
 - 225 Provisional Ballots cast on Election Day were accepted
 - 1,862 Provisional Ballots cast on Election Day were rejected
 - A total of 2,950 Provisional Ballots cast during the November 2020 General and Special Election were accepted
 - A total of 3,299 Provisional Ballots cast during the November 2020 General and Special Election were rejected

- **List of entities that conducted recounts or had election contests**

There were no entities that conducted recounts or had election contests from the results of the November 2020 General and Special Election.

If you require any further explanation for any of the responses listed above, please feel to reach out to me or anyone in our office. We are happy to provide any assistance that we can as we all navigate our way through these difficult and trying times. We look forward to hearing from you and working with you all during this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Bruce Sherbet
Elections Administrator
Collin County Elections
(972) 547-1900

HEIDER GARCIA
Elections Administrator



TROY HAVARD
Assistant Elections Administrator

TARRANT COUNTY ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATION

December 21, 2021

Honorable John Scott
Texas Secretary of State
P.O. Box 12060
Austin, TX 78711-2060

Mr. Secretary,

I am in receipt of your letter dated December 10, 2021. I sincerely appreciate the work being done by your office to provide clarity and confidence to all Texas voters about the 2020 Election and, as we have said from the day the audit was announced, Tarrant County stands ready to assist your office in the process. I am 100% confident that the outcome will show, once again, what has been clear from the beginning: that Texas has safe and secure elections, and that the 2020 Presidential Election was not an exception.

The list below is our response to the information you requested us to provide in writing by today:

- *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.*

Official results are not generated per location, but rather per election precinct as required in Chapter 67 of the Texas Election Code. To produce the numbers per location as requested, we have turned to other documentation we use to check on the progress of the election activities.

During Early Voting, Lead Clerks are required to call in to our office and report, at the end of every day, the number of voters checked into the electronic poll book and the number of ballots cast in the ballot scanner. While the number of voters checked in is accessible from our offices, the fact that the voting system is air-gapped leaves no choice but to obtain this information through a phone call. Using that daily phone report, we have verified that while there are minor discrepancies, all of them are below the 1% threshold you have inquired about.

For Election Day, we compared the number of voters who signed in on the electronic poll book to the numbers of ballots cast as reported by the ballot scanners on election night. As a regular practice, Tarrant County does a comparison of these two numbers on election night, which allows us to detect any potential problems and address them immediately, and we keep a record of what was done that night (we call it the Election-night audit). That report, however, **does not include the provisional ballots that are approved by the ballot board after election day**, hence there are minor variations that are not considered red flags. The table below summarizes the 16 sites (out of 323) that fall within the specified range:

eScan	Location	Key Pct.	ePoll Book Checked in A	Provisional Checked in B	Ballots in scanner C	EPB - Scanner (A - C) D	% of discrepancy (D / C)
122	Atwood McDonald Elementary School	1279	179	10	177	2	1.13%
165	Western Hills Church of Christ	4135	423	16	432	-9	-2.08%
210	St. Matthew's Lutheran Church	1022	117	9	112	5	4.46%
230	Carter Park Elementary School	1154	172	29	170	2	1.18%
281	Ruby Ray Swift Elementary School	2052	282	14	279	3	1.08%
297	Jones Academy	2281	153	38	147	6	4.08%
32	Pantego Town Hall Council Chambers	2112	170	7	166	4	2.41%
40	Edify Community Fellowship Church	2229	158	2	155	3	1.94%
405	St. Martin in-the-Fields Episcopal	3626	315	9	307	8	2.61%
423	Independence Elementary School	3486	247	38	244	3	1.23%
516	Benbrook YMCA	1208	339	33	335	4	1.19%
519	Crouch Event Center at Bicentennial	1717	669	44	662	7	1.06%
555	Northeast Courthouse	3196	457	30	450	7	1.56%
583	R. L. Paschal High School	1108	336	33	340	-4	-1.18%
96	Van Zandt-Guinn Elementary School	1005	63	3	62	1	1.61%
97	Versia L. Williams Elementary	1008	59	5	60	-1	-1.67%

Table 1 - Election Day sites that have a 1% or greater discrepancy between the number of voters checked in the number of ballots cast

- *Whether any voting sites were closed or added due to an emergency or other necessity*

The list below are the Early Voting locations that had to be closed due to COVID-19 cases:

- Monday 10/12: Keller Town Hall, Villages of Woodland Springs and Euless Family Life Senior Center had staff affected by a COVID-19 case in a training class. The Keller Town Hall and Villages of Woodland Springs locations opened by 9:00 a.m., and the Euless location opened by 10:00 a.m.
- Friday 10/22: The Lead Clerk for the Brookside Community Center tested positive for COVID-19 and the site had to close for the day.
- Monday 10/26: JPS Como closed for the day due to a poll worker testing positive for COVID-19.

There were no Election Day polling locations closed.

- *Any known procedural or chain of custody defects*

There are no known procedural or chain of custody issues to report.

- *Any other issues discovered that you would like to disclose now that may be relevant to our audit process*

There are no known issues to report.

- *A list of complaints received and resolved, with a description of any known investigative steps or known resolution.*

Complaints received from voters are handled via emails. These emails are over a year old, and as such have been archived by our IT Department. We are in the process of retrieving and sorting them, so that they are available in January when the audit team arrives on site. I apologize for not having them attached to this response, but on such short notice, and so close to the holidays, it was just not possible to complete this request.

- *A detailed accounting of the following:*

- *Total Early Voting Ballots by Mail Requested: 89,305.*

- *Total Early Voting Ballots by Mail Sent out:* 89,305.
- *Total Early Voting Ballots requested by FPCA:* 4,983.
- *Breakdown of Early Voting Ballots by Mail accepted/rejected:* 65,995 accepted/311 rejected.
- *Total number of mail ballot voters that cancelled their mail ballot without surrendering the mailed ballot and voted in person:* 11,735 voters cancelled an absentee ballot and voted in person. The system does not record whether the voter surrendered the ballot or not.
- *Total number of mail ballot voters that surrendered their mail ballot and voted in person:* 11,735 voters cancelled an absentee ballot and voted in person. The system does not record whether the voter surrendered the ballot or not.
- *A detailed accounting of the following:*
 - *Total Number of Provisional Votes Cast:* 10,845.
 - *A list of Provisional Voters by reason for voting provisionally:* Please refer to the report attached "1120 Provisionals".
 - *Total Number of Provisional Votes cast for voters lacking ID:* 96.
 - *Total number of Provisional Voted Accepted/Rejected:*
 - *Accepted:* 4,385.
 - *Rejected:* 6,460.
- *List of entities that conducted recounts or had election contests*

There were no recounts or election contests requested.

Please note Tarrant County is currently engaged in litigation which may impact the ability of the Tarrant County Elections Administration to retrieve some of the data sought by the Secretary of State's Office. Specifically, an individual sought and received a Temporary Restraining Order and then an Agreed Temporary Injunction which has led to the powering down and secure storage of various servers and hard drives used in the November 2020 election. This lawsuit seeks to allow the plaintiff to access some data and information on these devices pursuant to the Texas Public Information Act. Should the Secretary of State wish to consider having Tarrant County approach the District Court with jurisdiction over the information to seek permission to access the information to aid your audit, please contact us so that we may explore that possibility.

Finally, the Tarrant County Elections Administration will assist the Secretary of State in procuring a secure space for the performance of this audit in January 2022. However, because the Elections Administration will be in the midst of preparing for the March 2022 primary elections, it is highly likely such a work area for the Secretary of State would be in a building separate from the main Elections Administration office. The Elections Administration will also assist in finding a way to transport the data, documents, and other information sought by the Secretary of State to this secure location.

In closing, Mr. Secretary, I want to reiterate once again that we are here to assist your office and fully cooperate in this process. I know you and your staff will understand the need to balance out the workload of this project with the conduct of the Primary and Municipal elections happening in the first half of 2022. The successful completion of both projects will be our utmost priority for the new year.

Sincerely,



Heider Garcia
Elections Administrator



DALLAS COUNTY ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT

John B. Scott
Texas Secretary of State
P.O. Box 12887
Austin, TX 78711-2887

December 21, 2021

Dear Secretary Scott,

In response to your letter dated December 10th, 2021, please see the table below that provides information regarding the questions posed in your letter. The table also references attached files that contain the information requested.

Item numbers 5, 6A, and 6B are available, but could not be attached due to the size of the file. If you provide a method for us to electronically deliver this information, we will get it to you right away. We need to research Items #1 and #2 further and may follow up with further information at a later date.

Sincerely,

Michael Scarpello
Dallas County Elections Administrator

Item #	Requested	Available	Notes
1	Early Voting or Election Day polling locations with a discrepancy of 1% or more between the number of voters checked in to the number of votes cast	Undetermined	Further research is required to determine whether any responsive material is available.
2	Whether any voting sites were closed or added due to an emergency or other necessity	Yes, for Early Voting Sites – Attached (2_ListofVotingSites) Undetermined for Election Day Sites	Further research needed to find Election Day location information.
3	Any known procedural or chain of custody defects	Yes – Attached (3_MemoProvBallots)	
4	Any other issues discovered that you would like to disclose now that may be relevant to our audit process	No	

5	A list of complaints received and resolved, with a description of any known investigative steps or known resolution.	Yes – not attached – too large to send via email.	
6	<p>A detailed accounting of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Total Early Voting Ballots by Mail Requested B. Total Early Voting Ballots by Mail Sent out C. Total Early Voting Ballots requested by FPCA D. Breakdown of Early Voting Ballots by Mail accepted/rejected E. Total number of mail ballot voters that canceled their mail ballot without surrendering the mailed ballot and voted in person F. Total number of mail ballot voters that surrendered their mail ballot and voted in person 	<p>Yes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Not attached – too large to send via email B. Not attached – too large to send via email File: 6C_2020GeneralJointBallotListFPCA C. File: 6D_2020EV_ABBM2020GeneralJoint D. File: 6EF_BallotsCancelledByVoter E. (same as above) 	
7	<p>A detailed accounting of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Total Number of Provisional Votes Cast B. List of Provisional Voters by reason for voting provisionally C. Total Number of Provisional Votes cast for voters lacking ID D. Total number of Provisional Voted Accepted/Rejected 	Yes – Attached (7_ProvisionalVoters2020Gen)	The attached file contains all information requested for A-D
8	List of entities that conducted recounts or had election contests	No	No entities conducted recounts or had election contests.



OFFICE OF ISABEL LONGORIA
ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR
HARRIS COUNTY ★ STATE OF TEXAS



December 21, 2021

John B. Scott
Texas Secretary of State
Elections Division
P.O. Box 12060
Austin, Texas 78711-2060

Dear Secretary Scott:

I write in response to your letter dated December 10, 2021, regarding “Phase 2 of the Full Forensic Audit,” in which you asked my office to compile a list of responses by December 21, and you provided an almost 8-page list of documents indicating you would like our office to “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.” That is an impossible timeline by which to complete the tasks requested.

Our office is in the process of preparing to hold six elections over the course of the next six months, four of which are countywide elections, some even ordered by the state legislature: a special election in January, the Primary elections in March, a likely runoff for the special election, the May 7 uniform election, the May 24 Primary election runoff and the election for Precinct Chairs, and the likely runoff for the May 7 uniform election. Every day from now until June 2022 there is either voting actively occurring or a critical deadline our office must complete for at least one of those six elections. Thus, it would be cumbersome and potentially irresponsible for us to divert staff and resources away from active elections to host an “audit” of a past, certified election.

Additionally, the extensive requirements of Senate Bill 1 will be in effect, for the first time, for the Republican and Democratic Primary Elections. Planning and executing the implementation of such a wide sweeping legislation is a massive undertaking and requires my staff’s full time and attention. Because your office has released little guidance on how to implement these important new provisions, we are left to sort through the logistics on our own in hopes that they meet the undisclosed SOS standards.

In short, taking hundreds of hours from staff time to pull documents listed in your prior letter instead of working toward implementation of SB1, nor preparing for the massive election calendar over the next six months, would be asking us to put the 2022 Primaries and compliance with Senate Bill 1 in jeopardy.

Since I was sworn into office on November 18, 2020, 15 days after the November 2020 Presidential Election concluded, the Elections Administrator's Office has endeavored to run elections fairly, equitably, accurately, and smoothly. That is why we are doing everything in our power to fully prepare for the upcoming 2022 elections for the sake of Harris County voters.

We attach responses to the questions in your December 10, 2021 letter. For the remainder of your requests, we await your call to discuss the time and resources it would take to go through the documents.

Sincerely,



Isabel Longoria
Harris County Elections Administrator

Attachments:

Attachment 1: Response to Texas SOS December 10 Initial Requests

Harris County Elections Administrator
Attachment 1: Response to Texas SOS December 10 Initial Requests

- 1. 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.**

Our office has gathered information and is in the process of comparing for any percentage discrepancies.

- 2. Whether any voting sites were closed or added due to an emergency or other necessity.**

Yes, three locations were closed for the remainder of a day due to weather-related issues.

- 3. Any known procedural or chain of custody defects.**

Procedural and Chain of Custody documents from the November 2020 Election have been maintained and are available for review to ascertain the existence and nature of any defects.

- 4. Any other issues discovered that you would like to disclose now that may be relevant to our audit process.**

Please see response to no. 3.

- 5. A list of complaints received and resolved, with a description of any known investigative steps or known resolution.**

Our office is in the process of gathering the ADA complaints from Nov 2020.

- 6. A detailed accounting of the following:**

- a. **Total Early Voting Ballots by Mail Requested** 194,566 (does not include FPCA or Emergency ballot applications)
- b. **Total Early Voting Ballots by Mail Sent out** 206,020
- c. **Total Early Voting Ballots requested by FPCA** 12,895
- d. **Breakdown of Early Voting Ballots by Mail accepted/rejected**
 - i. Total received: 180,007
 - ii. Accepted: 179,174
 - iii. Rejected: 224
 - iv. Late ballots: 609
- e. **Total number of mail ballot voters that cancelled their mail ballot without surrendering the mailed ballot and voted in person**

- i. Total number of mail ballot voters that cancelled their mail ballot without surrendering the mailed ballot and voted provisionally in person: 8,337
 - ii. Total number of mail ballot voters that cancelled their mail ballot without surrendering the mailed ballot and voted regularly in person: 57
- f. **Total number of mail ballot voters that surrendered their mail ballot and voted in person: 45,225**

7. A detailed accounting of the following:

- a. **Total Number of Provisional Votes Cast: 13,835**
- b. **A list of Provisional Voters by reason for voting provisionally:** A comprehensive list does not exist. While our office does not currently have the capacity to go through the nearly 14,000 provisional ballot affidavits from the November 2020 election, the provisional ballot affidavits and additional provisional ballot documentation are available for review and our office will provide them to you at a mutually agreed upon time.
- c. **Total Number of Provisional Votes cast for voters lacking ID: 8,528**
- d. **Total number of Provisional Voted Accepted/Rejected: 5,307**

8. List of entities that conducted recounts or had election contests:

Harris County MUD 24 conducted a recount of their November 2020 election.

From: Sam Taylor
Sent: Friday, November 19, 2021 5:21 PM
To: 'Garrett, Robert T.'
Subject: RE: could I see your statement?

Hi Bob,

The total \$4M figure is for hiring new staff, including their travel budgets for on-site visits to the four counties during the audit process, so it's not possible to parse out exactly how much will be used on the 2020 General Election Audit vs the additional four-county audits required under Rep. Slaton's amendment to SB 1 (the one requiring us to randomly choose two counties over 300,000 and two counties under 300,000 for audits going forward). In short, this overall figure is for costs to conduct both current and ongoing election audits required under law passed by the lege.

Here's our full statement:

"We thank Governor Abbott, Lieutenant Governor Patrick, Speaker Phelan, Senator Nelson and Representative Bonnen for approving critical funds to support the Texas Secretary of State's Forensic Audit Division. In order to complete our ongoing full forensic audit of the 2020 General Election and conduct subsequent audits as required by SB 1, our agency will be using these funds 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. These resources are essential for maintaining the integrity of Texas elections and identifying issues that must be fixed in order to restore voters' confidence in our state's election systems."

Best,

Sam Taylor

Assistant Secretary of State for Communications

Office of the Texas Secretary of State

smtaylor@sos.texas.gov

Office: 512-463-6116

Cell: 512-538-5293



From: Garrett, Robert T. <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, November 19, 2021 5:08 PM
To: Sam Taylor <SMTaylor@sos.texas.gov>
Subject: could I see your statement?

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Sam,

Did you say how much of the \$4M would be used for the 2020, four-county audit?

I see reference in Trib story (below).

Thanks,

Bob

--

Robert T. Garrett
[Austin Bureau Chief](#)
The Dallas Morning News
M: (512) 413-7793
O: (512) 370-3815

Know now.

The Dallas Morning News

In a statement later Friday, the secretary of state's office referenced both its 2020 audit and future audits required under the new state law, saying that the latest funds would be used for "additional staff to oversee audit activities," such as "verifying counties' removal of ineligible voters from the rolls ... and ensuring compliance with state and federal election laws."

From: [Sam Taylor](#)
To: "Daniel Friend"
Subject: RE: Election Audit Division Funding
Date: Friday, November 19, 2021 2:31:04 PM
Attachments: [Leadership Letter 11.19.21.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)
[Gov. Abbott Letter to Legislative Leadership 11.18.21.pdf](#)

Hi Daniel,

Yes – I've attached both letters here and you can attribute the following statement to me/the Texas Secretary of State's office:

“We thank Governor Abbott, Lieutenant Governor Patrick, Speaker Phelan, Senator Nelson and Representative Bonnen for approving critical funds to support the Texas Secretary of State’s Forensic Audit Division. In order to complete our ongoing full forensic audit of the 2020 General Election and conduct subsequent audits as required by SB 1, our agency will be using these funds 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. These resources are essential for maintaining the integrity of Texas elections and identifying issues that must be fixed in order to restore voters’ confidence in our state’s election systems.”

Best,

Sam Taylor

Assistant Secretary of State for Communications

Office of the Texas Secretary of State

smtaylor@sos.texas.gov

Office: 512-463-6116

Cell: 512-538-5293



From: Daniel Friend <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, November 19, 2021 1:28 PM
To: Sam Taylor <SMTaylor@sos.texas.gov>
Subject: Election Audit Division Funding

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Hi Sam,

Are you able to provide any additional background information and/or statement regarding Rep. Greg Bonnen's [announcement](#) that he signed approval of \$4 million of funding for forensic election audits?

Additionally, do you know if it would be possible to obtain copies of the letters sent regarding the subject between Gov. Abbott and lawmakers that was [reported](#) by the *Dallas Morning News*?

If you're able to respond this afternoon, that would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks,
Daniel

--

Daniel Friend
Reporter, [The Texan](#)
C: (918) 316-2703



LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD

Robert E. Johnson Bldg.
1501 N. Congress Ave. - 5th Floor
Austin, TX 78701

512/463-1200
Fax: 512/475-2902
<http://www.lbb.state.tx.us>

November 19, 2021

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of the State of Texas
Capitol Building
Room 2S.1
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Governor Abbott,

Pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 317.002, this budget execution order is proposed for the following action affecting items of appropriation made by Senate Bill No. 1, General Appropriations Act, Acts of the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, 2021.

There are not sufficient funds appropriated to the Secretary of State to ensure election integrity for the 2022-2023 state fiscal biennium and this insufficiency of funds creates an emergency. We therefore propose that:

From appropriations made to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice by Senate Bill No. 1, General Appropriations Act, Acts of the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, 2021, the amount of \$4,000,000 in General Revenue appropriated for fiscal year 2023 in Strategy C.1.1. Correctional Security Operations, shall be transferred to the Secretary of State for use during the 2022-2023 state fiscal biennium, for the purpose of ensuring election integrity.

Respectfully,

Handwritten signature of Dan Patrick in blue ink.

Dan Patrick
Lieutenant Governor
Joint Chair, Legislative Budget Board

Handwritten signature of Dade Phelan in black ink.

Dade Phelan
Speaker of the House
Joint Chair, Legislative Budget Board

Handwritten signature of Jane Nelson in black ink.

Jane Nelson
Chair, Senate Finance Committee

Handwritten signature of Greg Bonnen in black ink.

Greg Bonnen
Chair, House Appropriations Committee



LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD

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1501 N. Congress Ave. - 5th Floor
Austin, TX 78701

512/463-1200
Fax: 512/475-2902
<http://www.lbb.state.tx.us>

November 19, 2021

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of the State of Texas
Capitol Building
Room 2S.1
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Governor Abbott,

Pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 317.002, this budget execution order is proposed for the following action affecting items of appropriation made by Senate Bill No. 1, General Appropriations Act, Acts of the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, 2021.

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Respectfully,

Handwritten signature of Dan Patrick in blue ink.

Dan Patrick
Lieutenant Governor
Joint Chair, Legislative Budget Board

Handwritten signature of Dade Phelan in black ink.

Dade Phelan
Speaker of the House
Joint Chair, Legislative Budget Board

Handwritten signature of Jane Nelson in black ink.

Jane Nelson
Chair, Senate Finance Committee

Handwritten signature of Greg Bonnen in black ink.

Greg Bonnen
Chair, House Appropriations Committee

From: [Sam Taylor](#)
To: "[Windy Johnson](#)"
Subject: RE: Election Audit Funds
Date: Friday, November 19, 2021 5:33:35 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Hi Windy,

Please see our statement from this afternoon after the funding was announced:
<https://twitter.com/TXsecofstate/status/1461815486551887872/photo/1>

Happy to chat at a later time if you'd like to know additional details. Thanks, have a great weekend!

Best,

Sam Taylor

Assistant Secretary of State for Communications

Office of the Texas Secretary of State

smtaylor@sos.texas.gov

Office: 512-463-6116

Cell: 512-538-5293



From: Windy Johnson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, November 19, 2021 4:09 PM
To: Sam Taylor <SMTaylor@sos.texas.gov>
Subject: Election Audit Funds

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Good afternoon Sam,

Hope you are doing well. Can you please share how the additional funds will be used for election audits? I know my counties have a particular interest in how it will affect us. Thank you!

Windy Johnson
Program Manager
Texas Conference of Urban Counties

500 W 13th St. | Austin TX 78701
P: 512.476.6174 Cell: 512.731.3246
E: [REDACTED] | W: www.cuc.org



From: Sam Taylor
Sent: Friday, November 19, 2021 3:20 PM
To: 'Cassandra Pollock'
Subject: RE: Texas Tribune inquiry

Hi Cassi,

Yes – you can attribute the following statement to me/the Texas Secretary of State's office:

“We thank Governor Abbott, Lieutenant Governor Patrick, Speaker Phelan, Senator Nelson and Representative Bonnen for approving critical funds to support the Texas Secretary of State's Forensic Audit Division. In order to complete our ongoing full forensic audit of the 2020 General Election and conduct subsequent audits as required by SB 1, our agency will be using these funds 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. These resources are essential for maintaining the integrity of Texas elections and identifying issues that must be fixed in order to restore voters' confidence in our state's election systems.”

Best,

Sam Taylor

Assistant Secretary of State for Communications

Office of the Texas Secretary of State

smtaylor@sos.texas.gov

Office: 512-463-6116

Cell: 512-538-5293



From: Cassandra Pollock [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, November 19, 2021 3:18 PM
To: Sam Taylor <SMTaylor@sos.texas.gov>
Subject: Texas Tribune inquiry

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Hi Sam, it's Cassi with the Texas Tribune. Hope you're doing great.

Wanted to see if there was a statement from the SOS we could include about the emergency transfer of funds to the agency, announced this afternoon by Gov. Greg Abbott and other GOP leaders.

Please call anytime with questions: 972-358-8659.

Thanks,
Cassi

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 **THE TEXAS TRIBUNE**

Cassi Pollock
Reporter

919 Congress Avenue
Sixth Floor
Austin, TX 78701
www.texastribune.org

M (972) 358-8659
@cassi_pollock

From: laura.varela@dallascounty.org
To: [Christina Adkins](#)
Subject: Serv-U File Sharing Link [expires 1/4/2022 1:38:00 PM]
Date: Wednesday, December 22, 2021 2:22:33 PM

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You have received access to a Serv-U File Share from laura.varela@dallascounty.org. The link to transfer your file(s) will expire on Tuesday, January 4, 2022 1:38 PM.

[https://dcsftp.dallascounty.org/?ShareToken](https://dcsftp.dallascounty.org/?ShareToken=[REDACTED]) [REDACTED]

On behalf of Michael Scarpello and Dallas County. Enclosed, you will find a list of Dallas County Nov 2020 Complaints and the 2020 General/Joint All Types of Ballot by Mail List.

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From: [Texas Secretary of State Press Office](#)
To: [Sam Taylor](#)
Subject: Texas Secretary of State Issues Document Request for Phase 2 of Full Forensic Audit of 2020 Election in Collin, Dallas, Harris and Tarrant Counties
Date: Friday, December 10, 2021 4:50:02 PM

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Texas Secretary of State

John B. Scott

For Immediate Distribution
December 10, 2021

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

Texas Secretary of State Issues Document Request for Phase 2 of Full Forensic Audit of 2020 Election in Collin, Dallas, Harris and Tarrant Counties

AUSTIN — The Texas Secretary of State's office today issued an exhaustive document request of publicly available election materials from Collin, Dallas, Harris and Tarrant counties as part of the office's [Full Forensic Audit of the November 2020 General Election](#). The document request, which covers more election materials than any other election audit in the United States to date, includes all documents that county election officials are required to maintain for 22 months following each election under both federal and state law. In total, the full forensic audit of Collin, Dallas, Harris and Tarrant counties will cover approximately 35% of all votes cast in the November 2020 General Election in Texas.

"Texas is leading in election integrity. As we embark on Phase 2 of our agency's Full Forensic Audit of the 2020 Election, we want to ensure every single eligible Texas voter knows that ballots in Texas are being properly processed, tabulated, and reported by county election officials in accordance with state and federal law," Secretary John Scott said. "Where there are irregularities or issues discovered, our office will absolutely be fully transparent about our findings, and we have all of the resources we need at our disposal to do so. To the extent that systemic reforms to our election processes are needed, we will report those to the Texas Legislature. To the extent that any criminal activity may have occurred, we will refer any and all information to the Texas Attorney General's office for investigation."

A summary of findings of Phase 1 of the audit will be issued publicly by the end of December 2021.

[Read the full request issued to Collin, Dallas, Harris and Tarrant counties today.](#)

###

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 smtaylor@sos.texas.gov using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: Texas Secretary of State · 707 17th St, Suite 4000 · Denver, CO 80202

From: Sam Taylor
Sent: Friday, November 19, 2021 3:06 PM
To: 'Mankad, Raj'
Subject: RE: Op-Ed Submission: John B. Scott, Texas Secretary of State: Full Forensic Audit Will Restore Faith in Integrity of Texas Elections

Sensitivity: Personal

Hi Raj,

Just wanted to flag that the [legislature has approved \\$4M in additional funds for our agency to conduct the election audit](#), both for the 2020 General Election and for election audits as required under SB 1. This makes the piece all the more timely for Sunday's opinion section. Let me know if any additional changes are needed or if there's additional feedback from your editorial team.

Best,

Sam Taylor

Assistant Secretary of State for Communications

Office of the Texas Secretary of State

smtaylor@sos.texas.gov

Office: 512-463-6116

Cell: 512-538-5293



From: Sam Taylor <SMTaylor@sos.texas.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 19, 2021 11:34 AM
To: 'Mankad, Raj' <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: Op-Ed Submission: John B. Scott, Texas Secretary of State: Full Forensic Audit Will Restore Faith in Integrity of Texas Elections
Sensitivity: Personal

Hi Raj,

That's exactly the type of claim that our audit will investigate and, if not true, debunk and, if true, provide a full detailed report of what happened. We haven't been given access to the documents yet. And, as HC has reported, the [Harris County Commissioners court has openly opposed complying with the audit or our request for documents](#), so we're weighing our options on how to obtain these documents in order to verify/debunk this claim in our audit findings.

To be fair, can we characterize it as a claim? Such as:

[“We will work to investigate claims of irregularities in Harris County, such as the allegation that the county initially reported 1,884 more votes than voters who checked in across several drive-thru locations during the 2020 General Election.”](#)

Let me know if that works better. Don't want to get ahead of our audit findings and provide a possible explanation or theory of how that number came to be, because we haven't been provided the documents yet, which include the sign-in sheets for those drive-thru voting locations in Harris County.

Best,

Sam Taylor

Assistant Secretary of State for Communications

Office of the Texas Secretary of State

smtaylor@sos.texas.gov

Office: 512-463-6116

Cell: 512-538-5293



From: Mankad, Raj <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, November 19, 2021 11:22 AM
To: Sam Taylor <SMTaylor@sos.texas.gov>
Subject: RE: Op-Ed Submission: John B. Scott, Texas Secretary of State: Full Forensic Audit Will Restore Faith in Integrity of Texas Elections
Sensitivity: Personal

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Hello Sam,

I'm still expecting one more editor to read the piece.

I do have one concern with the added claim on Harris County: "We will work to determine why, for example, Harris County recorded 1,884 more votes than voters who checked in across several drive-thru locations during the 2020 General Election."

The only source for that 1,884 number is Bettencourt. The Chronicle article that notes that claim from Bettencourt doesn't provide any detail. I would either like to cut that sentence or for the secretary of state's office to provide some explanation of how that number came to be. Are there official tallies that you can point me to that show that discrepancy?

Best wishes,
Raj

From: Sam Taylor <SMTaylor@sos.texas.gov>

Sent: Friday, November 19, 2021 11:07 AM

To: Mankad, Raj <[REDACTED]>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Op-Ed Submission: John B. Scott, Texas Secretary of State: Full Forensic Audit Will Restore Faith in Integrity of Texas Elections

Sensitivity: Personal

Morning Raj,

Just wanted to check back in to see if there were any additional edits on the Secretary's op-ed that we need to review. As long as they are not too substantive, we can probably sign off very quickly. Let me know and I'll make sure to give them a look today. Thanks!

Best,

Sam Taylor

Assistant Secretary of State for Communications

Office of the Texas Secretary of State

smtaylor@sos.texas.gov

Office: 512-463-6116

Cell: 512-538-5293



From: Sam Taylor <SMTaylor@sos.texas.gov>

Sent: Thursday, November 18, 2021 9:13 AM

To: 'Mankad, Raj' <[REDACTED]>

Subject: RE: Op-Ed Submission: John B. Scott, Texas Secretary of State: Full Forensic Audit Will Restore Faith in Integrity of Texas Elections

Sensitivity: Personal

Sure, no problem! Let me know when you have additional changes to review and we'll be happy to sign off when ready. Thank you for your time!

Best,

Sam Taylor

Assistant Secretary of State for Communications

Office of the Texas Secretary of State

smtaylor@sos.texas.gov

Office: 512-463-6116

Cell: 512-538-5293



From: Mankad, Raj <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, November 18, 2021 9:11 AM
To: Sam Taylor <SMTaylor@sos.texas.gov>
Subject: RE: Op-Ed Submission: John B. Scott, Texas Secretary of State: Full Forensic Audit Will Restore Faith in Integrity of Texas Elections
Sensitivity: Personal

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Hello Sam,

I think it's a stronger piece with the changes. I'm planning on publishing it Sunday. I will likely have some additional edits for you to review, hopefully before the end of the day.

Thanks for your patience and persistence as well. We're pulled in a lot of directions and I wish I could get back to everyone more efficiently.

Best wishes,
Raj

Raj Mankad
Op-Ed Editor
Houston Chronicle

From: Sam Taylor <SMTaylor@sos.texas.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 17, 2021 4:04 PM
To: Mankad, Raj <[REDACTED]>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Op-Ed Submission: John B. Scott, Texas Secretary of State: Full Forensic Audit Will Restore Faith in Integrity of Texas Elections
Sensitivity: Personal

Afternoon Raj,

Let me know if y'all are interested in publishing the updated version of the piece (attached here). This is still being offered as an exclusive to the Chronicle if you choose to publish it. Thanks again for your time, feedback, and consideration.

Best,

Sam Taylor
Assistant Secretary of State for Communications
Office of the Texas Secretary of State
smtaylor@sos.texas.gov
Office: 512-463-6116
Cell: 512-538-5293



From: Sam Taylor <SMTaylor@sos.texas.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 17, 2021 11:22 AM
To: 'Mankad, Raj' <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: Op-Ed Submission: John B. Scott, Texas Secretary of State: Full Forensic Audit Will Restore Faith in Integrity of Texas Elections
Sensitivity: Personal

Thank you for the feedback, Raj. Attached, please find an updated version of the piece addressing your comments.

To answer your first question, the theme of the piece is restoring confidence among a voting public that has voiced diminished faith in our election systems. Nevertheless, we added a notable example in Harris county that specifically involves a discrepancy in the number of votes cast vs. the number of voters who checked in at drive-thru locations in Harris County in 2020. This is an example of the type of irregularity that, while maybe not nefarious in nature, does diminish voters' confidence in the integrity of elections if it is not resolved and explained by an objective third party – which is the role our agency is taking on through this election audit.

To your second question about 'why these four counties?' – as noted in the updated piece, these are the two largest counties with Democratic and Republican Commissioners Courts, who oversee the elections offices in each county. It is only fair that we examine the two largest Democratic and two largest Republican counties, rather than choosing the four largest counties by population, which would undoubtedly be panned as a partisan 'witch hunt' against Democratic-leaning counties only. If you'd like that clarified more in the piece, we're happy to make adjustments as needed.

Thanks again for your time to carefully review and consider the piece, and please let me know ASAP if you'd like to publish the attached version.

Best,

Sam Taylor

Assistant Secretary of State for Communications

Office of the Texas Secretary of State

smtaylor@sos.texas.gov

Office: 512-463-6116

Cell: 512-538-5293



From: Mankad, Raj <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, November 17, 2021 9:15 AM
To: Sam Taylor <SMTaylor@sos.texas.gov>
Subject: RE: Op-Ed Submission: John B. Scott, Texas Secretary of State: Full Forensic Audit Will Restore Faith in Integrity of Texas Elections
Sensitivity: Personal

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Hello Sam,

I'm open to publishing this piece but there are a couple of counter arguments that I'd like the op-ed to anticipate.

One is that there haven't been specific allegations of irregularities in Texas. The Texas AG devoted considerable resources to look for fraud and found almost nothing, and nothing that would impact the integrity of the elections. Why should there be an audit here? The previous secretary of state said that the election in Texas was secure.

And why just those four counties? I think our readers will be quick to point out that the one example of an election-changing irregularity cited in the piece took place in a county that's not being audited.

Best wishes,
Raj

Raj Mankad
Op-Ed Editor
Houston Chronicle

From: Sam Taylor <SMTaylor@sos.texas.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 10:05 AM
To: Mankad, Raj <[REDACTED]>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Op-Ed Submission: John B. Scott, Texas Secretary of State: Full Forensic Audit Will Restore Faith in Integrity of Texas Elections
Sensitivity: Personal

Hi Raj,

Just checking back in on this submission. Feel free to give me a call on my direct line if any questions – 512-463-6116.

Best,

Sam Taylor
Assistant Secretary of State for Communications
Office of the Texas Secretary of State
smtaylor@sos.texas.gov
Office: 512-463-6116
Cell: 512-538-5293



From: Sam Taylor
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 3:12 PM
To: 'Mankad, Raj' <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: Op-Ed Submission: John B. Scott, Texas Secretary of State: Full Forensic Audit Will Restore Faith in Integrity of Texas Elections
Sensitivity: Personal

Got it – let me know if any questions in the meantime. Thanks!

Best,

-Sam

From: Mankad, Raj <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 2:58 PM
To: Sam Taylor <SMTaylor@sos.texas.gov>
Subject: RE: Op-Ed Submission: John B. Scott, Texas Secretary of State: Full Forensic Audit Will Restore Faith in Integrity of Texas Elections
Sensitivity: Personal

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Hello Sam,

I need a little more time to finish reviewing it.

Best wishes,
Raj

From: Sam Taylor <SMTaylor@sos.texas.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 12:10 PM
To: Mankad, Raj <[REDACTED]>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Op-Ed Submission: John B. Scott, Texas Secretary of State: Full Forensic Audit Will Restore Faith in Integrity of Texas Elections
Sensitivity: Personal

Hi Raj,

Circling back on the Secretary's op-ed submission. Have you/your team had an opportunity to review it yet? Let me know, thank you!

Best,

Sam Taylor
Texas Secretary of State's office
512-463-6116

From: Mankad, Raj <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, November 12, 2021 9:01 AM
To: Sam Taylor
Subject: RE: Op-Ed Submission: John B. Scott, Texas Secretary of State: Full Forensic Audit Will Restore Faith in Integrity of Texas Elections

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Good morning,

I've received the op-ed and will be back in touch early next week.

Best wishes,
Raj

Raj Mankad
Op-Ed Editor
Houston Chronicle

From: Sam Taylor <SMTaylor@sos.texas.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 12, 2021 8:45 AM
To: Mankad, Raj <[REDACTED]>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Op-Ed Submission: John B. Scott, Texas Secretary of State: Full Forensic Audit Will Restore Faith in Integrity of Texas Elections
Sensitivity: Personal

Good Morning Raj,

Passing this along to you because I received an out-of-office reply from Lisa.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

Sam Taylor
Assistant Secretary of State for Communications
Office of the Texas Secretary of State

smtaylor@sos.texas.gov

Office: 512-463-6116

Cell: 512-538-5293



From: Sam Taylor <SMTaylor@sos.texas.gov>

Sent: Friday, November 12, 2021 8:42 AM

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Op-Ed Submission: John B. Scott, Texas Secretary of State: Full Forensic Audit Will Restore Faith in Integrity of Texas Elections

Sensitivity: Personal

Good Morning,

On behalf of Texas Secretary of State John B. Scott, I am submitting the attached op-ed on our agency's full forensic audit of the 2020 Election. In the op-ed, Secretary Scott makes clear that the purpose of the audit is to restore voters' confidence in the integrity of our election system – which has been brought into question by critics on both sides of the political aisle since 2016. Contrary to narratives [published in the Chronicle](#) and elsewhere that Secretary Scott's previous representation of former President Trump disqualifies him to run an independent and objective audit, the piece makes clear that our agency approaches this election audit with no preconceived notions regarding what the results and conclusions will be. Secretary Scott's legal career has been defined by following the evidence and the facts, which is exactly what the Texas Secretary of State's office is doing in undertaking the full forensic election audit in Harris, Dallas, Tarrant and Collin counties.

We'd like to submit this piece **exclusively** to the Houston Chronicle for publication. Please let me know if you are interested in publishing this piece early next week, as I understand we may have missed the deadline for a Sunday opinion publication.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Best,

Sam Taylor

Assistant Secretary of State for Communications

Office of the Texas Secretary of State

smtaylor@sos.texas.gov

Office: 512-463-6116

Cell: 512-538-5293

