

Subject: RE: Public Information Request (TX-SOS-22-0147) PIR 22-0217
Date: Thursday, July 28, 2022 at 4:32:19 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: GeneralCounsel
To: AO Records
CC: GeneralCounsel
Attachments: 7.28.22 Documents.zip

EXTERNAL SENDER

Good afternoon,

Consistent with our July 7 email, please see the attached documents responsive to Item 2 of your February 9 Request.

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 continue providing you responsive information on a rolling basis—to the extent such information is not excepted from disclosure under state or federal law—with our next production by 5:00 p.m. on August 25, 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: Thursday, July 7, 2022 4:26 PM
To: 'AO Records' <records@americanoversight.org>
Cc: GeneralCounsel <GeneralCounsel@sos.texas.gov>
Subject: RE: Public Information Request (TX-SOS-22-0147) PIR 22-0217

Good afternoon,

As a follow-up to our June 9, 2022 email, we are continuing to review our records in accordance with the Public Information Act. To that end, we require more time to produce additional responsive documents. We will continue providing you responsive information on a rolling basis—to the extent such information is not excepted from disclosure under state or federal law—with our next production by 5:00 p.m. on July 28, 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: Thursday, June 9, 2022 4:40 PM
To: 'AO Records' <records@americanoversight.org>
Cc: GeneralCounsel <GeneralCounsel@sos.texas.gov>
Subject: RE: Public Information Request (TX-SOS-22-0147) PIR 22-0217

Good afternoon,

Consistent with our May 26 email, please see the attached documents responsive to Item 2 of your February 9 Request.

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 July 7, 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: Thursday, May 26, 2022 2:51 PM
To: 'AO Records' <records@americanoversight.org>
Cc: GeneralCounsel <GeneralCounsel@sos.texas.gov>

Subject: RE: Public Information Request (TX-SOS-22-0147) PIR 22-0217

Good afternoon,

Consistent with our April 28 email, please see the attached documents responsive to Item 2 of your February 9 Request.

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 June 9, 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: Thursday, April 28, 2022 4:26 PM
To: 'AO Records' <records@americanoversight.org>
Cc: GeneralCounsel <GeneralCounsel@sos.texas.gov>
Subject: RE: Public Information Request (TX-SOS-22-0147) PIR 22-0217

Good afternoon,

Consistent with our April 7 email, please see the attached documents responsive to Item 2 of your February 9 Request.

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 26, 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: Thursday, April 7, 2022 11:52 AM
To: 'AO Records' <records@americanoversight.org>
Cc: GeneralCounsel <GeneralCounsel@sos.texas.gov>
Subject: RE: Public Information Request (TX-SOS-22-0147) PIR 22-0217

Good afternoon,

Consistent with our February 24 letter, please see the attached zipped folder containing documents responsive to Item 2 of your February 9 Request.

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 April 28, 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: Thursday, February 24, 2022 1:59 PM
To: 'AO Records' <records@americanoversight.org>
Cc: GeneralCounsel <GeneralCounsel@sos.texas.gov>
Subject: RE: Public Information Request (TX-SOS-22-0147) PIR 22-0217

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: AO Records <records@americanoversight.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 12:55 PM
To: GeneralCounsel <GeneralCounsel@sos.texas.gov>
Subject: Re: Public Information Request (TX-SOS-22-0151)

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.

Apologies again, the correct one, TX-SOS-22-0147, is here!

From: Dylan Winters <dylan.winters@americanoversight.org> on behalf of AO Records <records@americanoversight.org>

Date: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 1:50 PM

To: "generalcounsel@sos.texas.gov" <generalcounsel@sos.texas.gov>

Subject: Re: Public Information Request (TX-SOS-22-0151)

Dear Public Information Officer:

Unfortunately, our previous request had an incorrect tracking number. Please find the corrected version here.

Sincerely,
Dylan Winters (he/him)
Paralegal
American Oversight
records@americanoversight.org
www.americanoversight.org | @weareoversight

PIR: TX-SOS-22-0151

From: Dylan Winters <dylan.winters@americanoversight.org> on behalf of AO Records <records@americanoversight.org>

Date: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 10:11 AM

To: "generalcounsel@sos.texas.gov" <generalcounsel@sos.texas.gov>

Subject: Public Information Request (TX-SOS-22-0132)

Dear Public Information Officer:

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

Sincerely,
Dylan Winters (he/him)
Paralegal
American Oversight
records@americanoversight.org
www.americanoversight.org | @weareoversight

PIR: TX-SOS-22-0132

From: SOS Webmaster
Sent: Thursday, November 4, 2021 10:31 AM
To: Sam Taylor
Cc: SOS Webmaster
Subject: FW: Forensic Audit

Hi Sam,

Submitting for review.

Thank you,
Pepe

From: Wayne <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, November 4, 2021 10:13 AM
To: SOS Webmaster <webmaster@sos.texas.gov>
Subject: Forensic 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.

I live in Harris County and would like to help in the audit if possible if the state is looking for help.
Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows



Virus-free. www.avg.com

From: Sam Taylor
Sent: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 9:24 AM
To: 'Celine Castronuovo'
Subject: FW: Texas Secretary of State Full Forensic Audit Details
Attachments: 9.28.2021_Full Forensic Audit Summary_Texas Secretary of State.pdf

Sensitivity: Personal

Hi Celine,

Here's the e-mail confirmation from yesterday, including the plan and confirmation that we will not be hiring or contracting with an outside firm for the audit.

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: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 6:38 PM
Subject: Texas Secretary of State Full Forensic Audit Details
Sensitivity: Personal

Good Evening, All –

Many of you have inquired about additional details relating to the full forensic election audit announced last week. Attached, below, and on our web site ([link here](#)), please find an outline of the parameters of the audit and relevant sections of the Texas Election Code. This information has already been provided to the Election Administrators in Dallas, Harris, Collin and Tarrant counties.

I want to be absolutely crystal clear about one thing: no, we will not be hiring or contracting with an outside firm to conduct these audits.

Best,

Sam Taylor

Assistant Secretary of State for Communications



Texas Secretary of State Full Forensic Audit of 2020 General Election

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

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

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

Phase 2: Comprehensive Election Records Examination (Spring 2022)

- As part of the Texas Secretary of State's duty to assist and advise all election authorities with regard to the application, operation, and interpretation of the Texas Election Code ([Sec. 31.004](#)) and to obtain and maintain uniformity in the application of the Code ([Sec. 31.003](#)), the office will conduct a comprehensive election records examination over the next several months to ensure election administration procedures were properly followed during the 2020 General Election.
- The records examined from each county will include – but are not limited to – the following types of documents:
 - Logic & Accuracy Testing Records for Voting Machines, including:

- All test ballots voted
- Test Deck Records
- Testing Media
- Early Voting and Election Day Materials, including:
 - List of registered voters used in the 2020 General Election
 - Daily Early Voting Rosters for in-person voting
 - Chain of Custody forms that document the seals on the ballot boxes
 - Chain of Custody delivery and pickup of equipment at voting sites
 - Statements of Residence
 - Reasonable Impediment Declarations
 - Limited Ballot Applications
 - Audit Logs from applicable Voting System Devices
 - List of Rejected Provisional Ballots and reason for rejection
 - Ballot and Seal Certificates
 - Hand Delivery of a Ballot by Mail Roster and Forms
 - Receipts of Sealed Early Voting Ballot Boxes
- Signature Verification Committee Materials
- Early Voting Ballot Board Materials, including:
 - Receipt of Sealed Early Voting Ballot Boxes
 - Poll List of Mail Voters
 - Notice of Rejected Carriers and reasons
- Central Counting Station Plan
- Training Materials
- County election officials must retain these records for 22 months under both federal law ([52 USC 20701](#)) and state law ([Texas Election Code Sec. 66.058](#)).
- All of this information is available to the general public ([Sec. 1.012](#)).
- After a thorough examination of the abovementioned records and materials in each county, irregularities or deviations from election administration procedures that may have affected the accuracy of the electronic voting system ballot count could trigger a full manual recount of ballots in the affected precincts or polling locations, pursuant to the Secretary of State's authority to ensure the accuracy of the tabulation of electronic voting system results ([Sec. 127.202](#)).

Texas Secretary of State Full Forensic Audit of 2020

General Election

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

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

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

Phase 2: Comprehensive Election Records Examination (Spring 2022)

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

administration procedures were properly followed during the 2020 General Election.

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

From: [Robert Heard](#)
To: [Keith Ingram](#); [Christina Adkins](#)
Subject: Phase 2 Forensic Audit
Date: Friday, January 28, 2022 9:54:44 AM

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.

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.

Greetings Keith and Christina,

As of January 12, 2022 I have returned to the Dallas County Elections Department to assist with some critical functions, one being preparing for the Secretary of State's Forensic Audit Phase 2. Would you please place me on the communication list for notifications. Would you also be so kind to provide me with the contact information for the main point of contact for your office regarding this project.

In the Secretary's letter dated December 10, 2021, there is a list of "near term" documents to be provided by December 21, 2021. I must verify whether or not these documents have been provided to your office.

With regard to the Phase 2 Comprehensive Records Examination, has a schedule been prepared and/or distributed to the Examinee counties? How can I get the most current status for this portion of the audit?

Thank you,

Robert A. Heard
Elections Contractor
Dallas County Elections Department
1520 Round Table Dr., #116
Dallas, TX 75247

Email: Robert.Heard@DallasCounty.org
Phone: (214) 819-6333

Disclaimer

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From: [SOS Webmaster](#)
To: ["Jennifer Vasquez"](#)
Cc: [SOS Webmaster](#)
Subject: RE: Audit
Date: Friday, September 24, 2021 9:39:23 AM

Hello Ms. Vasquez,

Your email has been submitted to our [Elections Division](#) for review and a response.

Thank you,
webmaster

[Texas Secretary of State](#)

Follow the [Texas Secretary of State on Twitter](#)

[VoteTexas.gov](#): **Make Your Mark on Texas**

Like [VoteTexas.gov on Facebook](#)

Follow [VoteTexas.gov on Twitter](#)

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

From: Jennifer Vasquez [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2021 9:52 PM
To: SOS Webmaster <webmaster@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.

I can help with the audit.

I live in Parker County, and I am willing to travel wherever help is needed.

I have voted in every election since I was 18 years old. Naturally, I have my own party affiliation, but our votes need to be tallied correctly.

682-429-8770

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sam Taylor](#)
To: [Morris, Allison](#)
Subject: Re: Texas Secretary of State Full Forensic Audit Details
Date: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 7:15:46 PM
Attachments: image001.png

Our Elections Division staff is conducting the audit. Spring '22 is the start date for phase 2, which will complete before September '22 when the records can be discarded.

-Sam

From: Morris, Allison [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 7:08 PM
To: Sam Taylor
Subject: Re: Texas Secretary of State Full Forensic Audit Details

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Thanks, Sam. When it says Spring 2022, is that the estimated completion date?
Who in the office is conducting the audit?

On Tue, Sep 28, 2021 at 6:38 PM Sam Taylor <SMTaylor@sos.texas.gov> wrote:

Good Evening, All –

Many of you have inquired about additional details relating to the full forensic election audit announced last week. Attached, below, and on our web site ([link here](#)), please find an outline of the parameters of the audit and relevant sections of the Texas Election Code. This information has already been provided to the Election Administrators in Dallas, Harris, Collin and Tarrant counties.

I want to be absolutely crystal clear about one thing: no, we will not be hiring or contracting with an outside firm to conduct these audits.

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



Texas Secretary of State Full Forensic Audit of 2020 General Election

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

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ensure that ineligible voters – including deceased individuals, individuals registered in multiple states or counties, and non-U.S. citizens – do not remain on the voter rolls ([Secs. 18.061 – 18.0681](#)).

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Phase 2: Comprehensive Election Records Examination (Spring 2022)

- As part of the Texas Secretary of State's duty to assist and advise all election authorities with regard to the application, operation, and interpretation of the Texas Election Code ([Sec. 31.004](#)) and to obtain and maintain uniformity in the application of the Code ([Sec. 31.003](#)), the office will conduct a comprehensive election records examination over the next several months to ensure election administration procedures were properly followed during the 2020 General Election.

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- Ballot and Seal Certificates
- Hand Delivery of a Ballot by Mail Roster and Forms
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--

Allie Morris

[Austin Bureau Correspondent](#)

The Dallas Morning News

@MorrisReports

[She/her](#)



From: Sam Taylor
Sent: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 6:38 PM
Subject: Texas Secretary of State Full Forensic Audit Details
Attachments: 9.28.2021_Full Forensic Audit Summary_Texas Secretary of State.pdf

Sensitivity: Personal

Good Evening, All –

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I want to be absolutely crystal clear about one thing: no, we will not be hiring or contracting with an outside firm to conduct these audits.

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



Texas Secretary of State Full Forensic Audit of 2020 General Election

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

- After every single Texas election, counties are required to conduct a partial manual count of electronic voting system ballots within 72 hours of the polls closing to ensure the accuracy of the tabulation of electronic voting systems results ([Sec. 127.201](#)).

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

Phase 2: Comprehensive Election Records Examination (Spring 2022)

- As part of the Texas Secretary of State's duty to assist and advise all election authorities with regard to the application, operation, and interpretation of the Texas Election Code ([Sec. 31.004](#)) and to obtain and maintain uniformity in the application of the Code ([Sec. 31.003](#)), the office will conduct a comprehensive election records examination over the next several months to ensure election administration procedures were properly followed during the 2020 General Election.
- The records examined from each county will include – but are not limited to – the following types of documents:
 - Logic & Accuracy Testing Records for Voting Machines, including:
 - All test ballots voted
 - Test Deck Records
 - Testing Media
 - Early Voting and Election Day Materials, including:
 - List of registered voters used in the 2020 General Election
 - Daily Early Voting Rosters for in-person voting
 - Chain of Custody forms that document the seals on the ballot boxes
 - Chain of Custody delivery and pickup of equipment at voting sites
 - Statements of Residence
 - Reasonable Impediment Declarations
 - Limited Ballot Applications
 - Audit Logs from applicable Voting System Devices
 - List of Rejected Provisional Ballots and reason for rejection
 - Ballot and Seal Certificates
 - Hand Delivery of a Ballot by Mail Roster and Forms
 - Receipts of Sealed Early Voting Ballot Boxes
 - Signature Verification Committee Materials
 - Early Voting Ballot Board Materials, including:
 - Receipt of Sealed Early Voting Ballot Boxes
 - Poll List of Mail Voters
 - Notice of Rejected Carriers and reasons
 - Central Counting Station Plan
 - Training Materials

- County election officials must retain these records for 22 months under both federal law ([52 USC 20701](#)) and state law ([Texas Election Code Sec. 66.058](#)).
- All of this information is available to the general public ([Sec. 1.012](#)).
- After a thorough examination of the abovementioned records and materials in each county, irregularities or deviations from election administration procedures that may have affected the accuracy of the electronic voting system ballot count could trigger a full manual recount of ballots in the affected precincts or polling locations, pursuant to the Secretary of State's authority to ensure the accuracy of the tabulation of electronic voting system results ([Sec. 127.202](#)).

Texas Secretary of State Full Forensic Audit of 2020

General Election

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

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

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

Phase 2: Comprehensive Election Records Examination (Spring 2022)

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administration procedures were properly followed during the 2020 General Election.

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