

**Whatcom County  
Auditor's Office**

Whatcom County Courthouse  
311 Grand Avenue, Suite 103  
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038



**Diana Bradrick**  
County Auditor

**Stacy Henthorn**  
Chief Deputy Auditor

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**Internet:** [www.whatcomcounty.us/auditor](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/auditor)

**DATE:** January 22, 2021

**TO:** Whatcom County Council

**FROM:** Diana Bradrick, Whatcom County Auditor

**RE:** Supporting documentation for General Election 2020 Review

Attached is some documentation to help address concerns regarding election results audits, duplicate ballots issued to voters, and overall election policy and procedure accuracy. Included are:

1. Explanation and examples for the Logic & Accuracy Test pre-election
2. Explanation and example documents for the Random Audit Manual Recount post-election
3. Explanation of Cancelled (Suspended Ballots) in the election system
4. Memos from the Secretary of State related to elections procedures audits

**Licensing**

[Licensing@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:Licensing@co.whatcom.wa.us)  
360-778-5100

**Recording**

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We gladly accept  
relay calls.

## **LOGIC AND ACCURACY TEST**

- 1. Procedures**
- 2. Certification**
- 3. Example Matrix Page**
- 4. Example Votes Cast Report**
- 5. L&A Test Minutes**

## **LOGIC AND ACCURACY TEST**

The County Auditor is required to conduct a Logic and Accuracy Test (L&A) before every election per RCW 29A.12.130, with rules established by WAC 434-335-300, WAC 434-335-340. The programming of the vote tallying system to be used is tested to verify that the system will correctly count the votes cast for all candidates and measures for that election. For all Primary and General elections a representative from the Secretary of State attends the test and verifies the results. Observers are encouraged to attend and for all primary and general elections we have routinely had representative from the two major parties.

All scanners used for that election are tested. All races, measures, precincts and ballot styles are tested. Prior to the final L&A test, one or more pre-tests are conducted on the system.

### Steps:

1. Develop a test matrix per Secretary of State template that tests all races, measures, precincts, ballot styles, under-votes, over-votes and write-ins.
2. Per the matrix a test deck of ballots is marked. All ballot types are to be tested – for example at least one ballot marked on the Accessible Voting Units is tested.
3. All scanners to be used for that election will be tested. A very large test deck may be divided up between the multiple scanners. For small elections the entire test deck is run through all of the machines.
4. Before the ballots are scanned, a “zero report” is run to show there are no votes tallied for any of the races. This report is shown to all the observers and the SOS representative.
5. The test ballots are then scanned by a staff person other than the Supervisor who programmed the election.
6. Once all of the ballots are scanned, the ballots are tallied.
7. At least one observer and the SOS representative compares the machine tallies with the matrix totals.
8. If there is a discrepancy, confer with SOS and Auditor who will direct re-marking of any test ballots and re-scanning the test deck. Historically, discrepancies have always been a result from an error marking the test deck.
9. If the totals match the test is complete.
10. The certificate of the test is filled out and signed by the SOS and observers (see attached)
11. Test deck ballots are sealed in a bag, signed by two people and placed in the election vault.

It should be noted that once the L&A test has been conducted, no repairs or enhancements may be made to the equipment. If a scanner experiences mechanical issues during the election that machine is de-commissioned for the current election.

STATE OF WASHINGTON



CERTIFICATION

Voting System Logic and Accuracy Test
2020 General Election
Per RCW 29A.12.130

We, the undersigned, have observed the official Logic and Accuracy test of the vote tallying program of Whatcom County for the General Election to be held November 3, 2020. This test was conducted by the Whatcom County Auditor's Office for the Secretary of State's Office in accordance with RCW 29A.12.130.

We certify that the computer programs, test ballots and printed results of the test have been secured. If any changes are made to the computer programming following this test, another logic and accuracy test shall be conducted pursuant to WAC 434-335-310 and WAC 434-335-330.

Seal Number 3461 3462

Signed, this 13 day of October, 2020

Dana Bradrick by Stacy Heath
County Auditor/Deputy

Artemis Duncanson
Democratic Party Observer

Secretary of State Representative

Phyllis Cornwell
Republican Party Observer

Others attending: [blank lines]

	Ballot Style
	Precinct
<b>Referendum Measure No. 90</b>	
Approved	188
Rejected	2
OVERVOTE <i>(one ballot with both choices selected in this contest)</i>	1
<b>Advisory Vote No. 32</b>	
Repealed	188
Maintained	2
<b>Advisory Vote No. 33</b>	
Repealed	189
Maintained	3
<b>Advisory Vote No. 34</b>	
Repealed	190
Maintained	4
<b>Advisory Vote No. 35</b>	
Repealed	191
Maintained	5
<b>Engrossed Senate Join Resolution No. 8212</b>	
Approved	188
Rejected	2
<b>US President/Vice President</b>	
Joseph R. Biden / Kamila D. Harris	188
Donald J. Trump / Michael R. Pence	2
Jo Jorgensen / Jeremy "Spike" Cohen	3
Howie Hawkins / Angela Walker	4
Gloria La Riva / Sunil Freeman	5
Alyson Kennedy / Malcolm M Jarrett	6
<b>1st Congress Dist US Rep</b>	
Suzan DelBene	105
Jeffrey Beeler, Sr.	2
<b>2nd Congress Dist US Rep</b>	
Rick Larsen	83
Timothy S. Hazelo	2
<b>Governor</b>	

Statement of Votes Cast by Geography  
Whatcom County, Washington, November 3 2020 General Election, Nov 03, 2020  
All Precincts, All Districts, All ScanStations, All Contests, All Boxes  
Total Ballots Cast: 221, Registered Voters: 150440, Overall Turnout: 0.15%

Page: 1 of 5  
2020-10-13  
14:06:50

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Choice	Votes	Vote %
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All Precincts

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**Referendum Measure No. 90 (Vote for 1)**

**221 ballots (1 over voted ballots, 1 overvotes, 30 undervotes), 150440 registered voters, turnout 0.15%**

Approved	188	98.95%
Rejected	2	1.05%
Total	190	100.00%
Overvotes	1	
Undervotes	30	

**Advisory Vote No. 32 Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5323 (Vote for 1)**

**221 ballots (0 over voted ballots, 0 overvotes, 31 undervotes), 150440 registered voters, turnout 0.15%**

Repealed	188	98.95%
Maintained	2	1.05%
Total	190	100.00%
Overvotes	0	
Undervotes	31	

**Advisory Vote No. 33 Substitute Senate Bill 5628 (Vote for 1)**

**221 ballots (0 over voted ballots, 0 overvotes, 29 undervotes), 150440 registered voters, turnout 0.15%**

Repealed	189	98.44%
Maintained	3	1.56%
Total	192	100.00%
Overvotes	0	
Undervotes	29	

**Advisory Vote No. 34 Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6492 (Vote for 1)**

**221 ballots (0 over voted ballots, 0 overvotes, 27 undervotes), 150440 registered voters, turnout 0.15%**

Repealed	190	97.94%
Maintained	4	2.06%
Total	194	100.00%
Overvotes	0	
Undervotes	27	

**Advisory Vote No. 35 Engrossed Senate Bill 6690 (Vote for 1)**

**221 ballots (0 over voted ballots, 0 overvotes, 25 undervotes), 150440 registered voters, turnout 0.15%**

Repealed	191	97.45%
Maintained	5	2.55%
Total	196	100.00%
Overvotes	0	
Undervotes	25	

**Engrossed Senate Joint Resolution No. 8212 (Vote for 1)**

**221 ballots (0 over voted ballots, 0 overvotes, 31 undervotes), 150440 registered voters, turnout 0.15%**

Approved	188	98.95%
Rejected	2	1.05%
Total	190	100.00%
Overvotes	0	
Undervotes	31	

**United States President and Vice President (Vote for 1)**

**221 ballots (0 over voted ballots, 0 overvotes, 13 undervotes), 150440 registered voters, turnout 0.15%**

Biden / Harris	188	90.38%
Trump / Pence	2	0.96%
Jorgensen / Cohen	3	1.44%
Hawkins / Walker	4	1.92%
La Riva / Freeman	5	2.40%
Kennedy / Jarrett	6	2.88%
Write-In	0	0.00%

**VOTING SYSTEM LOGIC AND ACCURACY TEST (L&A)  
for the November 03, 2020 General Election**

Date: October 13, 2020

Meeting began: 02:00 pm

In attendance: Stacy Henthorn, Chief Deputy Auditor  
Amy Grasher, Election Supervisor  
Kellye Conner, Office Coordinator  
Agy Pitalo, Election Clerk  
Julie Colacurcio, Secretary of State's Office  
Artemis Oakgrove, Election Observer  
Phylis Cornwell, Election Observer

The Whatcom County Auditor's Office prepared 221 test ballots for the L&A Test for the November 3, 2020 General Election.

Amy Grasher generated and printed the Zero Report that indicates no votes have been cast. The election observer reviewed the report.

Agy Pitalo processed the prepared test ballots through Scan Station 1, Scan Station 2, and Scan Station 3. Once scanned, Amy generated the L&A summary report. The election observer compared the L&A summary report counts to the matrix. The summary report and matrix matched with 100% accuracy.

The Whatcom County Certification of the Voting System Logic and Accuracy Test for the November 3, 2020 General Election was signed by all in attendance.

Amy saved the results of the L&A onto a flash drive and the election counting system was shut down. Stacy Henthorn and Agy Pitalo placed the test ballots in tamper-resistant bags and sealed the bags with seal numbers Group 001, Group 002, & Group 003. The sealed bags of test ballots and the originals of all reports were placed in a box with top seal #3461 and bottom seal #3462 and stored in a secured room in the election center. Copies of the reports are being retained with these minutes.

Amy transported the flash drive to the Election Division's large vault where the flash drive was sealed in the lock box.

Meeting adjourned at 2:22 pm.

Minutes approved by:

  
Diana Bradrick, Auditor

October 14, 2020  
Date

## **RANDOM AUDIT MANUAL RECOUNT**

- 1. Procedures**
- 2. Example Counting Board Tally Sheets**
- 3. Example Statement of Votes Cast**
- 4. Example Hand Count Results Summary**
- 5. Hand Count Minutes**



## **RANDOM AUDIT MANUAL RECOUNT**

The purpose of the manual count of random groups is a verification of the machine counting system. The intent is to verify that the hand count and the machine count of vote totals for the contest of measure selected match, verifying that the machine is counting properly. This post-election day recount is always conducted on the Thursday following election day. The process is per RCW 29A.60.170 and WAC 434-261-060. The manual count procedure is identical to the process we use for official hand recounts.

### **Process:**

1. On the Wednesday after election day once ballot scanning has been completed for the day the Observers from the major political parties mutually agree to six groups from a list of all ballot groups that have been scanned up until that time. The observers then designate which one race or measure is to be counted.
2. For small elections, in the absence of the major party observers, the groups are selected by the Auditor.
3. On the day of the count, the sealed bags of ballots for the six groups are pulled from secure storage and taken to the counting area. Ballots are always handled by two staff.
4. The designated counting board team sit together at a table in the presence of observers.
5. One group at a time, a sealed ballot bag is opened and the ballots are given to the counting board.
6. The counting board sorts the ballots and then individually counts the designated race/measure twice before recording on a tally sheet
7. Once the count is completed by both members of the team, the counts are compared. If they match they're done with that batch. If the team results don't match, they are directed to count again. If after three attempts they still don't match, another counting board will be brought in.
8. The counting board results are then compared to the machine tally for that group. If they match, that group is done. If they don't match, the discrepancy is discussed with the Election Supervisor and the Auditor to determine the cause of the problem and resolve it. The resolution is discussed with the Observers.
9. The steps are repeated for all six groups.
10. Observers are shown the hand county tally sheets from the counting board and the machine count report to compare.
11. A results report is filled out and signed by all participants and observers for each group.

Whatcom County Hand Count  
State Representative Position 2  
Legislative District 42

Group # **321**

Candidate	TALLY:
Jennifer Sefzik	43
Sharon Shewmake	49
Write -In	1
OVERVOTE	1
Undervote	4

SIGN-OFF 

Whatcom County Hand Count  
State Representative Position 2  
Legislative District 42

Group # **321**

Candidate	TALLY:
Jennifer Sefzik	43
Sharon Shewmake	49
Write -In	0
OVERVOTE	0
Undervote	4

SIGN-OFF 

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Statement of Votes Cast by Geography

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Whatcom County, Washington, November 3 2020 General Election, Nov 03, 2020

2020-11-05

All Precincts, All Districts, All ScanStations, Legislative District 42 State Representative Position 2,  
VBM-321

08:22:49

Total Ballots Cast: 96 (includes some ballots not yet counted), Registered Voters: 158733, Overall

Turnout: 0.06%

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<b>Choice</b>	<b>Votes</b>	<b>Vote %</b>
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**All Precincts**

**Legislative District 42 State Representative Position 2 (Vote for 1)**

**96 ballots (0 over voted ballots, 0 overvotes, 4 undervotes), 109744 registered voters, turnout 0.09%**


Jennifer Sefzik	43	46.74%
Sharon Shewmake	49	53.26%
Write-in	0	0.00%
Total	92	100.00%
Overvotes	0	
Undervotes	4	

# General Election

## Hand Count Results State Representative Position 2

Group #	Candidate	Counting Member #1	Counting Member #2	Machine Count
321				
	Jennifer Sefzik	43	43	43
	Sharon Shewmake	49	49	49
	Write -In			
	OVERVOTE			
	Undervote	4	4	4

Counting Member #1                     jensen                    

Counting Member #2                                         

Date:           Thursday, November 5, 2020

Auditor:                     Diana Gradner                    

Observer:                     Ronald A. Rucaid                    

                    Judy Crossenob                    

                    Stacy H                    

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**HAND COUNT  
for the November 3, 2020 General Election**

Date: November 5, 2020

Meeting Began: 10:00 am  
Auditor's Office

In Attendance: Diana Bradrick, County Auditor  
Stacy Henthorn, Chief Deputy Auditor  
Nicolle Armstrong, Auditor Staff  
Jessie Smiley, Auditor Staff  
Ronalee Kincaid, Observer  
Judy Criscuola, Observer  
Patricia Hawley, Observer

Six groups of ballots were selected for the hand count by Ronalee Kincaid and Ashley Butenschoan on Wednesday, November 4: Groups # 197, 290, 321, 445, 671, and 890.

The sealed bags containing the above listed groups were presented at the hand count and the manual count of Legislative District 42, State Representative Position 2 began.

The manual counting team results of the six groups of ballots matched the Clear Ballot count system tallies with 100% accuracy.

The counting team (Nicolle Armstrong and Jessie Smiley) reviewed and signed the hand count tally sheets for each of the ballot groups. Diana, Nicolle, and Jessie, signed the Hand Count Team Results Reports.

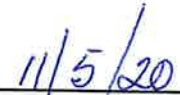
Each of the six groups of ballots was placed in new tamper-evident bags along with the original bag seal number and stored and sealed in a cabinet in the ballot counting center.

The reports were filed with these minutes in the November 3, 2020 General Election file in the Auditor's Office.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.

Minutes approved by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Diana Bradrick, County Auditor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**EXPLANATION OF CANCELLED (SUSPENDED) BALLOTS IN  
THE ELECTION SYSTEM**

## **CANCELLED (SUSPENDED) BALLOTS IN ELECTION SYSTEM**

A voter may receive multiple ballots. This can be the result of:

1. The voter requesting a replacement ballot through VoteWA online, over the phone, or in person
2. A change at Department of Licensing impacting either residential address or name
3. The voter accessing their online ballot
4. The voter updating their voter registration either online through VoteWA, in person or over the phone

In all cases, once a new ballot is issued by the system, the previous ballot is suspended. See the attached example from a voter record. The row in red is a suspended ballot identified by the red bar and the status update of suspended. The top row is the current ballot.

Once a ballot has been received for a voter identified in the received column, no more ballots may be issued – the voter would be unable to either request a replacement or access an on-line ballot.

If the voter attempts to return more than one ballot, the system will not allow the second ballot to be accepted. See attached example of an accepted ballot and the message if you attempt to scan in the suspended ballot.

Voter has been issued TWO ballots:

Ballot ID 1-94292988 (appearing in red): First ballot issued, was created in Outbound Ballot Processing (with the initial LOAD). The ballot was assigned a Sent Batch# (19108), and *Mail – In State* was assigned as the Issuance Method.

Ballot ID 1-94293025: This is now the voters current ballot. It is the second ballot issued, which was generated thru Ballot Info tab/Create New Ballot. Upon selecting Submit and Process Now when creating a new ballot, it Suspended the first ballot.

Current Ballots															
Election	County	Sent Batch #	Sent	Status	Received Batch #	Issuance Type	Issuance Method	Received	Political Party	Precinct	Style	Ballot ID			
▶ 02/09/2021	Whatcom		01/20/2021	Sent		Regular	In Person			0183.0	01-183	1-94293025	<a href="#">Label</a>	<a href="#">Online Ballot</a>	<a href="#">Expand</a>
▶ 02/09/2021	Whatcom	19108	01/20/2021	Suspended		Regular	Mail - In State			0183.0	01-183	1-94292988	<a href="#">Label</a>	<a href="#">Online Ballot</a>	<a href="#">Expand</a>

Pending Ballots  
No records to display



Example of an Accepted ballot: has Received Batch # & Received date.

Registrant ID 741550  
**ANDERSON, MARY EILEEN**  
 County Whatcom  
 DOB 11/16/1947 (Age 73)  
 Status **ACTIVE**  
 Status Reason **ACTIVE**

Registrant Info **Ballot Info** Provisional Voting History Validations Attachments Activity Correspondence

Create New Ballot: Ballot Sent 1/20/2021

**Current Ballots**

Election	County	Sent Batch #	Sent	Status	Received Batch #	Issuance Type	Issuance Method	Received	Political Party	Precinct	Style	Ballot ID			
02/09/2021	Whatcom		01/20/2021	Accepted	001	Regular	In Person	01/22/2021		0183 0	01-1-183	94293025	Label	Online Ballot	Expand
02/09/2021	Whatcom	19108	01/20/2021	Suspended		Regular	Mail In State			0183 0	01-1-183	94292588	Label	Online Ballot	Expand

**Pending Ballots**  
 No records to display.

If you attempt to scan in the Suspended ballot, the status will be updated to Invalid (unable to count):

Return Update Undo Batches

### Ballot Return

For: February Special - 2/9/2021

Select return type  
 Return Type:

Scan/Enter barcode on ballot envelope or upload ballot sorter file  
 Ballot Received Date:    
 Scan/Enter Barcode:

Click "Submit" to mark ballots as received  
 Return Method:   
 Location:   
 Manual Batch #:

Ballots scanned so far: 1

Ballot has already been accepted for this voter. Status will be set to Invalid.

Registrant ID	Ballot Sent	Ballot Received	Voter Name	Voter Status	Phone Number	Email Address					Ballot ID	Ballot Status	Reject Reason	
<a href="#">741550</a>	01/20/2021		ANDERSON, MARY EILEEN	Active	0 -		<a href="#">Create Notice of Name Change</a>	<a href="#">Update Address</a>	<a href="#">Update Phone/Email</a>	<a href="#">Scan Envelope</a>	1-94292968	Invalid	Invalid	<a href="#">Delete</a>

## **ELECTION DEPARTMENT REVIEWS BY SECRETARY OF STATE**

1. Special Election Review Memo for Mandatory Recount August 2018 – this review was conducted by the Secretary of State per RCW 29A.04.570
2. Letter to Canvassing Board Members following the Secretary of State election review during the General Election 2018. This review occurs every 5 years. The 3 areas noted for improvement included adjusting the size of one precinct over 1,500 voters, updates to the Canvassing Board manual that had already been addressed before the final report, and a recommendation to change the way Address Confidentiality Program ballots were secured.

This review was conducted by a certified elections administrator from the Secretary of State's office. The review followed a checklist containing election procedures and processes referencing state statutes, state rules, and federal acts regarding the administration of elections and voter registration. The reviewer observed election practices during the 2018 General Election as well as during the mandatory hand count following the election. Written procedures and county documentation were analyzed for compliance with state laws and rules.



# Secretary of State

*Tom Wyman*

**ELECTIONS DIVISION**  
PO Box 40229  
Olympia, WA 98504-0229  
(800) 448-4881  
[www.vote.wa.gov](http://www.vote.wa.gov)

January 10, 2020

Whatcom County Canvassing Board  
C/o The Honorable Debbie Adelstein, County Auditor  
311 Grand Ave #103  
PO Box 398  
Bellingham, WA 98225

Dear Canvassing Board Members:

In accordance with RCW 29A.04.570, the State Election Certification and Training Program conducted a comprehensive review of election procedures in Whatcom County during the 2018 General Election.

This RCW also requires a follow-up visit to verify the Whatcom County Elections Department has taken the necessary steps to correct the changes recommended in the review report.

I am pleased to acknowledge that the elections department has implemented the three recommendations made during the Election Review.

I commend the Whatcom County Auditor and Staff for their great dedication to the election process and their desire to continuously improve. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (360) 725-5770 or email [cindy.gobel@sos.wa.gov](mailto:cindy.gobel@sos.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

Cindy Gobel  
Program Specialist  
Certification and Training Program



# Secretary of State

*Kim Wyman*

ELECTIONS DIVISION  
PO Box 40229  
Olympia, WA 98504-0229  
(800) 448-4881  
[www.vote.wa.gov](http://www.vote.wa.gov)

TO: Whatcom County Canvassing Board

FR: Cindy Gobel  
Elections Certification and Training Program  
Office of the Secretary of State

RE: Special Election Review – Congressional District 2, U.S. Representative Recount

DATE: September 4, 2018

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Pursuant to Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 29A.04.570, the Office of the Secretary of State Elections Certification and Training Program conducted a special review of Whatcom County's post-election procedures for the August 2018 Primary Election. The narrow margin between the second and third place candidates for Congressional District 2, U.S. Representative required a mandatory hand recount.

The review consisted of an interview with Diana Bradrick, Chief Deputy Auditor, and other election staff as well as the examination of supporting documents. The recount was also observed by Joesph MacLean, OSOS.

The reviewer met with Ms. Bradrick and her staff on August 24, 2018. The rules, addressing recounts as prescribed by Washington Administrative Code Chapter 434-264, the processes used in the 2018 Primary Election regarding accountability and reconciliation of ballots, manual inspection of ballots, ballot security and scheduling of the recount were discussed.

Copies of the following documents specific to the 2018 Primary Election were provided: certification and recount procedures, notifications required by RCW 29A.64.030; recount rules for observers and visitors, office procedures used by the Whatcom County Elections Department, ballot duplication documents, security documents, ballot reconciliation forms, and AVU audit procedures.

Based on the information provided, ballot security was maintained throughout the entire election by the utilization of authorized key card access to rooms, sealed containers, and secured storage lockers. Procedures require unsecured ballots to be accompanied by two election staff members. The same security measures were applied to duplicating ballots and post-tabulation storage.

### **Manual Inspection – Adjudication**

The recount revealed several ballot marks were mistakenly counted as votes instead of duplicated as undervotes. WAC 434-261-070 requires all ballots to be manually inspected on both sides of the ballot to determine whether the ballot is readable by the vote tabulating system. Ballots must be inspected for overvotes, undervotes, and write-in votes prior to tabulation. The county auditor must ensure that staff is trained to correctly process write-in votes.

The Whatcom County Elections Department is an outstanding example of an organization demonstrating efficiency, accuracy, and transparency with exceptional staff and leadership. The staff is knowledgeable and dedicated to preserving the integrity of elections. In all cases, the security requirements were met or exceeded. The reviewer did not find any recommendations or suggestions to make in this report.