



# SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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## N.J.S.A.19:61-9: AUDITS OF ELECTION RESULTS 2023 General Election Audit Date: November 20, 2023

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The Somerset County Board of Elections (SCBOE) convened for the purpose of performing a post-election audit consistent with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:61-9 and the guidelines and memorandum issued by the New Jersey Division of Elections (NJDOE) on November 3, 2023. The audit was open to the public for in-person observation.

The SCBOE conducted a hand-to-eye count of the voter-verifiable paper records for the General Election for the New Jersey State Senate, New Jersey General Assembly, County Commissioners, and Municipal Mayor and Council contests. The Board of Education elections, fire district elections and public questions were excluded from the audit pursuant to the memorandum issued by the NJDOE.

Pursuant to the statute, "the audit shall be conducted in at least 2% of the election districts (batches) in which each audited election appears on the ballot." Somerset County is comprised of Legislative Districts 16, 17, 21, 22, and 23. Two (2) audit units (batches) were audited from each of the 5 Legislative Districts. A total of 10 audit units (batches) were audited from the five (5) Legislative Districts.

Audit units included: Election Day Ballots (Voting Machine) and Vote by Mail Ballots (VBM) by municipality/ward. Tally sheets were prepared in advance of the audit for each municipality/ward and approved by the New Jersey Division of Elections.

The following audit units were randomly selected for audit on November 20, 2023, at 10:00am via a publicly advertised meeting and in person observation:

- |   |                            |            |
|---|----------------------------|------------|
| 1. 16th Legislative District: Hillsborough  | Batch: Hillsborough D29    | ED Machine |
| 2. 16th Legislative District: Branchburg    | Batch: A0046               | VBM Tab A  |
| 3. 17th Legislative District: Franklin      | Batch: A0066               | VBM Tab A* |
| 4. 17th Legislative District: S.B. Brook    | Batch: A0145               | VBM Tab A  |
| 5. 21st Legislative District: Bernards      | Batch: Bernards D22        | ED Machine |
| 6. 21st Legislative District: Watchung      | Batch: Watchung D25        | ED Machine |
| 7. 22nd Legislative District: N. Plainfield | Batch: North Plainfield D4 | ED Machine |
| 8. 22nd Legislative District: N. Plainfield | Batch: A0144               | VBM Tab A  |
| 9. 23rd Legislative District: Bridgewater   | Batch: Bridgewater D16     | ED Machine |
| 10. 23rd Legislative District: Bedminster   | Batch: A0090               | VBM Tab A  |

In the audited batch identified with an asterisk the hand to eye count revealed only a minor discrepancy with the scanned tally. The hand to eye count identified a vote discrepancy of one vote on random contests on the ballot. This was attributable to the hand to eye Tally Teams identifying partially and/or incorrectly marked ovals on the ballot that showed clear voter intent but were likely not recorded by the scanner. The audit did not result in any significant change in the number of votes counted for any candidate. Any paper ballot which contained an overvote for a particular contest recorded it as an overvote but did not count a vote. Undervotes were recorded by the vote tabulation system and were reconciled during the audit.

Respectfully Submitted on November 22, 2023, by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Midgette", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jerry L. Midgette  
Administrator