**Rhode Island Risk-Limiting Audit of April 2, 2024 Presidential Preference Primary**

The Rhode Island Board of Elections conducted a risk-limiting audit of the April 2 presidential preference primary on April 9-10. (The die roll to select the random sample was conducted on the 9th; the inspection of ballots was conducted on the 10th.) The target contest was Republican presidential candidate; the risk limit was 9%. Thirteen batches containing a total of 2,349 ballots were audited. The audit found a one-vote discrepancy attributed to an incorrectly marked ballot (see below), a discrepancy rate of 0.04%. The measured risk was 6.13%, substantially less than the risk limit, and strong evidence that Donald J. Trump indeed won the primary.

In consideration of proposed rule 410 -RICR - 20 - 00 – 28, we provide the following details of the audit in compliance with paragraph 28.3(Y) of the proposed rule:

*Name of target contest:* Republican presidential candidate.

*Number of winners:* 1.[[1]](#footnote-1)

*Total number of ballot cards:* 39,705, of which 13,058 were Republican ballots.

*Unofficial final results* (in order of appearance on ballot): Donald J. Trump: 10,898; Ron DeSantis: 178; Nikki R. Haley: 1,371; Chris Christie: 154; Vivek G. Ramaswamy: 40; Uncommitted: 257; Write-in: 118. The unofficial margin is 10,898 – 1,371 = 9,527 votes.

*Number of times batches were randomly selected for the audit:* once.

*Number of batches in each sample*: thirteen (13).

*Batch identifiers of batches in the sample:* M10-ALL; M17-ALL; M25-ALL; Bristol 0202 #1; Charlestown 0504 #1; North Smithfield 2505 #1; Pawtucket 2616 #1; Portsmouth 2703 #1; Providence 2819 #1; Providence 2857 #2; Providence 2867 #1; Tiverton 3302 #1; Warwick 3523 #1-#2 Combined. (Warwick 3523 #1 was randomly selected, but the board determined that pollworkers had mistakenly commingled ballots from the two scanners at that location.)

*Audit tally totals:* see table on page 2. This table shows the combined results for Warwick 3523, whereas the Arlo audit report has results only for scanner #1.)

*Measured risk*: 6.13%.[[2]](#footnote-2)

A close up of a ballot

Description automatically generated*Explanation of discrepancies:* In Providence 2819 #1, the audit found one more vote for Nikki Haley, and one less overvote, than the unofficial totals. We attribute this difference to the ballot shown at right. A scanner would read this ballot as “overvoted” (voted both for Haley and for Uncommitted), but the audit team—applying Rhode Island voter intent standards—agreed the ballot should be tallied as a vote for Haley.

**Audit Tally Totals**



1. For purposes of the RLA, this contest is treated as an ordinary plurality contest: the candidate with the most votes is deemed the winner. The audit does not consider the specific delegate allocations to each candidate. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The RLA software Arlo conservatively reports a larger value, about 7.6%. The figure reported here incorporates all audit results. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)