

Rhode Island presidential risk-limiting audit, November 19-24, 2020 (brief report)

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Rhode Island conducted its first risk-limiting audit of a presidential election on November 23 and 24, after selecting the initial sample on November 19. The risk limit was 9%; the measured risk was approximately 7.4%.

Rhode Island had planned to conduct the audit entirely as batch comparison, but due to unanticipated technical complications, it was impossible to obtain batch totals for all voted ballots before the sample was selected on the 19th. Accordingly, the audit was conducted using a variant of the SUITE method: about 97.5% of voted ballots were in the batch comparison stratum and the remaining ballot cards were in a ballot polling stratum. The initial batch sample size was 13 batches (drawn with replacement; one batch was selected twice), but an additional batch was selected to facilitate the stratified audit. The ballot polling sample size was 200 ballot cards; 197 unique cards were selected (three cards were selected twice each).

The following are summary results for the thirteen unique batches in the batch comparison stratum. The net change in margin in the audit sample was 2 votes out of 19,834 ballots counted.

Batch Name	Voting System Totals				Audit Totals				net change
	Biden	Trump	Other	Ballots	Biden	Trump	Other	Ballots	
M02-01	711	87	11	812	711	88	10	812	1
M05-02	405	179	10	599	405	179	10	599	0
M07-03	332	73	4	412	331	73	4	410	1
M24-04	604	139	14	761	605	139	14	761	-1
M28-17	521	82	17	631	525	84	16	631	-2
M35-03	871	138	8	1023	870	137	8	1021	0
M35-17	591	281	25	915	591	281	25	915	0
Jamestown (12819)	1233	597	29	1867	1232	598	29	1867	2
North Smithfield 2503 (12816)	224	375	15	615	224	375	15	615	0
Providence 2854 (10015)	696	299	28	1031	699	299	28	1031	-3
West Warwick (12836)	1917	1781	51	3772	1921	1780	51	3772	-5
West Warwick 3801 (12300)	226	394	11	637	225	395	11	637	2
Pawtucket emergency	4798	1847	81	6759	4794	1850	83	6755	7
							Total Net Change:		2

The ballot polling sample was found to contain 83 votes for Biden, 35 votes for Trump, 2 votes for other candidates, and 79 irrelevant cards (second cards of two-card ballots). The sample proportions were broadly comparable to the reported vote totals for the ballot polling stratum, providing additional evidence for the accuracy of voting machine tabulations.

A more detailed report will follow.