

Oregon

Election Verification



Verified Voting

2019-2020

Kudos!



Oregon is a leader and early adopter of many best practices in election administration.

Oregonians, with only a few exceptions, vote on paper ballots that they mark by the method of their choice -- by hand or with computer assistance.



Official Work in Progress



This year Oregon is moving toward the gold standard of election tabulation audits: **“risk-limiting audits.”**

WHAT ARE RISK-LIMITING AUDITS?



These audits use appropriate statistical design, endorsed by the American Statistical Association, to provide computer-independent evidence that election outcomes are correct (or to detect errors in the outcome).



Some counties are conducting **pilot audits**, while **Senate Bill 944** requires counties to audit every tabulation (not just general election tabulations) and provides a framework for moving to uniform risk-limiting audits across the state.



Opportunities for Improvement



Several Oregon counties have old election equipment that are known to have security flaws. They also make risk-limiting audits less efficient. **Replacing this equipment** requires significant amounts of money.



Oregon allows military and overseas voters to put their **voted ballots at risk of tampering** by sending them via the internet (by email or fax). Ensuring that all voters, including military and overseas voters, are able to cast ballots is crucial. Oregon should do it in a way that does not put voted ballots at risk.



Even with the best defensive cybersecurity practices, voter registration lists are vulnerable to tampering. Even if untrue, a credible report of problems with the voter registration list could decrease public confidence in Oregon elections. Oregon should find statistically appropriate ways to **audit the voter registration list**.



While vote-by-mail has many advantages, it does open up **opportunities for coercion**. Oregon should find ways to keep the advantages of vote-by-mail while protecting voters who may be at risk of having their ballot choices monitored or coerced. This is particularly important in light of discussions of extending the franchise to 16- and 17-year-olds, many of whom live at home with parents or guardians on whom they are financially dependent.