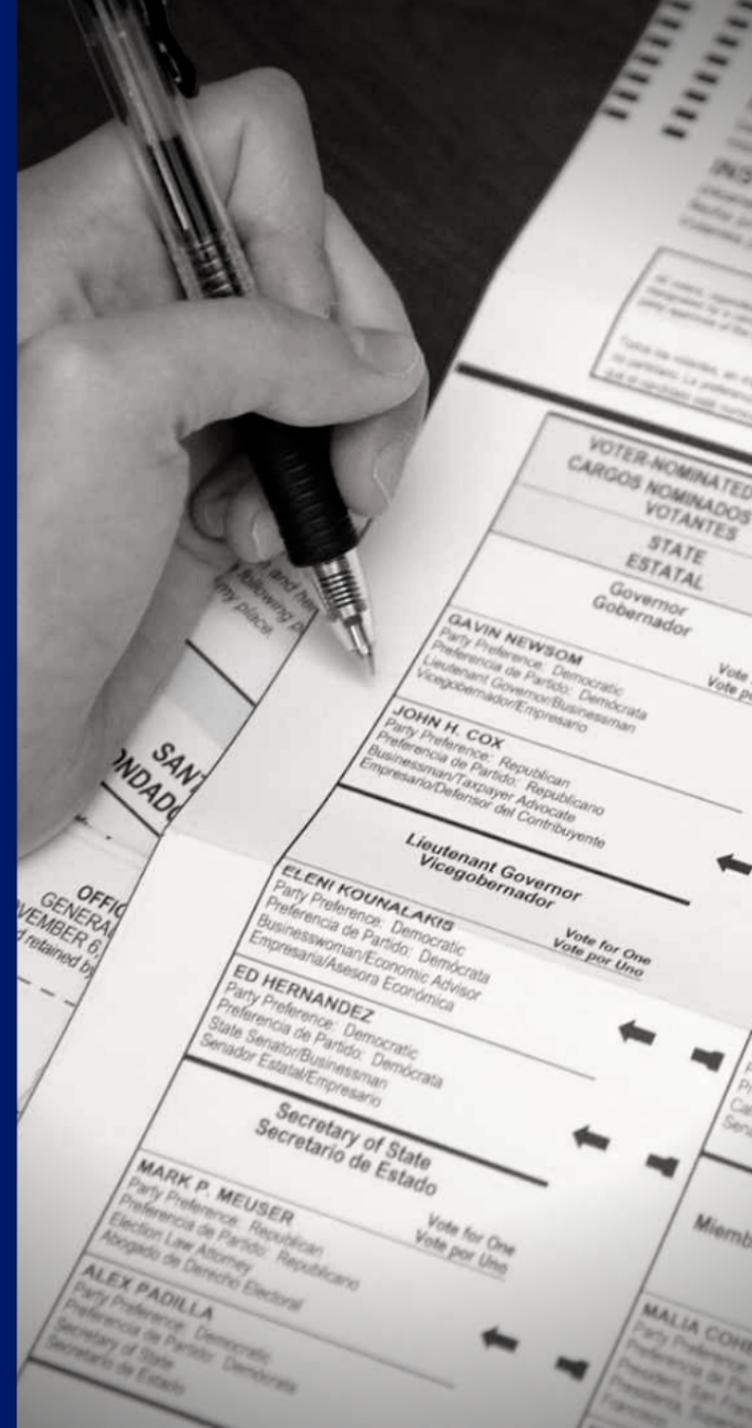


risk- limiting audits

a workshop



questions for today

- What is a risk-limiting audit (RLA)?
- What does the RLA process look like?
- What differentiates ballot polling & ballot comparison methods?
- What's next?

01

**WHAT THE
HECK IS A
RISK-LIMITING
AUDIT?**

A risk-limiting audit:

- type of post-election tabulation audit
- examines a random sample of paper ballots for evidence that the reported winner actually won; if evidence of a wrong outcome is found, correct the outcome
- designed to balance efficiency & effectiveness

02

**what does
the process
look like?**

1

2

3

4

5

**PREP
BALLOTS**

**SELECT
BALLOTS
FOR AUDIT**

**RETRIEVE
BALLOTS**

**AUDIT
BALLOTS**

**CALCULATE
RISK
LIMIT MET**

MAINTAIN BALLOT CUSTODY



LET'S TRY IT!

Ballot Record Report Place in Envelope #2

Precinct - 001 Fairfax Presbyterian Church
November 6, 2018 - General- City of Fairfax

1. Start here at the beginning of the day

How many unopened FULL ballot packs are inside the blue pouch? _____
How many unopened FULL ballot packs are inside Envelope/Box #6? _____
Assume that each pack of ballots has 100 ballots. Do you have 2200 ballots? YES NO
If you answered no, call the main office (703) 385-7891

With two officers, open and count the ballots from the blue pouch.
 Record that number in the column on the far right beside the number one.
 With 2 officers, continue to open, count and record new ballot packs as needed.

2. Open Packs

Ballot pack #	# of ballots in pack
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

3. What to do with spoiled, voided and provisional ballots

Spoiled ballots *This is a ballot spoiled by the voter.*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64

Voided ballots *This is a ballot found abandoned.*

Cross off or circle the next number below.
 Place the voided ballot in Envelope #4/ask Chief.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----

Provisional ballots *This is a ballot for a provisional voter.*

Cross off or circle the next number below.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64
65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80

Spoiled and returned absentee ballots

This is an absentee ballot that the voter returns. This is rare.

Cross off or circle the next number below.
 Place the returned ballot in Envelope #4.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----

4. What to do at the end of the day

Total ballots NOT used

Count the number of ballots not used in the last pack(s) you opened	+	
Count the total number of unopened ballot packs and multiply by 100 <i>Include all ballots still in Envelope/Box #6.</i>	+	
How many total ballots were not used? <i>Add the two rows above</i>	→	=

Total ballots used

Record the number of ballots scanned from the voting machine tape	+	
Record number of spoiled ballots from 3A above	+	
Record number of voided ballots from 3b above	+	
Record number of provisional ballots from 3c above	+	
How many total ballots were used? <i>Add the four rows above</i>	→	=

Final review

Add the total number of ballots from section 4a and 4b	→	=
Subtract the number of ballots created on the ballot marking device	-	
Does this number equal 700?	YES NO	=

4. What to do at the end of the day

Total ballots NOT used

Count the number of ballots not used in the last pack(s) you opened	+	
Count the total number of unopened ballot packs and multiply by 100 <i>Include all ballots still in Envelope/Box #6.</i>	+	
How many total ballots were not used? <i>Add the two rows above</i>	→	=

Total ballots used

Record the number of ballots scanned from the voting machine tape	+	
Record number of spoiled ballots from 3A above	+	
Record number of voided ballots from 3b above	+	
Record number of provisional ballots from 3c above	+	
How many total ballots were used? <i>Add the four rows above</i>	→	=

Final review

Add the total number of ballots from section 4a and 4b	→	=
Subtract the number of ballots created on the ballot marking device	-	
Does this number equal 700?	YES NO	=

29	
30	
31	
33	
34	
35	
36	
37	
38	
39	
40	
41	
42	
43	
44	
45	
46	

ballot polling v. ballot comparison

**COMPARING OVERALL
MARGIN,
BALLOT ORDER
DOESN'T MATTER**

**AUDIT MORE
BALLOTS**

SIMPLEST TO DO

**COMPARING SPECIFIC
BALLOT TO CAST VOTE
RECORD, BALLOTS NEED
TO STAY IN ORDER**

**AUDIT FEWER
BALLOTS**

MORE DATA

things to think about

- How are ballots stored? Could you go through your records and build a ballot manifest?
- Do you have contests that are entirely within your jurisdiction, or would you need to partner with neighbors to be able to audit a particular contest?
- How can you engage various stakeholders & make the process as transparent as possible, to promote public trust?

thank you!