



From the Office of Secretary of State

John A. Gale

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**Audit confirms accuracy of ballot scanners during general election**

LINCOLN – A hand count of ballots in 31 randomly selected precincts across Nebraska revealed few problems. Secretary of State John Gale says results point to the reliability and accuracy of optical scanners used to read those ballots in the 2014 general election.

Following each statewide election, a manual audit is conducted involving two percent of the election precincts. Ballots are hand counted and the results compared to results provided by the optical scanners during the election.

Following the election in November, 9,503 ballots were counted in 25 counties from the following races: U.S Senate (federal), governor (state), and county treasurer (local).

"There were only a handful of discrepancies," explained Gale. "There were four instances in three counties in which the scanners did not read the marked oval on the ballot. Officials noted those marks were either too light or were not completely filled in and so they were not read properly."

Additionally, an extra ballot was counted in one county when there was a problem with the machine on election night. Gale said the issues did not change the outcome associated with any races adding, "The few errors resulting from our electronic counting system reflect an infinitesimally small percentage of the total vote, and are considerably less than hand counting error rates might be."

"The machines are checked and tested before and after each election to make sure they perform as they should," continued Gale. "This audit confirms the equipment is operating to the standards we expect in each and every election."

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