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## **BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

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To: Howard County- General Public

From: Guy C. Mickley, Election Director II  
Howard County Board of Elections

Date: January 28, 2019

Subject: Post-Election Manual Ballot Tabulation Audit

State law<sup>1</sup> now requires that election officials manually audit a sample of voted ballots. This audit must be performed after each general election.

The Howard County Board of Elections will conduct the manual ballot audit of the 2018 General Election starting on February 12, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. This audit will take place at the Howard County Board of Elections, located at 9770 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 200, Columbia, MD 21046. This audit is open to the public.

The Howard County Board of Elections will manually tally a sample of votes cast for the Office of the Comptroller and compare the results of the manual tally against the results from the voting system. This process will determine whether the voting system accurately counted ballots during the 2018 General Election.<sup>2</sup>

The State Board of Elections randomly selected the early voting center and precinct to be audited, and the Howard County Board of Elections randomly selected the absentee and provisional ballots to be audited. During the manual ballot audit on February 12<sup>th</sup>, the Howard County Board of Elections will manually tally the votes for Comptroller as follows:

1. 645 ballots cast on one scanning unit on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of early voting at the Bain Center (EV-02).
2. 655 ballots cast on election day at the Oakland Mills Middle School (precinct 6-5).
3. 25 absentee ballots
4. 25 provisional ballots

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<sup>1</sup> See Election Law Article, §11-309 of the *Annotated Code of Maryland*. This requirement introduced as House Bill 1278 of the 2018 Legislative Session and is reported as Chapter 523 of the 2018 Laws of Maryland.

<sup>2</sup> Before the 2018 General Election was certified, the State Board of Elections conducted an automated audit of **all** of the ballots cast in the 2018 General Election. The results of this audit confirmed the accuracy of the voting system. The results of the automated audit are at [https://elections.maryland.gov/voting\\_system/ballot\\_audit\\_plan.html](https://elections.maryland.gov/voting_system/ballot_audit_plan.html)