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## **Department of State Begins Risk-Limiting Audit of 2024 General Election**

**Harrisburg, PA** – Today, the Department of State began Pennsylvania’s statewide risk-limiting audit (RLA), this one for the Nov. 5, 2024, presidential election.

“Risk-limiting audits are the highest standard of comprehensive election audits, not just here in Pennsylvania, but across the country,” **Secretary of the Commonwealth Al Schmidt** said. “The RLA process provides a statistically sound, scientific method for confirming that the reported outcome of the election is accurate.”

Ten Department employees took turns rolling 10-sided dice this morning to generate a 20-digit “seed number,” which is used to randomly determine which batches of ballots counties will audit over the next several days.

The livestream of the event continues the **Shapiro Administration’s** commitment to transparency in election administration in the Commonwealth.

A drawing [livestreamed](#) last week resulted in the random selection of the state treasurer race to be audited for this RLA. During the audit, county officials will tally the randomly selected ballot batches, then compare those vote counts to the original machine counts for the selected race.

Known as a “batch comparison” type of RLA, this pre-certification audit can confirm whether counties accurately tabulated paper ballots.

The RLA will be carried out in addition to the 2% statutorily required review that counties must perform after each primary and general election in Pennsylvania. For that review, county officials are required to conduct a statistical recount of a random sample of at least 2% of all ballots cast -- or 2,000 ballots, whichever is fewer.

Counties must complete the RLA by Nov. 22 and must certify final election results to **Schmidt** by Nov. 25.

For more information about RLAs, visit the [Department’s website](#).

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