

Alaska Division of Elections – Ballot Counting System Testing and Security - 2012

The Director of Elections appoints Bi-Partisan State Ballot Review Board (SRB). AS 15.10.180

The Regional Election Supervisors appoint Bi-Partisan Regional Accu-Vote Boards (RAB). AS 15.20.900 6 AAC 25.030

The Regional Election Supervisors appoint Bi-Partisan Precinct Election Boards. AS 15.10.120

Federally certified ballot tabulation software (GEMS) is used in Alaska.

Prior to each election, the division performs a HASH code verification on the software to ensure it matches the certified software on file in the National Software Reference Library.

A division employee programs the election parameters using the GEMS software. Once programming commences, there are no software updates allowed.

Functionality testing is performed on each piece of equipment to ensure the equipment is in proper working order.

Alaska vendor prints official ballots and test ballots once election parameters are programmed.

Election parameters are downloaded onto memory cards for each precinct and for absentee and questioned ballots.

AS 15.20.900

1. Printer prints two separate sets of test ballots for each house district. The end results from both sets will be in opposite order.
2. Using one set of test ballots, the SRB performs a logic and accuracy test on a memory card from each house district.
3. The SRB verifies the results from the memory card's logic and accuracy test match the pre-determined results from the test ballots to ensure each house district's memory card is accurately programmed and counting ballots correctly.
4. When the test is complete, the SRB seals the memory cards and test ballots into marked envelopes for each district.
5. Memory cards and test ballots are sent to Regional Election Supervisors.

1. Election Supervisors present sealed memory cards and test ballots to the RAB. The RAB performs logic and accuracy test on each precinct memory card that will be used in the election. The RAB verifies the test results match the pre-determined test results which will be in opposite order from the results of the SRB test.
2. As part of the test, the memory card is placed in election mode. Touch screen memory cards are sealed in tamper-evident envelopes for distribution to the precinct election board. Optical scan memory cards are sealed in the unit with a numbered seal. The seal number and unit serial number are recorded on the logic and accuracy report log.

AS 15.20.900 6 AAC 25.030 6 AAC 25.045

1. Ballot counting equipment is received by the Bi-Partisan Precinct Election Board.
2. Before polls open on Election Day, election board verifies the tamper-evident seals on the equipment have not been broken and then turns on the equipment and prints election results to verify all are zero.
3. When polls close, the election board ends voting on the equipment. Election board prints and signs election results and then transmits the results via telephone.
4. Memory card, signed results tape and equipment are returned to the Division of Elections.

6 AAC 25.030

1. Precinct materials are returned to SRB for use during election certification.
2. SRB audits the ballot statement for each precinct and verifies the number of voters voting in each precinct matches the number of ballots cast on the results. Any discrepancies are noted and researched.
3. SRB verifies the number of absentee, early and questioned ballots counted matches the number on the absentee and questioned ballot audit reports.

AS 15.15.370 AS 15.15.440

Before certifying the election, SRB performs a hand-count verification of 5% of the ballots cast in each house district to verify accuracy of the electronic counting. If there is more than a 1% discrepancy in the results certified by the election board and the results of the hand-count, all ballots for the district must be recounted by hand.

AS 15.15.430