

Ballot Hand Count Process: Requirements

Michigan Republican Party State Convention

Efficiency: Approximately 90 minutes to complete.

Full transparency: Performed in full view of all convention attendees desiring to watch.

Multiple crosscheck verifications: Occurring at each stage of counting and aggregation.

Ballot chain of custody: Visually verifiable by attendees and poll challengers desiring to watch.

Candidate-appointed poll challengers: Present at counting tables and state vote aggregation table.

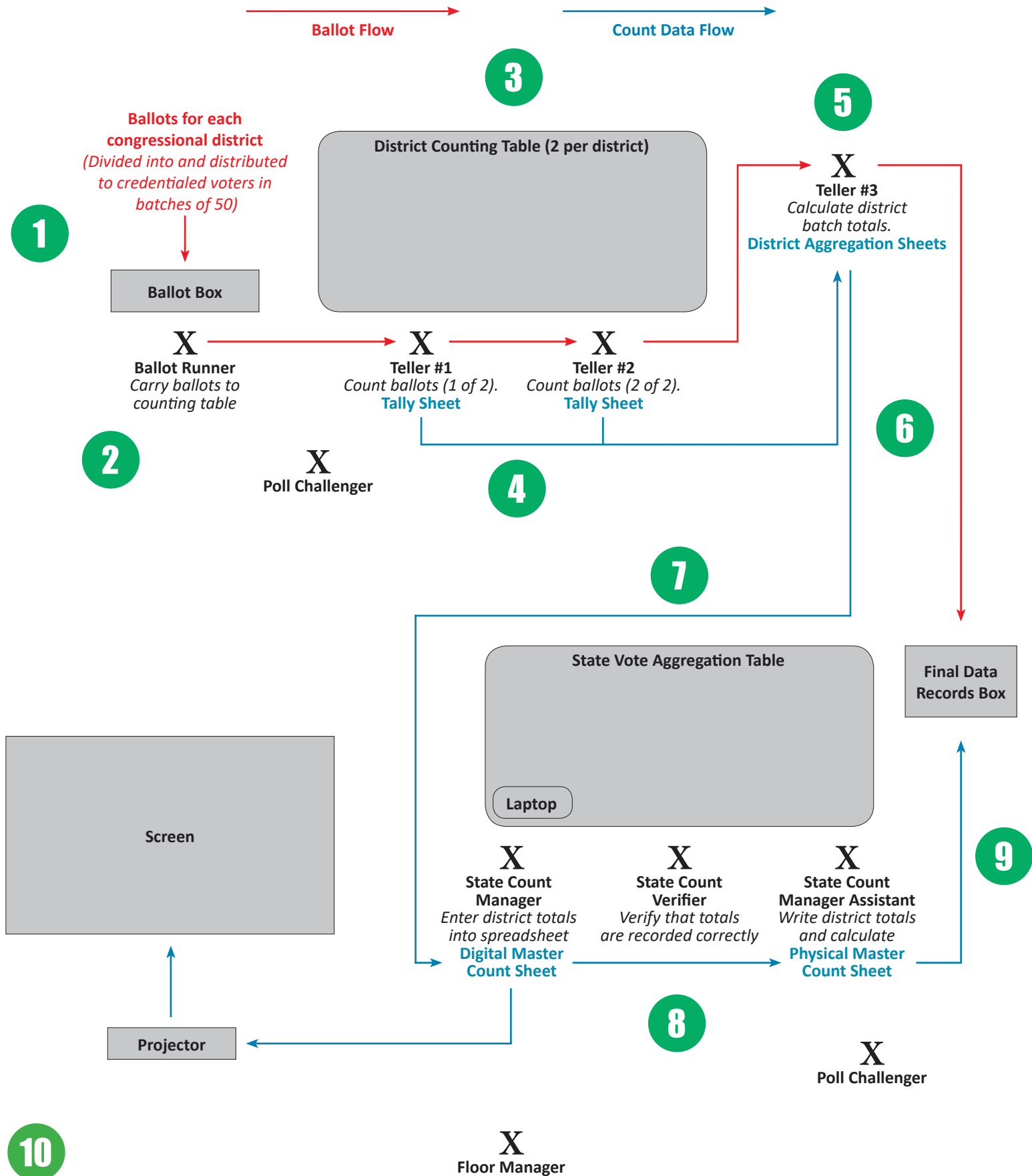
Trusted outcome through verifiable ballot processing security: Randomly selected counting table tellers from a pool of statewide precinct delegate volunteers. No one counts ballots from their own district.

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Ballot Hand Count Process: Flow Diagram

Process Steps detailed in following pages



Ballot Hand Count Process: Detailed Description

1 Credentialing & Voting

Voters shall vote by district. Ballots shall be sequentially numbered for each district and be separated into stacks by district. Voters shall be called by district to the 3-step ID, credential check/punch and voting tables. Worker #1 shall check in voters and compare IDs to the voter roll. Worker #2 shall punch credentials. Worker #3 shall hand a ballot to the voter who shall move forward to the voting table, vote, then place their ballot face-down into the clear ballot box.

After a lot of 50 ballots is handed out, Worker #3 shall verify that all 50 ballots have been deposited into the clear ballot box, then signal to the 'ballot runner' (described in Step 2) that the ballot box is ready to be transferred to the counting tables, before placing an empty clear ballot box for the next lot of 50 ballots.

2 Transfer of Ballots from Voting Area to Counting Tables (with visual chain of custody maintained)

One person shall be a 'ballot runner.' The runner is responsible for carrying the district-labeled ballot box to Teller #1 at the district counting table(s) marked with the same district # as the ballot box. After arriving at the district table, the runner shall open the lid of the ballot box in view of attendees and poll challengers. Then, Teller #1 shall remove the 50 ballots and place them immediately to the left of Teller #1 for processing. Runner shall close the lid and quickly return the empty ballot box to the voting area.

3 Counting Table Setup

There shall be a roped-off section at the state convention hall, in view of all state delegates caring to watch, for the sole purpose of counting ballots by hand. Two (2) rectangular counting tables per congressional district shall exist for ballot processing: District #? Table A and District #? Table B. (Districts with fewer than 100 voters shall have one (1) counting table instead of two (2).) There shall be four (4) "Additional Counting Tables" to assist in the event of a recount or a bottleneck as the result of a slow batch count.

Three persons shall be tellers at each counting table, with two counting tables (A & B) per district. District Table A shall have Tellers #1A, #2A and #3A. District Table B shall have Tellers #1B, #2B and #3B.

There shall be no tablecloths, table skirts or anything else present in the counting area which could be used to conceal ballots.

4 Batch Tally & Cross-Check Verification

Teller #1 shall have a Tally Sheet, tally each ballot, and pass the ballot to Teller #2. Teller #2 shall have an identical Tally Sheet and tally each ballot for the second time. This process shall continue until an entire batch of 50 has been counted.

Tellers #1 and 2 shall total their tally marks for the batch of 50: then, they shall compare Tally Sheet results to ensure matching results. If the Tally Sheet results do not match, tellers shall recheck their own tally mark count first. If a discrepancy is found in actual tally marks (rather than the counting of the tally marks), a recount of the batch of 50 is needed. Upon verification that tally sheets match, Tellers #1 and 2 shall sign each Tally Sheet.

Teller #2 shall transfer the Tally Sheets and ballots to Tellers #3A or #3B, at which point the counting process for a new batch of 50 may begin.

5 District Vote Aggregation & Cross-Check Verification

Tellers #3A and #3B shall transfer totals from the Tally Sheets to the "Table Aggregation Sheet" for each batch of 50. Then they will clip both batch Tally Sheets onto the 50-ballot batch with a binder clip to create a Batch Stack.

After the two counting tables dedicated to each district finish counting the entire district's ballots, Tellers #3A and Teller #3B shall cross-check each other's "Table Aggregation Sheets" for accuracy. Then, each Teller #3 shall aggregate the two "Table Aggregation Sheets" into a single "District Aggregation Sheet" of their own, which they shall then cross-check for accuracy and write their signatures on each. (For districts with one counting table, Teller #3 from one of the "Additional Counting Tables" shall cross-check for accuracy.)

6 Transfer of Ballots & District Count Data from Counting Tables to State Vote Aggregation Table

Teller #3A shall place one of the two identical "District Aggregation Sheets" on top of all the Batch Stacks and "Table Aggregation Sheets," insert all into a manilla envelope, and deposit the envelope at the "Final Data Records Box" at the State Vote Aggregation Table." Teller #3B shall hand the second identical "District Aggregation Sheet" to the "State Count Manager."

7 State Vote Aggregation Table Setup

There shall be a “State Vote Aggregation Table,” within visibility of all state delegates, for the purpose of receiving and totaling the “District Aggregation Sheets” and providing final results. A laptop shall be at this table. The laptop shall have a “Digital Master Count Sheet” for entering the totals, which shall be projected on to a screen, visible to all state delegates.

Three persons shall be present at the “State Vote Aggregation Table”: “State Count Manager,” “State Count Manager Assistant,” and “State Count Verifier.”

8 State Vote Aggregation & Cross-Check Verification

The “State Count Manager” shall receive each “District Aggregation Sheet” and enter the totals into the “Digital Master Count Sheet”. The “State Count Verifier” shall verify that each number was entered correctly.

The “State Count Manager Assistant” shall write the totals from each “District Aggregation Sheet” on a “Physical Master Count Sheet” to keep a written version of the “Digital Master Count Sheet”. The “State Count Verifier” shall verify that the totals were copied correctly.

The “State Count Manager Assistant” shall add together the totals from all congressional districts on the “Physical Master Count Sheet”. The “State Count Verifier” shall verify that these totals match the “Digital Master Count Sheet”.

9 Presentation of Results

The “State Count Manager” and “Assistant” shall confer to determine the winner of each race and the need for a run-off. They shall then highlight the winner on the “Digital Master Count Sheet” and place a star next to the winner on the “Physical Master Count Sheet”.

The “State Count Manager” shall make photocopies of the “Master Count Sheet” and distribute one to each district chairperson and candidate. Then, the “State Count Manager” shall clip the “Master Count Sheet” on top of the “District Aggregation Sheets” with a binder clip and deposit all into the “Final Data Records Box”.

10 Other Necessary Security Requirements

Tellers, Ballot Runners, Floor Manager, State Count Manager, State Count Manager Assistant and State Count Verifier shall be chosen from a state-wide pool of precinct delegates who volunteer by submitting their name and district number on a website to add their name to a volunteer pool. Names of all volunteers submitted on the website shall be printed on slips of paper, placed on a table in view of an uninterrupted live-stream video camera, such that volunteers can verify their name is in the random drawing pool, then gathered and placed in a clear container from which all ballot processing volunteers (approximately 100) and alternates (approximately 75) shall be selected and announced on live-stream. All volunteers and poll challengers shall attend a training session(s) where they are trained to fill each role defined in this process.

The random drawing used to assign volunteers to the processing-positions, and district they will count ballots for, shall not occur until the morning of state convention in full view of all state delegates caring to watch. All teller names and the district number they reside in shall be printed on slips of paper and placed in a container from which tellers shall be selected, beginning with district 1 counting table and ending with the state vote aggregation table. A teller shall not count ballots for the district in which they reside. If a teller’s name is selected to count in the district they reside, it shall be returned to the container, and a new name shall be chosen.

Any candidate shall have the opportunity to appoint one poll challenger per congressional district and one poll challenger for the State Vote Aggregation Table, each to challenge real-time as necessary, including but not limited to, the ballots themselves, the hand count of the ballots, the reading of the voting results, and other procedures and methods defining the process. All challenges shall be presented to the Ballot Processing Floor Manager and addressed without delay.

“Line spacing” shall be identical across ballots, tally sheets, table aggregation sheets, table total sheets and precinct aggregation sheets to increase efficiency and reduce error rate.

Alexander Hamilton, in Federalist Papers, No. 25, p. 164:

“The people are commonly most in danger when the means of injuring their rights are in the possession of those [toward] whom they entertain the least suspicion.”