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To: Citizens of Charles County

From: Tracy A. Dickerson, Director II
Charles County Board of Elections

Date: January 2, 2019

Subject: Post-Election Manual Ballot Tabulation Audit

State law¹ now requires that election officials manually audit a sample of voted ballots. This audit must be performed after each general election.

The Charles County Board of Elections will conduct the manual ballot audit of the 2018 General Election starting on January 15, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. This audit may take up to 2 business days and will take place at the Charles County Board of Elections, located at 201 East Charles Street, La Plata, MD 20646. This audit is open to the public.

The Charles 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.²

The State Board of Elections randomly selected the early voting center and precinct to be audited, and the Charles County Board of Elections randomly selected the absentee and provisional ballots to be audited. Starting on January 15th, the Charles County Board of Elections will manually tally the votes for Comptroller on:

1. 545 ballots cast on one scanning unit on the 1st day of early voting at the Gleneagles Neighborhood Center
2. 1,615 ballots cast on election day at the Robert D. Stethem Educational Center (precinct 6-14)
3. 15 absentee ballots
4. 15 provisional ballots

¹ 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.

² 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