

## Elections FAQ

# ExpressVote Auditing

### 1. What types of postelection audits are there?

There is no single national auditing standard — methods can vary from state to state.

- **Fixed-percentage Audit**

Fixed-percentage audits of voting districts or voting machines compare the paper record to the tabulated cast vote record produced by the election management system. Postelection audits can be completed by hand counting; however, some states choose to re-scan ballots electronically, on central tabulators. While most states performing traditional audits count the same percentage of ballots no matter the outcome, some states use a “tiered” system, meaning they change the number of ballots reviewed depending on the margin of victory. If the margin is larger, fewer ballots need to be counted. If the race is tighter, more ballots are audited.

- **Risk-Limiting Audits**

A risk-limiting audit (RLA) is a Postelection audit that provides statistical evidence that the election outcome is correct and has a high probability of validating the outcome. These statistics are calculated based on the number of votes cast, the margin of victory, and the accepted risk limit. Random ballots are chosen using proven methods and checked manually until there is enough evidence that the reported outcome is correct (the risk limit is met or exceeded).

### 2. Is the paper ballot provided by ExpressVote auditable?

Yes. ExpressVote, which is used in more than 1,700 jurisdictions across the country, provides a paper vote summary card that can be used in postelection audits. Just as hand-marked paper ballots can be inspected or audited by hand or by machine, so can the ExpressVote barcoded summary card. Below are three examples of states that use ExpressVote and require postelection audits. These examples are just a few of many.

State	Audit Type	Process
Iowa	Traditional hand count	100% audit of locations selected. Rerun through the central tab.
Pennsylvania	Traditional hand count or electronic - testing RLA	Use manual, mechanical or electronic devices of a type different than those used for the specific election. Testing RLA in two counties. Committed every county using enhanced audits by the 2022 general election.
Wisconsin	Hand-count Fixed Percentage	After every election there is a mandatory random hand-count audit. Must include every type of equipment and at least one municipality in each county.

ES&S fully supports the use of paper ballots and post-election audits to ensure accuracy and increase confidence in our country’s election process. ES&S views paper records as critical for auditing. ES&S decided in 2018 to no longer sell paperless voting machines as the primary voting device in a jurisdiction because it is difficult to perform a meaningful audit without a paper record of each voter’s selections. Using a physical paper record sets the stage for all jurisdictions to perform statistically valid post-election audits.