



Texas Secretary of State
ELECTIONS DIVISION



Planning for Risk-Limiting Audits

44th Annual
Election Law Seminar
for County Election Officials
August 10–12, 2026



When Do Risk-Limiting Audits Happen?



**November
19–20, 2026
for each election
on a statewide
race or measure**



General Information

Conducted by general custodian of election records

Open to poll watchers

Notice must be posted in office and on website



Risk-Limiting Audits and PEHCA

The **Post-Election Hand Count Audit (PEHCA)** must begin not later than the first business day after the SOS certifies completion of the risk-limiting audit

PEHCA must be completed no later than the 30th day after election or by the deadline designated by the SOS, whichever is later



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Risk-Limiting Audit Basics



What is a Risk-Limiting Audit?



Checks Outcome
of an Election

1

Retrieve Randomly
Selected Ballots



2

Hand-Count Ballots



3

Calculate Risk





RLA Requirements ✓



Paper Ballots



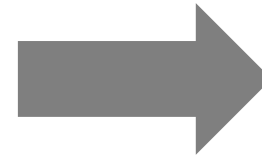
Voter Verifiable



Chain of Custody



Ballot Retrieval and Hand Count



Open Ballot
Containers

Retrieve Random
Paper Ballots

Hand-Count
Random Ballots



Calculating the Risk



Risk Limit

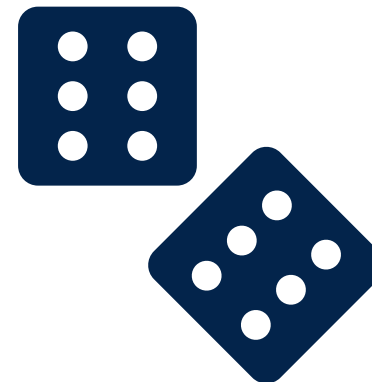


Open Source
Software



Audience Participation

Choose a Random Number
Between 1 and 6





Random Numbers



Range



Pseudo-random
Number Generator



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Risk-Limiting Audits in Practice



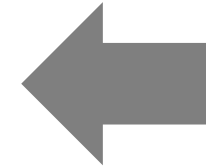
Ballot Manifest

	A	B
1	Batch Name	Number of Ballots
2	EV Library	762
3	EV City Hall	244
4	EV Main Office, Bag 1	2357
5	EV Main Office, Bag 2	1549
6	ED Library	285
7	ED Main Office	963
8	ED City Hall	174
9	ED NW Community Center	189
10	Mail	102



Ballot Manifest

	A	B
1	Batch Name	Number of Ballots
2	EV Library	762
3	EV City Hall	244
4	EV Main Office, Bag 1	2357
5	EV Main Office, Bag 2	1549
6	ED Library	285
7	ED Main Office	963
8	ED City Hall	174
9	ED NW Community Center	189
10	Mail	102



Range: 1 – 6625



Pseudo-random
Number Generator

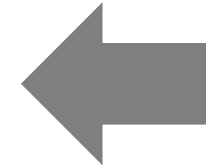


Output: 538



Ballot Manifest

	A	B
1	Batch Name	Number of Ballots
2	EV Library	762
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6	ED Library	285
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8	ED City Hall	174
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Range: 1 – 6625



Pseudo-random
Number Generator



Output: 763

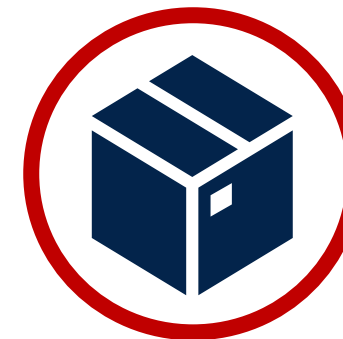


Ballot Retrieval

Audit Board #1

Batch: EV Library

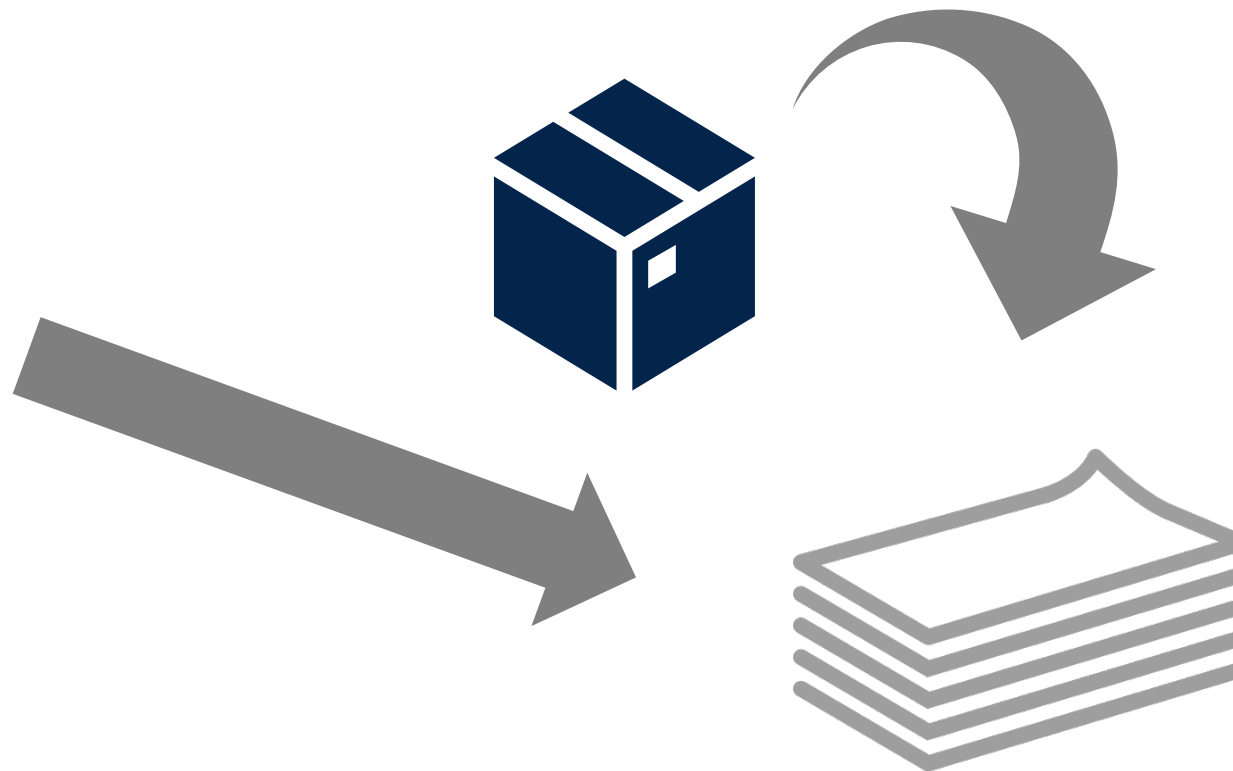
Ballot Number: 538





Ballot Retrieval

Audit Board #1
Batch: FV Library
Ballot Number: 538



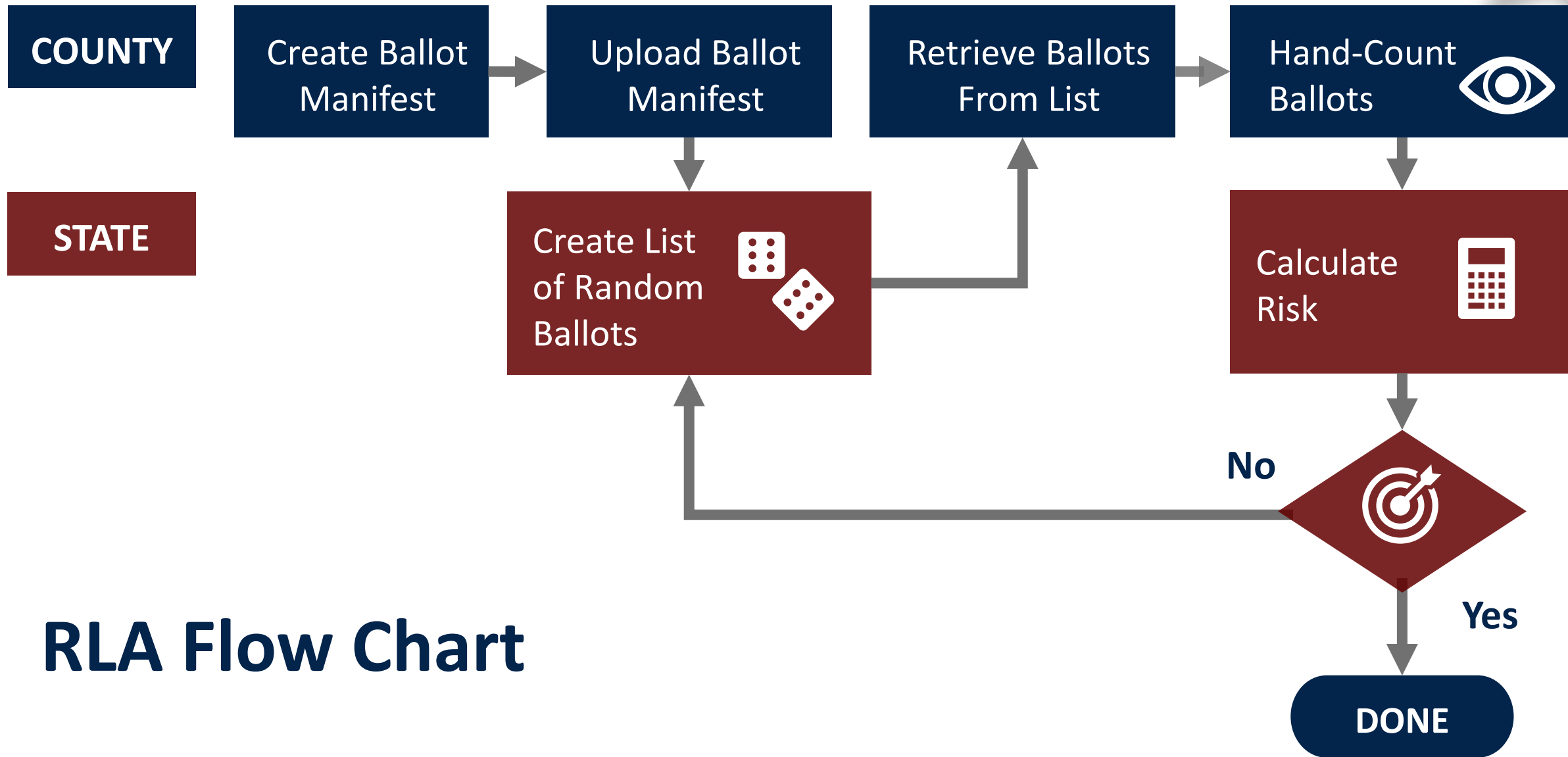


Hand Count



Hand-Count
Each Ballot

Enter Voter Choices



RLA Flow Chart



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Preparing for Risk-Limiting Audits



Ballot Retrieval

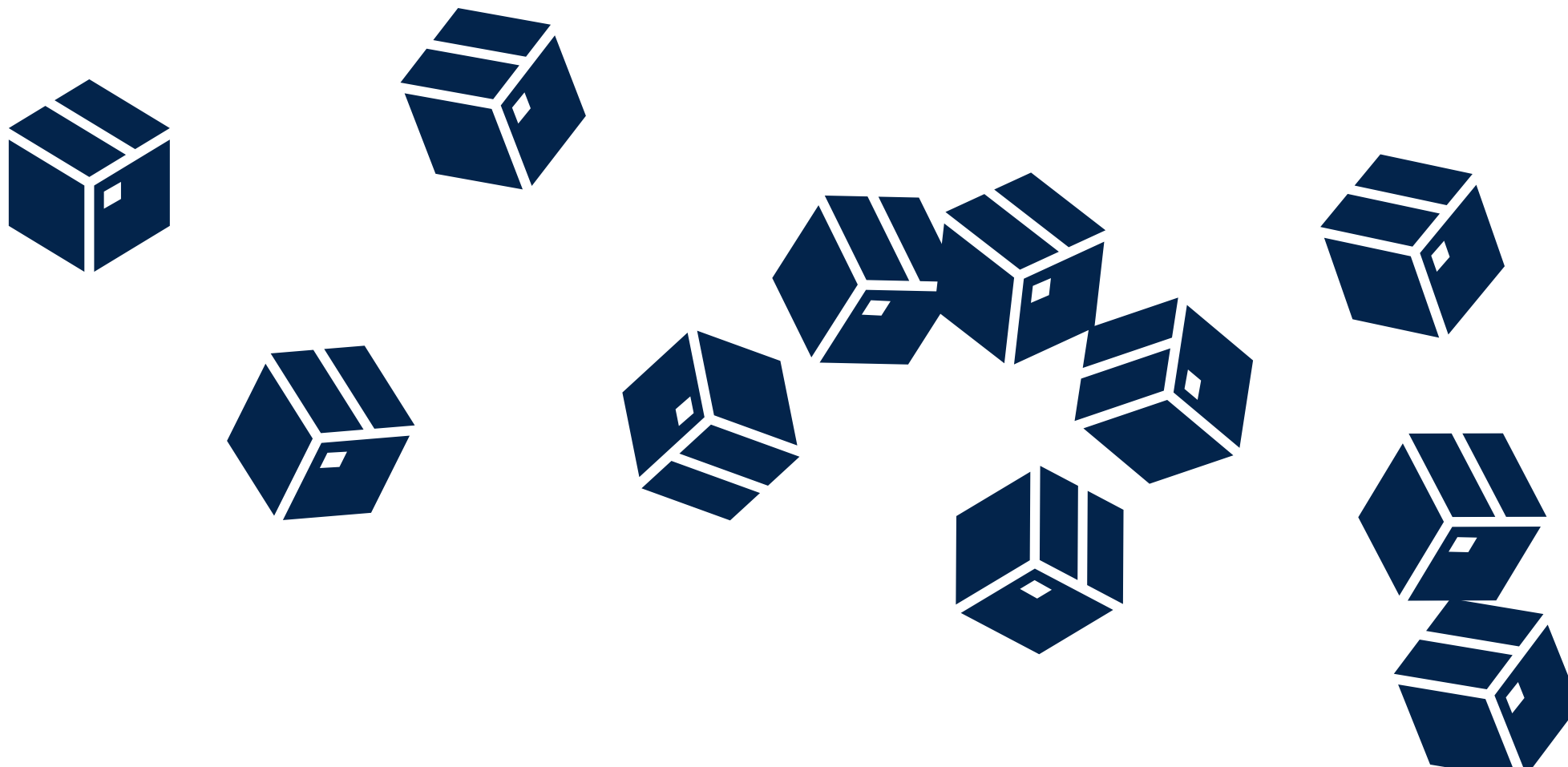
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Audit Board #1
Batch: EV Library
Ballot Number: 538





Organize Ballot Containers





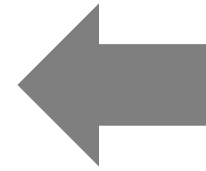
Organize Ballot Containers





Ballot Manifest

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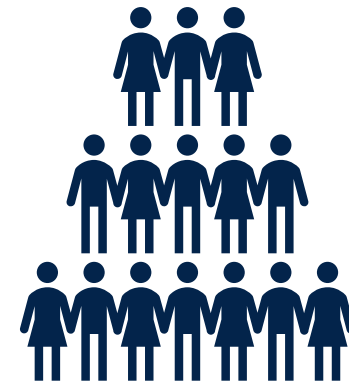


Poll List



Ballot Manifest – Election Day Locations

	A	B
1	Batch Name	Number of Ballots
2	EV Library	762
3	EV City Hall	244
4	EV Main Office, Bag 1	2357
5	EV Main Office, Bag 2	1549
6	ED Library	285
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9	ED NW Community Center	189
10	Mail	102





Ballot Manifest – Early Voting Locations

	A	B
1	Batch Name	Number of Ballots
2	EV Library	762
3	EV City Hall	244
4	EV Main Office, Bag 1	2357
5	EV Main Office, Bag 2	1549





Ballot Manifest – Mail Ballots

	A	B
1	Batch Name	Number of Ballots
2	Scanner 1, Batch 1	100
3	Scanner 1, Batch 2	100
4	Scanner 1, Batch 3	100
5	Scanner 1, Batch 4	100
6	Scanner 1, Batch 5	47

BBM Batch Sheet

Scanner: #1

Batch: 4

of Sheets: 100



Review

Create a Ballot Manifest

Retrieve Random Ballots

Hand-Count Ballots



During the Election



Chain of Custody



Reconciliation



Ballot Storage



Available Support



WEBINARS



TRAINING



RESOURCES

elections@sos.texas.gov

800-252-VOTE • 512-463-5650

sos.texas.gov