

FROM: Carol Robertson, County Auditor Election Commissioner
DATE: November 21, 2018

NEWS RELEASE – POST-ELECTION AUDIT

Mills County conducted its first post-election audit on November 13, 2018 under a new law designed to monitor and protect election processes. The audit was a perfect match to the result recorded on election night.

Iowa law now requires that after each general election, the Secretary of State will choose, at random, one precinct in each Iowa county to be audited. County auditors must then supervise a hand count of the ballots from that precinct and compare the results from the presidential or gubernatorial election, depending on the year, to the voting machine count from election night.

In Mills County, the Secretary of State chose the Silver City Precinct, which votes at the Silver City Community Center, where 186 votes were cast. Both the machine count from Tuesday night and the hand count on Tuesday afternoon showed the following breakdown: Reynolds, 139. Hubbell, 42. Porter, 1. Siegwarth, 1. Write-in, 0. Undervotes, 3. Overvotes, 0. Total, 186.

“That’s what we like to see,” said County Auditor Carol Robertson. “Just like in recounts that we’ve had in close races in the past, the hand count shows that our machines are accurately counting the ballots.”

Robertson said that the new law is in response to concerns about computer hackers altering election results. “Since our voting machines, as well as our programming and tabulating computers, aren’t hooked up to the internet, hacking the vote is highly unlikely, but not totally impossible,” she said. “Being able to rely on paper ballots should give us confidence in the integrity of our voting system.”

Three precinct election officials, representing the two major political parties, conducted the count under the supervision of Auditor, Carol Robertson. As required in the law, the Auditor’s Office notified the county chairs of both of the two major political parties. The process was witnessed by the Chairman of the Mills County Republicans.

Questions about the post-election audit and other election matters may be directed to the Mills County Auditor & Commissioner of Elections Office at 712-527-3146 or crobertson@millscoia.us.