



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
BUREAU OF ELECTIONS  
LANSING

**MEMORANDUM**

DATE: January 16, 2025  
TO: County and Local Clerks  
FROM: Michigan Bureau of Elections  
SUBJECT: November 5, 2024 General Election Certification; Recounts; Release of Voting Equipment and Election Materials

The Board of State Canvassers completed its canvass of the November 5, 2024 General Election on November 22, 2024. Please be advised of the following:

**STATE AND LOCAL RECOUNTS:** All recounts requested for the November 5, 2024 General Election are complete.

**CONDUCT OF POST-ELECTION AUDITS:** The list of precincts selected for audit is attached. The post-election procedure audit will include a hand count of the ballots for the Presidential race in each precinct selected for audit. Additional precincts will be selected for a hand count of ballots only, as part of state-wide ballot audit of the Presidential race.

**RELEASE OF VOTING EQUIPMENT:** The security of ballots and election equipment is released as follows:

***Ballots, programs and related materials:*** The security of all optical scan ballots, programs, test decks, accuracy test results, edit listings and any other related materials will be released once all post-election audits are completed.

***E-Pollbook laptops and flash drives:*** The EPB software and associated files must be deleted from all devices by the seventh calendar day following the final canvass and certification of the election (November 29, 2024) unless a petition for recount has been filed and the recount has not been completed, a post-election audit is planned but has not yet been completed, or the deletion of the data has been stayed by an order of the court or the Secretary of State. This action may be taken now for any precinct not selected for a procedure audit. If a precinct has been selected for a procedure audit, this action may not be taken until after the audit is completed.

**FEDERAL BALLOT RETENTION REQUIREMENT:** If the office of President, U.S. Senator, or U.S. Representative in Congress appears on the ballot (all appeared on the November 5, 2024 General Election ballot), federal law requires that all documents relating to the election—including optical scan ballots and the programs used to tabulate optical scan ballots—be

retained for 22 months from the date of the certification of the election. To comply with the requirement, the Bureau of Elections recommends that optical scan ballots and the programs relating to federal elections be stored in **sealed ballot bags** in a secure place during the 22-month retention period. The documents subject to the federal retention requirement must not be transferred to ballot bags for extended retention until after they are released under Michigan election law as detailed in this memo.

### **Questions?**

If you have any questions, please contact us via email at [elections@michigan.gov](mailto:elections@michigan.gov), or by phone at (800) 292-5973.