



# Broward County

## Legislation Text

File #: 20-827, Version: 1

### **Broward County Commission Regular Meeting**

**Director's Name:** Bob Melton

**Department:** County Auditor

### Information

#### Requested Action

MOTION TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND FILE Office of the County Auditor's Audit of Supervisor of Elections - Report No. 20-12.

#### Why Action is Necessary

#### What Action Accomplishes

#### Is this Action Goal Related

No

#### Previous Action Taken

#### Summary Explanation/Background

The Office of the County Auditor conducted an audit of the Broward County Supervisor of Elections Office. The objectives of our audit were to determine whether the November 2018 election was efficiently and effectively conducted; voter registration processes include adequate internal controls and voter rolls are adequately maintained; the SOE is adequately funded, equipment resources are adequate, and monies are expended appropriately, and voter outreach and education activities meet best practices.

We conclude that the November 2018 election was not efficiently and effectively conducted. Backlogs in processing and tabulating Vote-By-Mail ballots delayed election results. Half of the precincts reported more votes (cast ballots) than voters on election day. Electronic transmission of precinct results on election night were delayed, and election day votes continued to be transmitted and tabulated after all precincts were announced as having been reported. Vote-By-Mail and unused ballots were not adequately tracked. Recount results were submitted late and rejected by the State. Had the recount results been accepted, they would have reflected an underreporting of 2,335 ballots which were misplaced and not included in the recount. Faulty ballot design likely resulted in undervotes. Election day staff performance is not adequately tracked and monitored to help improve future elections. There is an overall lack of Standard Operating Procedures. Based on the totality of these issues, we are unable to provide assurance over the accuracy of the November 2018 election

results as reported.

We conclude that voter registration processes do not include adequate internal controls. While we did not identify non-compliance with State election laws, our review indicates that those laws do not provide adequate controls over preventing ineligible non-citizens from registering to vote. Voter registration forms provided by Third Party Voter Registration Organizations lack adequate tracking and monitoring controls. Except for the Opportunities For Improvement noted within this report, we conclude voter rolls are adequately maintained.

Except for the Opportunities For Improvement noted within this report, we conclude that monies were expended appropriately. Inadequate planning and staffing resulted in avoidable costs, such as overtime amounts which exceeded budgeted costs by \$1 million, and \$180,000 in additional vendor costs associated with the recount. Significant waste occurred in overordering approximately \$800,000 in election day ballots. Purchases lack competitive solicitation and budgetary controls. Except for the Opportunities For Improvement noted within this report, we conclude the SOE is adequately funded and equipment resources are adequate.

We conclude that voter education and outreach activities meet best practices.

### **Source of Additional Information**

### **Fiscal Impact**

#### **Fiscal Impact/Cost Summary**

No fiscal impact.