

ACT Legislative Assembly Election 2020 – Scanning Audit

Background

Elections ACT has used scanning to identify preferences shown on every formal ballot paper since the 2008 ACT Legislative Assembly election. The process uses intelligent character recognition (ICR) software used to identify preferences shown on every formal paper ballot. Any preferences that could not be identified by the software or that did not meet business rules were verified by electoral officials. All informal ballots continued to be manually rechecked. Scrutineers were entitled to observe the process and seek rulings on interpretations placed on ballot papers.

Overview

After each ACT Legislative Assembly election, Elections ACT performs an audit of scanned images to verify that the preferences on the ballot paper match the preferences recorded by the scanning system through the optical character recognition and verification process. Once the ballot papers for a polling place have completed the ballot paper scanning scrutiny process the recorded preferences are uploaded to the electronic voting and counting system for a final distribution to achieve the election result.

In late 2020/early 2021, Elections ACT performed an audit of 3,000 randomly selected ballot papers to determine if any discrepancies between the ballot paper images and preferences recorded could be identified. The results of the audit are presented below.

Results

Electorate: Brindabella
Number of ballot papers audited: 600
Number of discrepancies: 0

Electorate: Ginninderra
Number of ballot papers audited: 600
Number of discrepancies: 0

Electorate: Kurrajong
Number of ballot papers audited: 600
Number of discrepancies: 0

Electorate: Murrumbidgee
Number of ballot papers audited: 600
Number of discrepancies: 0

Electorate: Yerrabi
Number of ballot papers audited: 600
Number of discrepancies: 0

A report is attached providing specific details for the ballots audited, including the ballot paper number audited within a particular batch.