

**Ann M. Balcerzak, Esq – President**  
**Donna K. Thewes – Vice President**  
**Timothy J. Mummert, Esq – Member**  
**Raymond M. Rankin – Member**  
**Paul P. Rivers – Member**  
**Lorraine Lawrence-Whittaker – Counsel**



**Guy C. Mickley – Director**  
**Charlotte B. Davis – Deputy Director**  
🌐 [howardcountymd.gov/board-elections](https://howardcountymd.gov/board-elections)  
f @hocoelect  
i @hocoelect  
X @HoCoBOEMaryland  
@HowardCountyBoardofElections-B

## **HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

---

July 9, 2026

Public Notice:

State law requires that election officials conduct a risk-limiting audit after each primary and general election.

The Howard County Board of Elections will conduct the risk-limiting audit of the 2026 Primary Election starting on July 21, 2026, at 10 a.m. This audit will take one day to complete and take place at the Howard County Board of Elections, located at 9770 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 200, Columbia, Maryland 21046. The audit is open to the public. Members of the public must follow the Rules of Conduct for Post-Election Audit Observers and elections officials' directions while observing the risk-limiting audit.

The Howard County Board of Elections will manually tally a sample of votes cast for Republican primary for governor and compare the results of the manual tally against the results from our voting system. This process will confirm the accuracy of reported results of the 2026 Primary Election.

The State Board of Elections randomly selected the contest to be audited during this risk-limiting audit. After counties upload ballot spreadsheets into the open-source audit software tool that Maryland uses for risk-limiting audits – called Arlo - the State Administrator of Elections will generate a random 20-digit seed number during a livestreamed dice roll. The State Board of Elections will enter that seed number into the audit software, which will select a random list of ballot batches for local boards of election to retrieve and hand-tally.

Members of the public will be permitted to review the final list of ballot batches chosen for audit by their identifying name or code numbers, and machine and hand counts of the votes in each chosen batch of ballots.

Sincerely,

Howard County Board of Elections