

# Status Update: Elections Ballot Security

Updated Processes for Ballot Security

August 2024

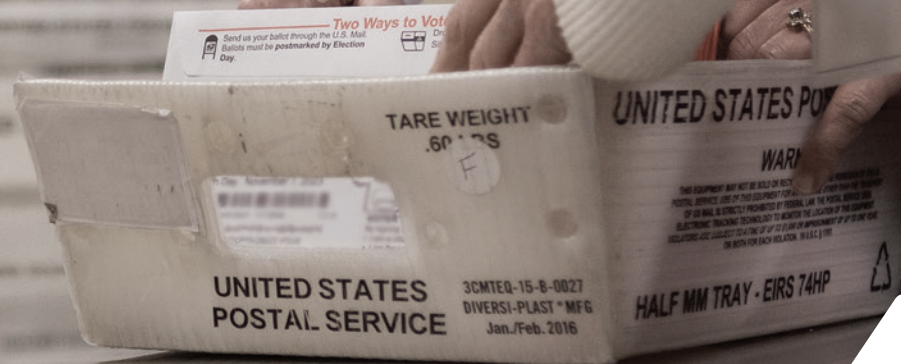
Report by the Office of County Internal Audit

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# I. Executive Summary



## **All recommendations from the 2021 Elections Ballot Security Audit have been implemented**

In 2021, the Office of County Internal Audit conducted an [Elections Ballot Security Audit](#) focusing on physical security and safeguarding controls for ballot return envelopes during the May 18, 2021 Special District Election held in Clackamas County. Former County Clerk Sherry Hall and the Elections Division team agreed with two of the four recommendations included in the September 2021 report.

After being elected Clackamas County Clerk in 2022, Clerk Catherine McMullen, issued a revised response, agreeing with all recommendations, and requested an updated evaluation. The Office of County Internal Audit conducted the Status Update: Elections Ballot Security Audit during the May 21, 2024 Primary Election held in Clackamas County, focusing on the implementation status of the four 2021 recommendations.

All four recommendations have been resolved. Detailed observations are included in this report.

### **Proactive Efforts**

County Clerk Catherine McMullen and Elections Manager Justin Larsen, as the primary engagement contacts, have contributed their time and effort to provide access to the information and data cited. These contributions significantly supported the completion of this review. Collaborative efforts are vital to the county's ability to successfully meet objectives, as well as identify, thoroughly analyze, and appropriately respond to risks. We demonstrate our core values, [SPIRIT](#), when we collectively and proactively identify steps to streamline processes, strengthen controls, and mitigate risks.

Special thanks to County Clerk Catherine McMullen, Justin Larsen, Tiffany Clark, Qi Richmond, and the elections team for their contributions and support for this engagement; Mark McBride and Dylan Blaylock with the Public & Government Affairs department for their assistance in the report design, formatting, and conducting post-audit administrative tasks.