



Information Sheet on 2024 Primary Post-Election Audit

Montana Secretary of State

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- 1) Of the **56** counties in the state, **54** are potentially subject to the post-election audit.
- 2) Due to potential recounts, Sheridan County and Ravalli County are exempt from this election's audits.
- 3) Therefore, 54 counties are subject to the post-election audit. In each county, 10% of the precincts are audited, with a minimum of two precincts per county. If there is only one or two precincts, those precincts are automatically selected. Petroleum County, Meagher, and Wibaux County have the least with only 1 precinct in the county; Missoula County has the most, with 65 precincts.
- 4) After the initial 2-7 precincts are randomly chosen, 3 additional precincts are randomly chosen in each county in case the results of the post-election audit conducted by a county exceed the allowable discrepancy. (In counties that do not have 3 additional precincts, the precincts they do have will be automatically part of this additional audit if one becomes necessary.)
- 5) **Two federal offices, two statewide offices, two statewide ballot issues, and two legislative districts** are subject to the audit. However, only contested races can be chosen in the audit. There are three federal offices on the ballot that have contested party races. There are five statewide offices on the ballot that have contested races. There are no statewide ballot issues on the ballot. Certain counties have no contested legislative primary election races on any party's ballot. In that case, those counties will not audit any legislative races.
- 6) Once the initial precinct(s) are chosen, **only legislative districts that contain the initial precinct(s) may be chosen**. (Otherwise, the selection of initial precincts to audit would need to expand and exceed the requirements of state law.) If the county's precinct(s) randomly chosen for the initial audit are not in any legislative district subject to the audit, then there will not be any legislative districts audited in that county.
- 7) As provided by rule, members of the board of state canvassers will **roll dice** to determine the selections. As applicable, **intervals** are assigned to dice rolls in order to reduce the number of rolls necessary, while still maintaining an equally random chance of choosing a number. For example, if there are 20 precincts, rolling two ten-sided dice to find a number between 1 and 20 could take a long time because there are 100 possible outcomes of rolling two ten-sided dice.

Therefore, in this example, 20 intervals of 5 have been assigned as applicable – a roll of 00-04 would be associated with the 1st precinct, 05-09 would be associated with the 2nd precinct, 10-14 would be associated with the 3rd precinct, etc., through the 20th precinct.

Please see the chart below for choices between 2 and 10.

Dice Roll Scenarios: 1-10 Choices

Scenarios	Dice Rolls	Re-Rolls
2 Choices: 1st choice	0-4	[None]
2 Choices: 2nd choice	5-9	[None]
3 choices: 1st choice	0-2	9
3 choices: 2nd choice	3-5	
3 choices: 3rd choice	6-8	
4 choices: 1st choice	0-1	8-9
4 choices: 2nd choice	2-3	
4 choices: 3rd choice	4-5	
4 choices: 4th choice	6-7	
5 choices: 1st choice	0-1	[None]
5 choices: 2nd choice	2-3	
5 choices: 3rd choice	4-5	
5 choices: 4th choice	6-7	
5 choices: 5th choice	8-9	
6-9 choices	Number Rolled Equals Number Chosen	Re-Roll if 0 or Higher Than Number of Choices
10 choices	1-9 = 1-9, 0=10	[None]