

The Bulletin

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LOCAL, STATE & REGION

STATE AUDIT | CLACKAMAS COUNTY

Primary tally was accurate

**BY PETER WONG**  
Oregon Capital Bureau

A state-ordered audit has concluded that Clackamas County's tally of results from the May 17 primary election was accurate, despite faulty printed barcodes that required hand duplication of thousands of ballots.

The special audit, which Secretary of State Shemia Fagan ordered on June 10, was in addition to the regular post-election audits required in all of Oregon's 36 counties, which conduct the elections.

Audits usually involve county election workers pulling a statistically significant random sampling of ballots in statewide races off the shelves — ballots are normally tallied by optical scanners or other

*"This post-election audit was a necessary step in assuring Clackamas County voters, and all Oregonians, that they can continue to trust in the integrity of Oregon elections."*

— Shemia Fagan, secretary of state

machines — and counting them by hand. Then the samples are matched against the machine-tallied results to verify their accuracy.

The state order for Clackamas County was more extensive. It required workers to verify that the ballots they duplicated by hand were transcribed accurately, in addition to the standard requirements. The order specifies which batches of ballots should be recounted from six county-wide races. The batches were randomly selected, as were the

results were 100% accurate.

"This post-election audit was a necessary step in assuring Clackamas County voters, and all Oregonians, that they can continue to trust in the integrity of Oregon elections."

The secretary of state is Oregon's chief elections officer. County election workers did find one ballot that was duplicated incorrectly. There also were some minor discrepancies in the numbers tallied for candidates, though the overall totals of ballots cast were correct, and the discrepancies had no effect on any of the election races chosen for audit.

The contests were Clackamas County commissioner positions 2 and 5 — incumbents Paul Savas and Sonya Fischer are headed for Nov.

8 runoffs, since neither won a majority in the primary for the nonpartisan offices — plus party nominees for U.S. senator, and unopposed candidates for three nonpartisan judgeships on the Clackamas County Circuit Court, Oregon Court of Appeals and Oregon Supreme Court. Ten races for precinct committee persons also were covered.

According to the order, the batches represent 10% of the total ballots cast. Depending on the race, between 90,000 and 98,000 ballots were cast in Clackamas County in the primary. The audits cover samplings of the total.

Clackamas County Clerk Sherry Hall certified primary results on June 14.

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CENTRAL OREGON WILDFIRES

No new fire starts; firefighters continue work

Bulletin staff report

As temperatures are projected to rise again at the beginning of the week, potential for fire growth remains high and the public should exercise cautions, the Central Oregon Interagency Dispatch Center said Saturday.

The Deadline Flat Fire is burning 15 miles northwest of Paulina on Bureau of Land Management land. Since 1:30 a.m. Friday, three engines have been working to contain the fire burning mostly grass and juniper trees. As of Saturday afternoon, it was 2 acres in size and 0% contained.

The Green Butte Fire, located around 13 miles southwest of La Pine on the Deschutes National Forest, was 23 acres in size and 50% contained as of Saturday. The fire caused air quality to reach unhealthy levels in Bend on Wednesday. Firefighters used



Dean Guernsey/Bulletin file

A helicopter drops water Monday on the Fly Creek Fire near Lake Billy Chinook.

a drone Saturday to identify hotspots within the fire area to focus crews suppression efforts.

The Fly Creek Fire near Lake Billy Chinook was 95% contained at 274 acres Friday. Evacuations for Three Rivers, Perry South and Monty campgrounds were lifted Thursday and the campgrounds reopened for use Friday.

Minimal growth was reported on the Windigo and

ening existing containment lines on the Potter Fire.

As of Saturday, the Windigo Fire, located 20 miles southwest of La Pine, was 1,046 acres in size and 5% contained. The Potter Fire, located eight miles northeast of Toketee Lake, was 167 acres and 0% contained.

Both fires were caused by lightning and resulted in several temporary closures throughout the area. Overlapping portions of the Umpqua, Deschutes, Willamette and Fremont-Winema national forests were closed Saturday.

Portions of the Pacific Crest Trail and some forest service roads remain closed. Air travel was also temporarily restricted above the fires.

Central Oregon may continue to experience smoke from fires in the Pacific Northwest, according to the interagency dispatch center.

Smoke is often trapped in river corridors and lower elevation areas overnight, the organization said. It advised the public to close all windows and doors throughout the evening and early-morning hours to limit smoke exposure.

**Notice of Oregon Working Families Party Nomination Convention**  
Saturday August 13th - Wednesday August 17th  
Hosted virtually at [bit.ly/OWFPNom22](http://bit.ly/OWFPNom22)

You must be a registered member of the party to vote.  
For more information, visit [www.owfp.org](http://www.owfp.org)

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**State of the COUNTY**  
AUG. 16 | 5:00-7:30 PM | ED RAY HALL, OSU-CASCADES

Join us to hear how Deschutes County is tackling many issues, including growth, planning, housing, homelessness, transportation, infrastructure, solid waste, wildfire resilience, health and safety and more.

Sign up today at [BendChamber.org](http://BendChamber.org)!

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