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Office of the Auditor General

Report Summary

Performance Audit

Bureau of Elections (BOE)

Department of State

Report Number:
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Legislation in 1951 created BOE to assist with the administration of the Secretary of State's election-related duties and responsibilities. BOE maintains the State's Qualified Voter File (QVF), which is the complete list of 8.0 million registered electors in Michigan. BOE develops and provides training to the 1,603 local clerks and other local election officials who independently administer elections under their jurisdiction. BOE also prescribes the procedures for and, along with county clerks, conducts post-election audits. BOE expended \$22.9 million and had 32 employees as of the end of fiscal year 2020.

Audit Objective			Conclusion
Objective 1: To assess the sufficiency of BOE's efforts to maintain the integrity of QVF.			Sufficient, with exceptions
Findings Related to This Audit Objective	Material Condition	Reportable Condition	Agency Preliminary Response
BOE did not perform a periodic reconciliation between the driver's license file and QVF. We identified discrepancies in addresses and death status that if identified and corrected could help decrease the risk of ineligible electors voting in Michigan (Finding 1).		X	Agrees
Observations Related to This Audit Objective	Material Condition	Reportable Condition	Agency Preliminary Response
Legislative clarification may be needed related to ballots cast prior to an election day by electors who are deceased on election day (Observation 1).	Not applicable for observations.		

Audit Objective			Conclusion
Objective 2: To assess the effectiveness of selected application access controls over QVF and the Electronic Poll Book (EPB).			Effective
Findings Related to This Audit Objective	Material Condition	Reportable Condition	Agency Preliminary Response
Improved EPB security configuration controls are needed to ensure appropriate access and protect elector information (Finding 2).		X	Agrees

Audit Objective			Conclusion
Objective 3: To assess the sufficiency of selected BOE post-election audit procedures to help ensure the integrity of elections.			Sufficient, with exceptions
Findings Related to This Audit Objective	Material Condition	Reportable Condition	Agency Preliminary Response
Post-election audit results were not properly submitted for approximately 9% of selected audits and 10% of the submissions were late. In addition, approximately 17% of completed post-election audits did not include a hand count of the appropriate Statewide race ballots (<u>Finding 3</u>).		X	Agrees
Observations Related to This Audit Objective	Material Condition	Reportable Condition	Agency Preliminary Response
Enhanced requirements in the Michigan Election Law and BOE policies and procedures could help improve the effectiveness of post-election audits (<u>Observation 2</u>).	Not applicable for observations.		
Observations from clerk site visits and survey results could help improve Michigan's election processes (<u>Observation 3</u>).			

Audit Objective			Conclusion
Objective 4: To assess the sufficiency of BOE's efforts to establish and provide training to the county, city, and township officials who are responsible for conducting elections.			Sufficient, with exceptions
Findings Related to This Audit Objective	Material Condition	Reportable Condition	Agency Preliminary Response
Required post-election audit training was not completed by approximately 52% of county clerks and 59% of other county election officials who had not viewed relevant post-election audit training webinars or videos (<u>Finding 4</u>).	X		Agrees

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Office of the Auditor General
201 N. Washington Square, Sixth Floor
Lansing, Michigan 48913

Doug A. Ringler, CPA, CIA
Auditor General

Laura J. Hirst, CPA
Deputy Auditor General