



AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION
Promoting the Practice and Profession of Statistics®

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December 12, 2017

Senator Ron Wyden
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Wyden,

On behalf of the American Statistical Association (ASA), I write in enthusiastic support of the requirement of risk-limiting audits in your bill, the Election Security and Accessibility Act of 2017.

In a 2010 statement,¹ the ASA Board of Directors recommended that “risk-limiting audits be routinely conducted and reported in all federal, most state-wide, and at least a sampling of other governmental election contests.” We are pleased to see your legislation requiring such post-election audits, which will make U.S. elections more trustworthy. Further, because well-designed risk-limiting audits often can confirm a correct electoral outcome after examining only a small fraction of the ballots cast, they use election officials’ time and taxpayers’ money efficiently. As an additional benefit, routinely-conducted risk-limiting audits provide a powerful tool for continuous quality improvement because they have the potential to identify the kinds of machines and ballot designs that lead to the fewest errors.

Thank you for your work to ensure the integrity and trustworthiness of U.S. elections.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry D. Nussbaum". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barry D. Nussbaum
President, American Statistical Association

¹ http://www.amstat.org/asa/files/pdfs/POL-Risk-Limiting_Endorsement.pdf