



AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION  
Promoting the Practice and Profession of Statistics®

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May 10, 2019

Senator Ron Wyden  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Wyden,

On behalf of the American Statistical Association (ASA), I write in enthusiastic support of the provisions in your bill, the Protecting American Votes and Elections Act (PAVE), to enhance the security of American elections and the perception thereof.

PAVE includes several provisions that the ASA has endorsed, including voter-verifiable paper ballots and risk-limiting audits (RLAs). We also determine many PAVE provisions to be consistent with the principles described in *Principles and Best Practices for Post-Election Tabulation Audits*<sup>1</sup>—which the ASA Board of Directors endorsed in 2018 along with 12 other organizations—including the requirement of a voting system in which voter can verify their vote without the aid of additional equipment and minimum cybersecurity requirements for the systems used in federal elections.

The ASA endorsement of risk-limiting audits goes back to a 2010 statement<sup>2</sup> when 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 especially pleased to see your legislation requiring RLAs, which will make U.S. elections more trustworthy. Further, because well-designed RLAs 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

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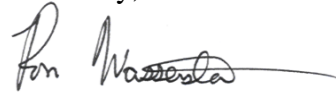
<sup>1</sup> <https://electionaudits.org/files/Audit%20Principles%20and%20Best%20Practices%202018.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.amstat.org/asa/files/pdfs/POL-Risk-Limiting\\_Endorsement.pdf](http://www.amstat.org/asa/files/pdfs/POL-Risk-Limiting_Endorsement.pdf)

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, appearing to read "Ron Wasserstein", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ron Wasserstein  
Executive Director