

VEST MD 2016

Election Results Validation Report

To request a full validation report for this data file, email info@redistrictingdatahub.org

State: Maryland

Organization: Voting and Election Science Team (VEST)

Summary of Races included: Presidential, U.S. Senate, U.S. House [General]

Date File Updated: 07/15/2018

Date Report Updated: 08/19/2021

RDH Validation Code (Github):

<https://github.com/nonpartisan-redistricting-datahub/pdv-md/tree/main/vest-md-16>

RDH Criteria	Explanation
<p>Is all raw data available?</p> <p>Yes</p>	<p><u>Accessible files:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● VEST MD 16 Data File <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Accessed: 08/16/21, Source: VEST on the Harvard Dataverse ○ https://dataverse.harvard.edu/file.xhtml?persistentId=doi:10.7910/DV/N/NH5S2I/FPW2PW&version=65.0 ● VEST MD 16 documentation file <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Accessed: 08/16/21, Source: VEST on the Harvard Dataverse ○ https://dataverse.harvard.edu/file.xhtml?fileId=4938232&version=65.0 ● MD Election Day Precinct-Level Results <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Accessed: 08/16/21, Source: Maryland Board of Elections ○ https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/2016/election_data/index.html ○ Note: These can be downloaded by clicking "General" in the "General" column and "Precinct Results" row. ● MD Early, Provisional, and Absentee votes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Accessed: 08/17/21, Source: Maryland Board of Elections ○ https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/2016/election_data/index.html ○ Note: These files are only available at the county-level and must be downloaded for each county. To do so, click "General" in the "General" column and "County Results" row for each county.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MD Precinct Shapefile <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Accessed: 08/18/21, Source: Maryland Department of Planning ○ https://planning.maryland.gov/Redistricting/Pages/2010/precinct.aspx ○ Note: Maryland lists this as a 2010 precinct shapefile. We contacted the Department of Planning and they responded that this was the current shapefile.
<p>Election results validated for every candidate statewide?</p> <p>No</p>	<p>At the statewide total level, the election results did not match VEST's. However our totals matched those of MD's election summary report (https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/2016/election_data/index.html).</p> <p>The differences are 10 fewer votes in the VEST file for "G16PREOth" and 1 fewer vote in the VEST file for "G16USSOth", beyond these minor differences the totals match.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Given the sheer number of "Other" candidates in both the Senate and Presidential races, we were unable to determine exactly which candidates VEST may have dropped to create their differences. <p>We have reached out to VEST to inform them of this difference.</p>
<p>Election results validated for every candidate by county?</p> <p>No</p>	<p>At the county total level, the election results did not match VEST's, due to the difference described above.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● For "G16PREOth", 9 of the 10 differing votes are in Calvert County and the remaining vote is in Kent County. ● For "G16USSOth", the lone differing vote is in Kent County. <p>Our totals matched those of MD's election summary report (https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/2016/election_data/index.html).</p>
<p>Election results validated for every candidate by precinct?</p> <p>No</p>	<p>At the precinct level, the election results did not match VEST's (56 out of 2032 precincts matched). However, the differences mentioned above only involve 11 total votes and of the 1976 precincts that didn't match, the greatest difference was 2 votes and the average difference was 1.01 votes. As such, the differences likely stem from differences in rounding following allocation.</p> <p>There were 11 unjoined precincts from VEST's file, but all of these precincts contained 0 total votes.</p>