VEST NM 2020

Election Results Validation Report

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

State: New Mexcio
Organization: Voting and Election Science Team (VEST)
Summary of Races included: Presidential, U.S. Senate, Justice of the Supreme Court Positions 1 & 2, Judge of the Court of Appeals Positions 1 & 2 & 3 [General]
Date File Updated: 11/22/2021
Date Report Updated: 12/01/2021
RDH Validation Code (Github): https://github.com/nonpartisan-redistricting-datahub/pdv-nm

RDH Criteria	Explanation

Is all raw data available?
 	
Yes
	Accessible files:
	• VEST NM 2020 Data File
	  ○ Accessed: 12/01/2021, Source: VEST on the Harvard Dataverse
	  ○ https://dataverse.harvard.edu/file.xhtml?fileId=5425599&version=27.0
	• VEST NM 2020 Documentation
	  ○ Accessed: 12/01/2021, Source: VEST on the Harvard Dataverse
	  ○ https://dataverse.harvard.edu/file.xhtml?fileId=5431956&version=27.0
	• NM Precinct-Level Election Results, 2020
	  ○ Accessed: 12/01/2021, Source: NM SOS
	  ○ https://electionresults.sos.state.nm.us/Default.aspx?
	  ○ Note: Selected 'EXPORT' and downloaded 'Precinct Level' data for each election
	• NM County-Level Election Results, 2020
	  ○ Accessed: 12/01/2021, Source: NM SOS
	  ○ https://electionresults.sos.state.nm.us/Default.aspx?
	  ○ Note: Selected 'EXPORT' and downloaded 'County Level' data for each election
	• NM Precinct Shapefiles
	  ○ Accessed: 12/01/2021, Source: NM Resource GIS
	  ○ https://rgis.unm.edu/rgis6/

	○ Note: The two files VEST appears to have used are "New Mexico Voting Districts (VTD) October 2021" and "New Mexico Voting Precincts 2012-2020"
Election results validated for every candidate statewide? Yes	For the precinct-level file that we were able to download, precinct vote totals that equaled less than 5 votes were obfuscated. As a result, at the statewide total level, the election results did not match VEST's. We are not sure if VEST obtained an election results file without these obfuscations or whether they allocated the votes back into the data somehow. VEST's statewide totals match those of NM's election summary report (https://electionresults.sos.state.nm.us/Default.aspx?), but not the exported sum of the county-level data in the notebook, due to obfuscations also present in that file.
Election results validated for every candidate by county? No	For the precinct-level file that we were able to download, precinct vote totals that equaled less than 5 votes were obfuscated. As a result, at the county total level, the election results did not match VEST's. We were able to confirm that VEST's countywide totals match those of NM's election summary report (https://electionresults.sos.state.nm.us/Default.aspx?) in all counties, except for those where obfuscations are present, as the summary report we where able to locate also contains obfuscations for 12 counties where presidential candidates received fewer than 5 total votes.
Election results validated for every candidate by precinct? No	At the precinct level, the election results did not match VEST's (43 out of 1917 precincts matched), there were also 8 zero-vote precincts that did not appear in VEST's file. All precinct vote differences appear to be caused by the obfuscations. Although the total number of obfuscated votes that VEST dispersed appears correct, we can not validate VEST's methodology in dispersing the obfuscated votes. The maximum difference that would be present would only be 5 votes for a particular race in a particular precinct.