VEST RI 2018

Election Results Validation Report

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

State: Rhode Island
Organization: Voting and Election Science Team (VEST)
Summary of Races included: U.S. Senate, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Treasurer, Secretary of State [General]
Date File Updated: 06/09/2021
Date Report Updated: 08/30/2021
RDH Validation Code (Github):
https://github.com/nonpartisan-redistricting-datahub/pdv-ri/tree/main/vest-ri-2018

RDH Criteria	Explanation

Is all raw data available?
 	
Yes
	<u>Accessible files:</u>
	● Election results
	    ○ Date accessed: 07/29/2021, Source: Rhode Island Board of Elections
	    ○ https://www.ri.gov/election/results/2018/general_election/data/
	    ○ Notes: 'Long Format' file is used, 'rigen2016l.asc'
	● Data description file
	    ○ Date accessed: 07/29/2021, Source: Rhode Island Board of Elections
	    ○ https://www.ri.gov/election/results/2018/general_election/data/
	    ○ Notes: this file is not necessary to run the notebook, but provides background info for the .asc file, '20160902_data_description.pdf'
	● VEST RI 2018 Data File
	    ○ Accessed: 07/29/2021, Source: VEST on the Harvard Dataverse
	    ○ https://dataverse.harvard.edu/file.xhtml?fileId=4789398&version=43.0
	● VEST 2018 Documentation
	    ○ Accessed: 07/29/2021, Source: VEST on the Harvard Dataverse
	    ○ https://dataverse.harvard.edu/file.xhtml?fileId=4938247&version=43.0
	● 2020 Redistricting Data Program final release
	    ○ Date accessed: 07/28/2021, Source: U.S. Census Bureau
	    ○ https://www.census.gov/geo/partnerships/pvs/partnership20v2/st44_ri.html

	○ Note: not downloading the files for the election results validation, as they are available from the Census. ● US FIPS Codes
Election results validated for every candidate statewide? Yes	At the statewide total level, the election results matched VEST's. The totals also match those of RI's statewide summary file (https://www.ri.gov/election/results/2018/general_election/).
Election results validated for every candidate by county? Yes	At the county total level, the election results matched VEST's with the exception of two counties being off by 1 vote for race G18USSDWHI - Kent has a difference of 1 (Source: 36723, VEST: 36722) - Providence has a difference of 1 (Source: 126733, VEST: 126734) The totals, however, still match up. This difference of 1 is likely a result of distributing votes on federal district level after distributing on township level - which produces more accurate precinct-by-precinct level vote allocation, but may have led to inaccurate distribution of votes on federal district level. RI does not have a county-level summary file to compare against.
Election results validated for every candidate by precinct? Yes	At the precinct level, the election results matched VEST's in 409 out of 421 precincts. Of the 12 precincts with vote differences, 11 precincts had a max vote difference of 1 and 1 precinct had a max vote difference of 2, which could be attributed to VEST's specific methodology and rounding for vote allocation. There were also two zero-vote precincts in VEST's file that did not appear in the election results file. No precinct name changes were required - precinct ID's were used.