

VEST SD 2018

Election Results Validation Report

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

State: South Dakota

Organization: Voting and Election Science Team (VEST)

Summary of Races included: Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, State Auditor, Public Utilities Commissioner, Commissioner of School and Public Lands, Representative in Congress [General Election]

Date File Updated: 06/12/2020

Date Report Updated: 09/22/2021

RDH Validation Code (Github):

<https://github.com/nonpartisan-redistricting-datahub/pdv-sd/tree/main/vest-sd-2018>

RDH Criteria	Explanation
<p>Is all raw data available?</p> <p>Yes</p>	<p>Accessible files:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Precinct-level Election Results, 2018 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Date accessed: 08/12/2021, Source: Secretary of State ○ http://electionresults.sd.gov/Default.aspx?eid=291 ○ Notes: Selected 'EXPORT' and downloaded 'Precinct' data for each election ● VEST SD 2018 Data File <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Accessed: 08/25/2021, Source: VEST on the Harvard Dataverse ○ https://dataverse.harvard.edu/file.xhtml?persistentId=doi:10.7910/DVN/UBKYRU/5VODZ0&version=45.0 ● VEST SD 2018 Documentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Accessed: 08/25/2021, Source: VEST on the Harvard Dataverse ○ https://dataverse.harvard.edu/file.xhtml?fileId=5007790&version=45.0 ● 2020 Redistricting Data Program Final Release (SD Partnership Shapefile) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Data accessed: 08/25/2021, Source: U.S. Census Bureau ○ https://www.census.gov/geo/partnerships/pvs/partnership19v2/st46_sd.html

Election results validated for every candidate statewide?

Yes

At the statewide total level, the election results matched VEST's.

However, the totals did not match those of South Dakota's official election summary report. The difference may be because we had used the unofficial election results in our validation process. The South Dakota Secretary of State had not released the precinct-level data for their official results and there may have been additional updates to election results when SOS was working on their official results.

<https://sdsos.gov/elections-voting/assets/2018GeneralElectionCanvassPDF.pdf>

Candidate	RDH Total	Partner Data Total (VEST)	SD SOS Report	Difference (RDH, Partner vs SOS)
G18GOVRNOE	172706	172706	172912	-206
G18GOVDSUT	161171	161171	161454	-283
G18GOVLEVA	4838	4838	4848	-10
G18ATGRRAV	178841	178841	179071	-230
G18ATGDSEI	145319	145319	145558	-239
G18SOSRBAR	210798	210798	211064	-266
G18SOSDFRE	112601	112601	112807	-206
G18TRERHAE	194782	194782	195019	-237
G18TREDMAT	117549	117549	117763	-214
G18AUDRSAT	201806	201806	202055	-249
G18AUDDCOO	113418	113418	113628	-210
G18PUCRFIE	206175	206175	206436	-261
G18PUCDFRE	108740	108740	108925	-185
G18SPLRBRU	193194	193194	193434	-240

G18SPLDHOU	116588	116588	116786	-198
G18HALRJOH	202446	202446	202695	-249
G18HALDBJO	120816	120816	121033	-217
G18HALLHEN	4896	4896	4914	-18
G18HALIWIE	7313	7313	7323	-10

Election results validated for every candidate by county?

Yes

At the county total level, the election results matched VEST's. (66 of 66 counties)

However, the county totals did not match those of South Dakota's election summary report.

<https://sdsos.gov/elections-voting/assets/2018GeneralElectionCanvassPDF.pdf>

The difference in county totals is due to the difference in votes in Minnehaha County. All other county totals match those of South Dakota's election summary report.

Minnehaha County vote totals:

Candidate	RDH / VEST Total	SD SOS Report	Difference
G18GOVRNOE	32149	32355	-206
G18GOVDSUT	37167	37450	-283
G18GOVLEVA	866	876	-10
G18ATGRRAV	32669	32899	-230
G18ATGDSEI	33964	34203	-239
G18SOSRBAR	39368	39634	-266
G18SOSDFRE	27123	27329	-206
G18TRERHAE	35482	35719	-237
G18TREDMAT	28101	28315	-214
G18AUDRSAT	37338	37587	-249

G18AUDDCOO	27342	27552	-210
G18PUCRFIE	40223	40484	-261
G18PUCDFRE	24803	24988	-185
G18SPLRBRU	34875	35115	-240
G18SPLDHOU	27873	28071	-198
G18HALRJOH	37768	38017	-249
G18HALDBJO	29148	29365	-217
G18HALLHEN	1225	1243	-18
G18HALIWIE	1339	1349	-10

Note: The difference between county totals and South Dakota's election summary report is the same as the difference between statewide totals and South Dakota's election summary report.

Election results validated for every candidate by precinct?

No

We were not able to validate precinct-level votes because we were not able to join all the precincts between the two files. There were 86 precincts in the VEST file and 42 precincts in the state file that we could not match.

Of the 649 precincts that did join, the election results matched exactly in all precincts.

The unjoined precincts occur in Brookings, Brown, Hughes, Potter, Sully, and Yankton counties. All of these counties use countywide vote centers rather than polling locations by precinct and do not record votes by precinct. Although VEST disaggregated these votes to the precinct level, we were not able to recreate their process with their given documentation. Hyde county also uses vote centers, but we were able to join that data to VEST's data, because they do not appear to carry out their stated process in that county and instead list one precinct that includes data from 3 different precincts.