Multnomah County Elections
RCTab Summary JSON File Documentation

All RCV contests are tabulated by Multnomah County Elections using RCTab, which is an open-source program integrated into the certified Clear Ballot Group voting system software. RCTab produces summary results in two file formats: JSON and CSV. Multnomah uses the summary JSON and CSV files outputted by RCTab to produce results reports. All data in results reports published by Multnomah County is derived from the RCTab summary file data, with the exception of the number of registered voters in the district included in final results reports.[1]

Reports published by Multnomah County use certain terminology and present the sequence of vote tallies and transfers different than in the RCTab summary JSON files to align with Portland city code. Notes regarding RCTab summary JSON file data are provided below, including certain differences from the results reports published by Multnomah County (MultCo):

- **“Exhausted”** ballots are synonymous with **“inactive”** ballots.

- **“Eliminated”** candidates are synonymous with **“defeated”** candidates.

- **“Elected”** candidates are synonymous with candidates in MultCo reports who **“lead in contest”** (preliminary reports) or **“met the threshold for election”** (final reports).

- The **“date”** field is the **“election date.”**

- The **MultCo “report date”** (i.e. date and time of the results update or results tabulation) is **embedded in the JSON file name** (YYYY-MM-DD_HH-MM-SS format).

  - The date and time embedded in the JSON “contest” field (YYYY_MM_DD_HH_MM_SS format) are when the cast vote record was exported preceding tabulation (i.e. not the date and time of the results update).

- The **“office”** field appears as the **“contest”** field in Multco reports.

- **“Exhausted”** (inactive) ballots and **“residual surplus”** data are presented in MultCo **final results reports only** (not preliminary results reports).

- Summary **JSON files omit “exhausted”** (inactive) ballots **data for Round 1** that is included in the summary CSV files. This information is included in MultCo final reports using the data from the summary CSV files. Any cumulative tally of “exhausted” (inactive) ballots using only data from the JSON file will be inaccurate due to the omission of data from Round 1.

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[1] Data on the number of registered voters comes from the Oregon Centralized Voter Registration system.

- The **"threshold"** field provides the threshold for the **final round of tabulation only in single winner contests**. MultCo results reports present the threshold for each round, calculated from the number of ballots tallied for active candidates in the round.

- Data under the **"tallyresults"** header for "elected" candidates or "eliminated" candidates and associated vote "transfers" **result from the preceding data under the "tally" header for a round**. Based on Portland city code, the eliminated (defeated) candidate or elected candidate (who lead in contest or met threshold for election) and vote transfers are presented in MultCo reports in a separate column between the round and the round following.