



Kitsap County Auditor Elections Division

Political Party Observer Training

Daryl Daugs
Chief Deputy Auditor

Regina McRay
Elections Manager

Steve Gardner
Public Information Officer



Agenda

Introductions

Observer Guidelines

Equipment Testing

Process Overview

Random Batch Audit

Canvass Board

Q and A



Observers Guidelines

All aspects of the elections process are open to observation by political party observers and the general public.

Official party observers should be appointed by the major party chairperson.

Direct all questions or concerns to the:

- Chief Deputy Auditor – Daryl Daugs
- Elections Manager – Regina McRay
- Public Information Officer – Steve Gardner
- Other permanent staff member



Observers Guidelines

Observers must not:

- Touch ballots, ballot containers or election equipment
- Disrupt the process
- Divulge counts before 8:00 p.m. election night



Observers Guidelines

What to observe?

- 3 Vote Centers (Bremerton, Poulsbo & Port Orchard)
- Processing Rooms (Port Orchard)
- Signature Verification (Port Orchard)
- Ballot Scanning (Port Orchard)
- Random batch audit (Port Orchard)
- Risk Limiting Audit with Secretary of State (Port Orchard)



Statewide Voter Intent Standards

Whenever the Voter's intent is not clear we will consult the Statewide Standards for Voter Intent

- Write-in questions
- Marks not consistent with instructions
- Voter notes
- Etc.





Ballot Program and Testing

- Ballot layout, programming, testing and tabulation are completed by county staff
- Software and hardware federally and state certified
 - Includes hash testing of all tabulation computers and touchwriters (electronic marking device only)
- Several days of testing and staff training prior to logic and accuracy audits



Independent Third-Party Logic and Accuracy Audit

First in the state to offer major political parties the opportunity to perform their own L&A auditing (10/6)

- Test ballots are marked in a pattern chosen by party
- Matrix shows the number of precincts/splits for each contest in the election per party
- Counting system report and matrix totals are matched
- No discrepancies found between L&A and counting system for each party



Logic and Accuracy Audits

L & A (Port Orchard-completed on 10/7, video online)

- Test ballots are marked in a pattern as required by state law
- Matrix shows the number of precincts/splits for each contest in the election
- Counting system report and matrix totals are matched
- Any discrepancy is researched, and the test is re-run
- Open for observation



Initial Ballot Processing

- Starting Monday Oct 24 (leads training)
- Processing staff starts Oct 25
 - 2 shifts: 7:30am-2pm and 2pm-8:30pm

Staff retrieve ballots from the Post Office/Drop boxes

- Sorter captures the signature
- Files are transferred into the election system
- Signatures are verified
- Ballots are sorted by precinct group or challenged
- Ballot tracking slips and pre-inspection
- Questionable ballots to further review
- Ballot security always maintained




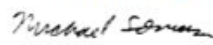
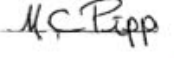




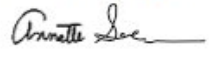
Signature Verification

Washington State Law (RCW 29A.40.110)

- All workers assigned to verify signatures receive signature verification training
- Same style and general appearance
 - Proportions of letters - height to width
 - Irregular spacing, slants and size
 - Style, slope, placement, alignment
- Distinctive or unusual traits
- Natural variations exist
- A single trait is insufficient for validation

Signature Verification

299 Ballots Update All

Signature Verification	Signature Verification	Signature Verification	Signature Verification
<p>Name: MICHAEL BID: 68028423 Voter ID: DOB:</p> <p>Envelope Signature </p>  <p>VoteWA Signatures </p>  <p>Return Status: Review <input type="button" value="Update"/></p> <p>Comments</p> <p>Voter Information</p> <p>Ballot Information</p> <p>Residential Address</p> <p>Mailing Address</p>	<p>Name: LYNN BID: 68007457 Voter ID: DOB:</p> <p>Envelope Signature </p>  <p>VoteWA Signatures </p>  <p>Return Status: Accepted <input type="button" value="Update"/></p> <p>Comments</p> <p>Voter Information</p> <p>Ballot Information</p> <p>Residential Address</p> <p>Mailing Address</p>	<p>Name: IVAN BID: 68062565 Voter ID: DOB:</p> <p>Envelope Signature </p>  <p>VoteWA Signatures </p>  <p>Return Status: Accepted <input type="button" value="Update"/></p> <p>Comments</p> <p>Voter Information</p> <p>Ballot Information</p> <p>Residential Address</p> <p>Mailing Address</p>	<p>Name: ANNETTE BID: 68027731 Voter ID: DOB:</p> <p>Envelope Signature </p>  <p>VoteWA Signatures </p>  <p>Return Status: Accepted <input type="button" value="Update"/></p> <p>Comments</p> <p>Voter Information</p> <p>Ballot Information</p> <p>Residential Address</p> <p>Mailing Address</p>



Opening Batches

- Ballots are sorted into batches by consolidated precinct
- Batches are assigned a tracking number
- Election workers check out batches
- Ballots and secrecy sleeves are separated from the return envelopes
- Ballots are reviewed to determine if they are ready to scan or if they require further review

Examples: damaged, pencil, corrections, overvotes, white-out, stray marks, barcode issues, etc.



Ballot Duplication

Any ballot that cannot be scanned by tabulation system

- Damaged, sample ballot, online ballot, irregular ballot

A ballot can be duplicated only if the voter's intent can be clearly determined (Canvass Board makes the final determination)

- Two people work together
- An audit log of all duplicated ballots is kept
- The audit number and worker initials are recorded on both ballots
- Separate team of two audits all duplicated ballots



Ballot Drop Boxes

- 25 drop boxes throughout the county opening today
- Each boxes have special key to lock/unlock
- Teams of 2 will be out picking up ballots every other day
- Election night 25 teams of 2-3 will be picking up ballots
- Seals will read void after being removed so that can tell us if someone tried to access the box
- Each box has a tracker that we can monitor from the office
- Each daily team has a tracker in the election vans
- Trackers will be in ballot boxes on election night so we can monitor the pickup teams as they leave and return



Return Statistics and Result Reporting

Return statistics

- Starting on 10/25 by 5pm or when the day's ballots are processed.
- Return statistics counts only the number of "Accepted" ballots received.

Results Reporting

- Starting 8:15pm 11/8 (Election Day)
- Subsequent results are posted to the website by 5:00 p.m. each weekday (unless otherwise stated)



Random Audit (RCW 29A.60.170 (3))

We are required by law to perform a random audit of our tabulation equipment

- We randomly select 6 batches from those ready to scan on Election Day.
- A single race is then randomly selected from all countywide races on the batches selected.
- The random batches are scanned and secured separate from other batches.
- Within 48 hours after Election Day a manual count of the actual paper ballots is performed and compared to the tabulated results.



Risk Limiting Audit-RLA (RCW 29A.60.185)

In addition to the Random Audit, we now perform a Risk Limiting Audit with the assistance of the Secretary of State office.

- A risk limiting audit uses statistics to confirm election outcomes.
- Ballots are randomly selected and hand-tallied one by one until enough have been sampled to confirm that the correct winner was found the first time.
- If the winner won by a lot of votes, the sample needed to confirm may be quite small, if race is close, more ballots will be examined.



Canvassing Board

County Commissioner, Prosecuting Attorney and the Auditor (designees may be assigned)

- Only entity with the authority to reject a ballot
- Determines if challenged ballots can count
- Certifies the final election results

Canvass/certification of the election:

- 11/28 & 29, 9am – Commissioners Chambers

Sets the date and time for recounts, if any



Recounts

Only after the election is certified

- Machine – difference less than 2,000 votes and $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1%
- Manual – difference less than $\frac{1}{4}$ of 1% and
 - Local races less than 150 votes
 - Statewide – less than 1,000 votes

Written request no later than two days after certification



Write-Ins

- Must file a declaration to have votes tallied for a race.
- All write-in votes, declared or not, are grouped together for initial results.
- Only if there are enough total write-in votes in the race to change the apparent outcome will the election officials begin a tally for the declared candidates.
- If there are enough total write-in votes, the then final tabulation will display each individual tally for the declared candidates.
- If there are not enough total write-in votes to overcome the apparent winner, individual tallies will not occur.



Questions?



Kitsap County Auditor



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