

Canvassing Board Informational Reports

November 2, 2021
General Election

Final Report - November 23, 2021



Garth Fell, Auditor

Election Summary

November 2, 2021, General Election featured three State Advisory Votes and races in County Council, Mayoral and city councils, and Port, Fire, and Hospital commissions in other local districts. The city of Lake Stevens hosted a fireworks advisory measure. Several local boards hosted propositions.

Odd year elections following a Presidential election typically have an average turnout in Snohomish County of 41% since 2009. The turnout for November 2, 2021, General Election was 36%. More voters returned their ballots by official Snohomish County ballot drop boxes (106,072) than by the United States Post Office (79,385.)

The Audit Summary report details the findings of both the random batch and the duplicated ballots audits. Snohomish County held the random batch audit on November 3, 2021, in accordance with RCW and WAC, counting six precincts in Snohomish County Council District 5. The results of the six hand-counted batches exactly matched the results of the tabulation system tally for those same batches.

Snohomish County also participated in a Risk Limiting Audit pilot for Hospital District 2 Position 5.

In terms of election accountability and reconciliation, there is one more voter credited than ballots counted due to an empty envelope returned and not caught during ballot processing and extraction.

Challenged: Mail ballot envelopes or provisional ballot envelopes that are not processed due to a variety of voter related issues or actions.

ClearVote: Snohomish County's vote tabulation system

Logic & Accuracy Test: an official test of all programming and tabulation equipment to be used in the election

Random Batch Audit: a manual hand recount of all ballots contained in six selected batches on a single race chosen by representatives of each major political party.

Risk Limiting Audit: a method to verify the results by using statistical principles and sampling designed to limit the risk of certifying an incorrect election outcome.

UOCAVA: refers to voters who are members of the uniformed armed services and family members and US citizens living abroad

VoteWA: Statewide election management/ voter registration database.

Election Statistical Summary

	Total	Percentage	Comparative Data	Comment
Voter Registration				
Registered Voters	507,627			
Address Confidentiality Program Voters	143			
Overseas and Service Voters	8,019			UOCAVA category in VoteWA
Federal Write-in Voters	0			
Participation				
Voters credited	182,332			
Ballots counted	182,331			
Difference between voters credited and ballots counted	1			Empty Envelope
Overseas and Service voters accepted	532	6.63%	13.23% (2019 Gen. Election)	UOCAVA category in VoteWA; percentage of voters credited to issued
Overseas and Service voter envelopes challenged	20	3.76%		UOCAVA category in VoteWA
Mail Ballot Summary				
Mail Ballots Issued	518,330			Includes duplicates
Mail Ballots Returned	185,457	35.78%		percent issued that were returned
Mail Ballots Returned through AVS, drop boxes, and Auditor's Office	106,072	57.19%	52.05% (2019 Gen. Election)	percent returned through sites of all mail ballots returned
Mail Ballots Returned through the Post Office	79,385	42.81%	47.94% (2019 Gen. Election)	percent returned through post office
Mail Ballots Verified and Accepted	182,332	98.31%		percent returned that were verified and accepted
Mail Ballots Open and Extracted	182,332	100.00%		percent verified and accepted that were opened and extracted
Mail Ballots Tabulated	182,331	99.99%		percent opened and extracted that were tabulated
Provisional Ballot Summary				
Provisional Ballots Issued	0	n/a		
Provisional Ballots Verified and Accepted	0	n/a		percent issued that have been verified and accepted
Provisional Ballots Open and Extracted	0	n/a		percent verified and accepted that have been open and extracted
Provisional Ballots Tabulated	0	n/a		percent open and extracted that have been tabulated

Details - Mail Ballots

Line	Description	Total	Subtotal	Comparative Data		Comment
Mail Ballots Issued						
1	Number of Mail Ballots Issued	518,330				
1a	Number of ballots issued and tracked VoteWA system		518,187			
1b	Number of ballots issued and not tracked in VoteWA system		143			Address Confidentiality Program participants
Mail Ballot Envelopes Returned						
2	Number of Mail Ballot Envelopes Returned	185,457				
2a	Number of Mail Ballot Envelopes Returned and reported in VoteWA		185,294			
2b	Number of ACP Mail Ballots Envelopes Returned		43			Manually tracked; Not reported in VoteWA
2c	Number of Unidentifiable Mail Ballot Envelopes Returned		16			Securities only / Replacements without information / Faxed; Not reported in VoteWA
2d	Number of Mail Ballot Envelopes Returned and Not Accepted by VoteWA		104			Manually tracked; Not reported in VoteWA; includes secrecy sleeves, information items, etc.
	Number of Outbound Mail Ballot Packets Returned by USPS as undeliverable	3,276		0.63%	1.82% (2019 Gen. Election)	Undeliverable ballots are reviewed for anomalies and voters contacted to update address information per state and federal law
Mail Ballot Envelopes Verified						
4	Number Mail Ballots Envelopes Verified And Accepted	182,322				Sum of line 4a, 4b and 4c
4a	Number of Mail Ballots Verified and Accepted in VoteWA		182,289			Reported from VoteWA
4b	Number of Mail Ballots Verified and Accepted but not in VoteWA		43			Manually tracked (includes ACP/Federal Write-ins)
4c	Number of Mail Ballots Verified and Accepted but challenge on record		0			
5	Number of Mail Ballot Envelopes Challenged	3,135		1.72%	1.52% (2019 Gen. Election)	VoteWA data reconciled with hand counts and augmented with hand counts for non-VoteWA ballots (sum of 5a - 5i). Percentages are challenged vs. total returned
5a	Canvassing Board		0			Reported from VoteWA and reconciled with hand counts
5b	Deceased		8			" "
5c	Empty Envelope		15			" "
5d	ID Required		0			" "
5e	Marked Moved		7			" "
5f	No Signature on File		0			" "
5g	Other than voter		33			" "
5h	Signature does not match		1,260	0.69%	0.43 % (2019 Gen. Election)	" "
5i	Too late		1,558	0.85%	0.88% (2019 Gen. Election)	" "
5j	Unsigned		144	0.08%	0.13% (2019 Gen. Election)	" "

Details - Mail Ballots

Line	Description	Total	Subtotal	Comparative Data	Comment
5k	Wrong Election		77		Not reported in VoteWA but hand counted
	Security Envelope Only / No Voter Information on Replacement / Fax				
5l	Only / Informational Items		33		" "
Mail Ballot Envelopes Opened and Extracted					
6	Number of Mail Ballots Opened and Sent to Tabulation	182,332			
7	Number of Empty Envelopes	-1			Displayed as a negative number for reconciliation purposes
	Number of Ballots Rejected by Canvassing Board (credit not removed in				
8	VoteWA)	0			
9	Number of Additional Ballots Discovered After Signature Envelope Removal	0			
10	Number of Ballots Awaiting Counting or Canvassing Board Decision	0			
Ballots Tabulated					
11	Number of Mail Ballots Tabulated	182,331			Reported by ClearVote
12	Number of Mail Ballots Awaiting Tabulation	0			

Details - Provisional Ballots

Line	Description	Total	Subtotals	Comparative Data	Comment
Provisional Ballots Issued					
1	Number of Provisional Ballots Issued	0			
1a	Number of Provisional Ballots Issued in Snohomish County	0			
1a.1	Ballot printing or accessible voting equipment issue		0		
1a.2	Site worker could not find or flag voter		0		
1a.3	Voter not registered in our county or in election area		0		
1b	Number of Provisional Ballots Received from other counties	0			Received provisionals were accepted as on-time mail ballots
Provisional Ballots Verified					
2	Number of Provisional Ballot Accepted	0			
3	Number of Provisional Ballots Challenged	0			
	Felony conviction		0		
3b	Incomplete Information on provisional to process		0		
3c	Not eligible for election (wrong district)		0		
3d	Signature doesn't match original		0		
3e	Mail-in ballot was returned / already voted		0		
4	Number of Provisional Ballots Sent to Other Counties	0			
Provisional Ballot Envelopes Opened and Extracted					
5	Number of Provisional Ballots Opened and Sent to Tabulation	0			
6	Number of Empty Envelopes	0			Unable to remove credit in VoteWA
7	Number of Provisional Ballots Rejected by Canvassing Board	0			
8	Number of Provisional Ballots Not Opened	0			
9	Number of Provisional Ballots Awaiting Duplication or Canvassing Board Decision	0			
Provisional Ballots Tabulated					
10	Number of Provisional Ballots Tabulated	0			Reported from ClearVote
11	Number of Provisional Ballots Awaiting Tabulation	0			