

CITIZENS' ELECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE



QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER 2.1



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Contents

- *A Busy Year Ahead*
- *Drop Boxes a Big Hit*
- *New Registered Voters from Outreach*
- *Need for Additional Temporary Workers*
- *Legislative Update*
- *Presidential Primary*

A BUSY YEAR AHEAD

2016 will be a busy year in the Auditor's Office. Not only are we having a full regular election schedule (4 elections) but we will conduct the Presidential Primary in May as well. Added on to that is redistricting following receipt of the new proposed Council Districts from the Redistricting Committee! This is our schedule for this year:

February 9	Special Election
April 26	Special Election
May 15	Redistricting Plan to Auditor
May 24	Presidential Primary
August 2	Primary Election
October 11	Re-Precinct Plan to Council
November 8	General Election

And on top of that, this is a budget year!

BALLOT DROP BOXES A BIG SUCCESS

With 14 boxes in place for the past general election, the numbers using the boxes was at an all-time high. One additional box was added since our last report, that being in the Sehome Village parking lot, near the Hagggen store.

Birch Bay	1,100
Blaine	2,043
Courthouse	16,170
Deming	995
Everson	2,000
Ferndale	4,933
Kendall	439
Laurel Grange	629
Lynden	6,385
Sehome Village	2,268
Sudden Valley	1,105
Sumas	458
Whatcom CC	619
WWU	1,609

That is a total "ballots submitted" of 61,611 or **66%** of all ballots submitted were via drop boxes!

Other neighborhoods ask that they be considered for getting a box. Specific criteria and funding are reviewed to make the selections.

SOS REPORTS NEW REGISTERED VOTERS FROM OUTREACH

The State Elections Division sent out postcards to over 200,000 unregistered and apparently eligible citizens over 18 before the last election and netted more than 27,000 new registrations. This is the fourth year the outreach mailings have gone out, netting nearly 104,000 new registrations, said state Elections Director Lori Augino. This is a result of the cross-state sharing program we participate in.

Debbie Adelstein, Whatcom County Auditor
311 Grand Ave., #103
Bellingham, WA 98225
(360) 778-5105
dadelstein@co.whatcom.wa.us



NEED FOR ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY ELECTION WORKERS

In a Presidential Election year, because of the higher turn-out, we hire more temporary workers than usual.

Tasks include:

- Transporting ballots from drop boxes to our office (requires a driver's license)
- Closing ballot boxes at 8pm on election day (requires a driver's license)
- Checking in ballots at a computer
- Inspecting ballots at the opening board

Workers need the ability to: follow directions with strict rules and regulations; gain knowledge of elections terminology; work with high level of attention to detail and proof reading skills; stand or sit for long periods of time as required; work independently in a team environment; bend, lift and/or move 25 pounds of ballots.

Workers can remain on our list to be used at any election in the future. Workers need to be willing to commit to a three week time slot around any election, usually three in any given year. Not all workers may be called upon for all elections. Some elections are smaller than others so not everyone may be needed.

Please help us to spread the word. Individuals may call our office for more information or if interested. (360) 778-5102.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The legislative session has now concluded after one extension. It was intended to be a “short session.” But not having completed budgetary actions, the governor called them into “special session” to continue to deliberate on such items. The one election related item that did get passed was one sponsored by Whatcom County’s own representative from the 42nd district, Luanne VanWerven, which provided that no recounts would be provided for on state “advisory votes.” This had wide support from everyone!

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

On May 24, 2016, the Presidential Primary offers voters an opportunity to participate in the nomination of major political party candidates. These candidates are nominated at each major political party national convention. The political parties may choose to use the Primary results when determining the candidate each Washington State delegate supports at the national party convention.

The political parties retain the authority to decide if they will use the Presidential Primary to allocate delegates to the national nomination conventions. The political parties may also use caucus results, or a combination of primary results and caucus results.

According to the Secretary of State, the Republican Party will use the Presidential Primary results to allocate 100% of their convention delegates. The Democratic Party will not use the Primary Election results to allocate any of their delegates. They will rely solely on the results of their Precinct Caucuses held on March 26th.

How is the Presidential Primary different from other elections?

- Voters are required to make a party declaration at the time of voting.
- Voters must choose and sign a political party declaration on the return ballot envelope.
- Voters must then vote for one candidate on the ballot of the same political party as the signed declaration.
- The political party choice will be on file for 60 days and voter lists are obtainable by the political parties.

Voter participation is public record and political party choice is available for public inspection only for the 60 days following the election. Voter’s candidate choice is secret and is never tied to the voter record.

Ballots to military and overseas voters were mailed April 8, 2016. All other ballots will be mailed on May 5, 2016.