

CITIZENS' ELECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE



QUARTERLY
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**Candidate
Filing Week
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Quarterly Newsletter

CYBER SECURITY UPDATE

On March 20, 2017 the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) released a briefing which was highlighted in the Election Administration Reports, an independent newsletter published bi-weekly that many of us Auditors subscribe to. It stated that there were five key findings and facts on cyber security and foreign nations targeting with regard to the 2016 presidential election: First, the election was not “hacked” and the voting process was not subject to manipulation in any way. No voting machines, vote counting operations, or recount efforts were hacked in any way. Second, there were two attempted Russian intrusions into local voter registration databases in Arizona and Illinois but these were blocked by safeguards in the system. Third, while additional state voter registration systems were targeted, no additional systems were accessed. Further, “the document

makes the point that voter registration systems would not impact election results as the two are not linked to vote collection, tabulation and counting. Fourth, the Department of Homeland Security offered assistance to state and local officials and 33 states and 36 local jurisdictions took advantage of the offer. Finally, “the NASS briefing underscored the built-in safeguards that are present in the nation’s low-connectivity, highly-decentralized election process.... Disconnected voting systems, which stand on their own, present a low risk.” The briefing document may be viewed at www.nass.org.

DROP BOX USAGE UP

With 15 boxes in place for the General election, the numbers using the boxes was at an all-time high – 78%. We were also able to work out an “Election Day Only Drop Box” at Point Roberts.

UPDATE ON TECHNOLOGY

As has been previously reported, the Secretary of State’s Office is currently awaiting budget funding for replacement of the statewide voter registration database in the current legislative session.

It is being left to individual counties to determine what they will do for replacement of counting systems. King and Pierce County have selected a new system (ClearBallot) and other counties are evaluating what their next steps are. We realize we need to make some decisions before our equipment gets to its last stages. We hope to be scheduling in the near future some demonstrations of products out there for community review prior to making a final decision. Stay tuned.



CURRENT PROJECTS

With passage of the County Charter amendment changing from three County Council districts to five districts, Elections needed to update the council district maps in our Elections Management System and send out new voter ID cards to all registered voters. The voter cards were mailed in February, and any subsequent corrections were completed in April.

With no February election this year, the election staff, along with the Auditor and Chief Deputy, has been busy updating the elections policies and procedures manual.

A third project has been organizing the historical elections files. Election documents that are permanent and archival have been placed in acid-free folders, clearly labeled, and organized. Sample ballots and elections summary results were scanned and added to the past elections information on our website. In addition, an index was created to make researching past elections easier. Records in the office go back to the 1940s, and we are currently working on 1990 forward.

ANOTHER VOTE-BY-MAIL COUNTY JOINS THE FOLD

Maricopa County, Arizona has announced that for the fall of 2017 elections will be conducted entirely by mail. The new County Recorder has said “the best solution to aging voting equipment is to conduct the elections entirely by mail and use early voting sites for voters to drop their ballots off during the twenty-seven day early voting period.”

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY



The Legislature is now in Special Session and is working on completing legislation. However, under special session rules they can bring up anything from last session, although at this point it is highly unlikely. Of interest on election matters, one bill that passed and is likely to be signed by the Governor has to do with more ballot drop boxes being made available. You may say, how can one oppose more options? The problem is the way the bill was constructed; it had some very arbitrary selection requirements as to where boxes should go and no funding was provided as to how these boxes might be purchased and serviced (opening and closing of the boxes during the election as well as regular pickup schedules). For many smaller counties, it is going to be a pretty heavy burden to pick up. And in at least one case, the criterion of where boxes would be put has 6 boxes within an 8 mile radius of each other! The Auditors preferred having different criteria about placement but that was not utilized. It will remain to be seen how this gets implemented.

COUNTY TRANSITION TO FIVE DISTRICTS

The transition to five districts took effect in January 2017. They are assigned as follows:

Council Member	New Council District Designation	Position Runs In
Barry Buchanan	District 1	2017
Ken Mann	District 2	2017
Carl Weimer	District 3	2017
Rud Browne	At-Large A	2017
Todd Donovan	At-Large B	2019
Satpal Sidhu	District 4	2019
Barbara Brenner	District 5	2019

One member is elected from each of the five districts and two are elected county-wide (at large).