

2018

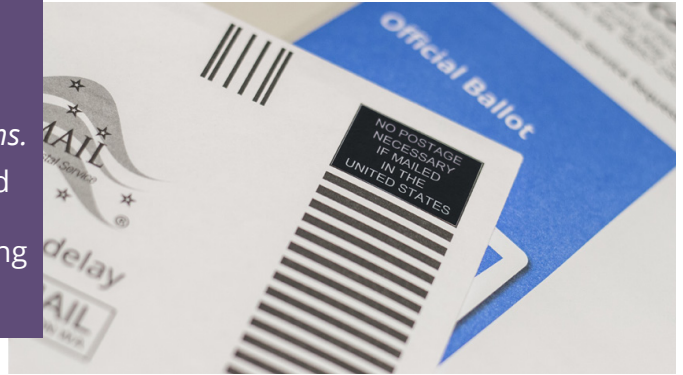
Year in Review



Prepaid Postage Launches Countywide

With funding and support from the King County Council and Executive, King County Elections provided prepaid postage on ballot return envelopes for the 2018 primary and general elections.

As seen in two prepaid postage pilots in 2017, voters returned ballots through the U.S. Postal Service at higher rates than in the past (67% in the primary and 60% in the general), indicating a clear switch in voter preference and behavior.



Voter Education Fund Invests in Diverse Communities

The Voter Education Fund, a partnership between King County Elections and the Seattle Foundation, completed its third successful year of voter engagement efforts targeting the County's historically underrepresented communities.

The program invested more than \$460,000 in 33 organizations that serve communities of color, limited-English speaking communities, people with disabilities, low-income youth, veterans, people experiencing homelessness, people who have been convicted of a felony and other underserved populations.

New Ballot Drop Boxes Open

Since 2016, Elections has increased the number of permanent ballot drop boxes from 10 to 66.

About 95% of county residents now live within 3 miles of a drop box. Drop boxes are an important tool for improving voter access and are especially popular with last-minute voters. A majority of voters who use drop boxes return their ballots on Election Day or the day before.



Historic Midterm Election Turnout

Voter turnout for the November General Election was 76%, which is the highest turnout for a midterm election in nearly 50 years.

A number of factors contributed to King County's record voter participation, including greater public awareness and interest in elections this year. Turnout was further aided by the availability of prepaid postage and additional ballot drop boxes, both of which made it easier than ever to return a ballot in King County.

kingcounty.gov/elections



Most Results Posted on Election Night

King County Elections posted the most results on election night since implementing vote-by-mail in 2009.

Initial results for the November midterm election included more than 660,000 ballots. This is due to voters returning their ballots earlier than in previous elections as well as newer scanning equipment that is able to produce faster results.



State and Federal Audits Completed

At the request of Elections Director Julie Wise, state and federal officials in 2018 conducted independent audits of King County Elections.

The Washington State Auditor's cybersecurity team assessed the security of Elections' IT systems and ability to thwart hacking attempts. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security inspected the physical security of the Elections building. Elections is now in the process of implementing recommendations from both audits.

King County Elections Wins National Awards

King County Elections received national recognition for its efforts to improve voter turnout with a 2017 media campaign, expanded drop boxes and prepaid postage.

The department took home the Election Center's Democracy Award, and received top honors from the National Association of Counties, the American Association of Political Consultants and online magazine Campaign and Elections.

From the Director...

Dear Friends,

I am happy to share with you King County Elections' Year in Review for 2018. I'm very proud of our many accomplishments. We've selected seven that we believe embody our mission to improve voter access and to conduct fair, open and accurate elections.

I am encouraged by our ongoing efforts to remove barriers to voting. For the first time in King County history, we successfully launched prepaid postage for the primary and general elections. Voters greatly appreciated this option as more than two-thirds of them returned their ballots through the U.S. Postal Service. Elections also opened 10 new ballot drop boxes throughout the County, for a current 66. Many of the new additions were in cities and communities receiving their first drop box.

Our Voter Education Fund, a partnership with Seattle Foundation, invested more than \$460,000 in the County's diverse communities. The program funded 33 local organizations that focused on voter outreach in their communities.

In our efforts to update security procedures, we invited state and federal officials to conduct independent audits of King County Elections. The state audit assessed the security of Elections' IT system and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security inspected the physical security of the Elections building.

Lastly, voter turnout for the November General Election was the highest for a midterm election in nearly half a century. Our record voter participation was due to a number of factors, including greater public interest in elections as well as the availability of prepaid postage and additional drop boxes.

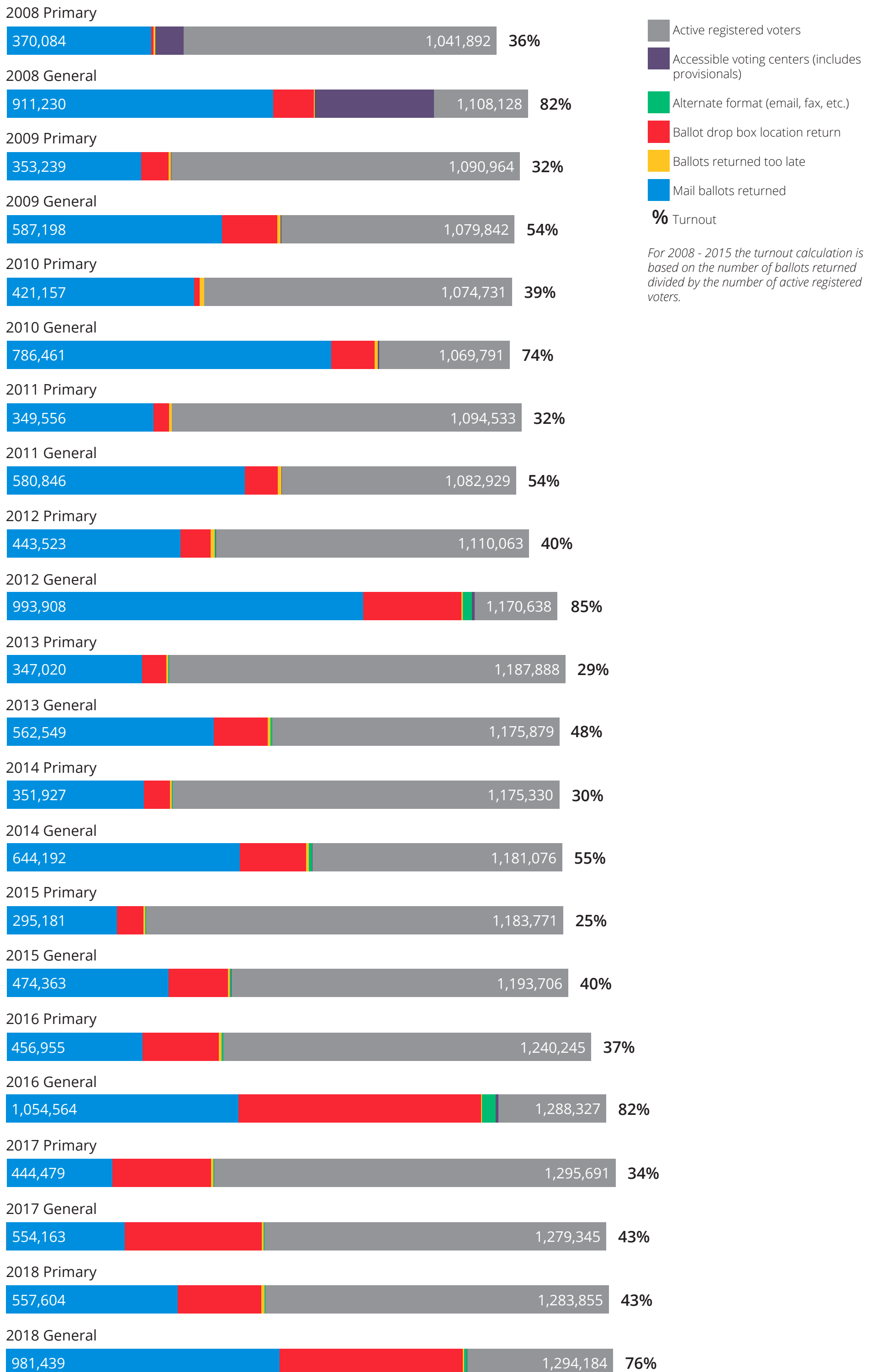
As we head into 2019, I'm excited about the future. We're implementing new legislation that improves voter access, including providing voter registration through Election Day and pre-registering 16- and 17-year-olds to vote so they can automatically receive their ballots when they turn 18. We're also following up on recommendations from the state and federal audits by developing a strategy to assess and manage risks. I look forward to 2019 being another transformative year.

Sincerely,

Julie Wise
Director of Elections

Voter turnout

(total ballots returned / active registered voters)



King County Elections Historical Turnout Information						Included in Total Ballots Counted		
Election	Active Registered Voters**	Turnout*	Total ballots returned	Total ballots counted	Mail ballots counted on Election Day (first report)	Provisional ballots issued (includes those issued by other counties)	Provisional ballots counted	Ballots cast in Accessible voting units (AVU)
Feb Special 2019	560,181	32%	178,740	172,153	99,385	0	0	0
General 2018	1,294,184	76%	981,439	968,106	661,655	270	155	0
Primary 2018	1,283,855	43%	557,604	546,550	316,459	29	23	0
Apr Special 2018	112,253	30%	34,143	33,580	25,954	1	0	0
Feb Special 2018	732,461	32%	236,335	233,082	178,001	3	0	0
General 2017	1,279,345	43%	554,163	546,200	292,466	18	15	0
Primary 2017	1,295,691	34%	444,479	437,453	242,057	4	1	0
Apr Special 2017	8,725	53%	4,629	4,567	3,978	0	0	0
Feb Special 2017	63,706	40%	25,366	24,902	18,654	0	0	1
General 2016	1,288,327	82%	1,054,564	1,041,613	615,025	761	428	5,027
Primary 2016	1,240,245	37%	456,955	448,263	232,810	30	22	211
May Presidential Primary 2016	1,233,778	33%	406,298	390,743	317,724	49	31	124
Apr Special 2016	375,199	32%	121,287	119,287	98,091	5	0	14
Feb Special 2016	627,083	29%	179,706	176,617	146,101	2	1	28
General 2015	1,193,706	40%	474,363	467,608	246,090	47	34	274
Primary 2015	1,183,771	25%	295,181	289,596	204,938	12	7	98
Apr Special 2015	1,185,271	25%	299,172	293,372	250,437	1	1	24
Feb Special 2015	86,955	37%	31,755	31,090	26,053	1	0	5
General 2014	1,181,076	55%	644,192	631,020	331,228	130	85	760
Primary 2014	1,175,330	30%	351,927	344,583	266,539	12	5	86
Apr Special 2014	1,174,773	39%	454,197	445,190	363,788	0	0	121
Feb Special 2014	630,721	32%	199,192	195,646	160,447	0	0	9
General 2013	1,175,879	48%	562,549	551,665	262,790	41	35	358
Primary 2013	1,187,888	29%	347,020	340,236	244,529	4	4	106
Apr Special 2013	103,028	29%	29,480	28,974	25,642	0	0	0
Feb Special 2013	414,028	33%	136,706	134,116	108,435	0	0	16
Jun Recall 2013	2,947	50%	1,476	1,453	1,242	0	0	0
General 2012	1,170,638	85%	993,908	978,377	556,083	1,114	573	4,465
Primary 2012	1,110,063	40%	443,523	432,049	223,811	37	27	275
Apr Special 2012	235,040	34%	80,443	78,773	68,037	0	0	7
Feb Special 2012	188,407	32%	60,880	59,257	43,866	0	0	6
General 2011	1,082,929	54%	580,846	564,331	279,744	131	64	542
Primary 2011	1,094,533	32%	349,566	338,255	208,833	5	2	192
April Special 2011	44,422	52%	23,195	22,621	19,889	0	0	6
Feb Special 2011	184,469	39%	72,586	70,757	55,608	0	0	10
General 2010	1,069,791	74%	786,461	766,477	373,941	604	376	2,286
Primary 2010	1,074,731	39%	421,157	406,391	243,755	34	29	274
Apr Special 2010	64,567	31%	19,795	18,628	16,061	0	0	0
Feb Special 2010	1,029,039	38%	395,624	387,249	291,305	1	0	114
General 2009	1,079,842	53%	587,198	574,298	254,261	102	57	978
Primary 2009	1,090,964	32%	353,239	344,712	182,036	7	2	353
Mar Special 2009	66,886	38%	25,664	24,880	21,768	0	0	13
Feb Special 2009	1,117,869	23%	254,852	250,394	173,607	1	1	88
					VOTE BY MAIL ELECTIONS ↑	Included in poll returns ↓		
General 2008	1,108,128	84%	Data archived	930,038	117,500	32,577	27,466	21,166
Primary 2008	1,041,892	35%	Data archived	363,197	127,341	3,388	3,061	7,127
Presidential Primary 2008	1,008,189	34% ¹	341,640	No data	No data	No data	1,884	14
General 2007	994,798	47%	Data archived	465,999	144,622	4,979	4,579	10,524
Primary 2007	999,134	25%	Data archived	248,964	120,664	1,218	1,115	3,509
General 2006	974,340	65%	Data archived	635,753	119,240	13,483	11,565	14,800
Primary 2006	955,132	36%	Data archived	342,195	45,521	3,024	2,738	7,576
General 2005	1,017,995	54%	Data archived	547,325	149,601	7,170	6,329	
Primary 2005	1,012,559	30%	Data archived	300,569	90,709	2,353	2,153	
General 2004	1,082,406	83%	Data archived	899,199	233,254	32,996	28,010	
Primary 2004	1,006,839	46%	Data archived	466,732	70,299	5,707	5,165	
General 2003	1,035,764	36%	Data archived	369,779	147,759	1,892	1,793	
Primary 2003	1,029,833	30%	Data archived	304,217	140,875	1,582	1,487	
General 2002	1,031,348	53%	Data archived	548,353	75,053	6,885	6,148	
Primary 2002	1,069,573	26%	Data archived	282,987	62,687	1,294	1,224	
General 2000	1,069,139	75%	Data archived	798,942	152,249	17,082	13,307	
Primary 2000	1,037,394	37%	Data archived	380,126	88,597	2,463	2,296	

Voters verified with voting

Election	Poll/provisional ballots counted	Mail voters verified as voting	Total voters verified	Active registered voters	% of voters verified
February 19, 2008	35,351	300,358	335,709	1,008,189	33%
March 11, 2008	5,000	49,676	54,676	187,241	29%
May 20, 2008		18,860	18,860	59,998	31%
August 19, 2008	59,057	301,132	360,189	1,041,892	35%
November 4, 2008	282,131	645,572	927,703	1,108,128	84%
February 3, 2009		250,480	250,480	1,117,869	22%
March 10, 2009		24,892	24,892	66,886	37%
August 18, 2009		344,787	344,787	1,090,964	32%
November 3, 2009		574,381	574,381	1,079,842	53%
February 9, 2010		387,287	387,287	1,029,039	38%
April 27, 2010		18,630	18,630	64,567	29%
August 17, 2010		406,428	406,428	1,074,731	38%
November 24, 2010		766,548	766,548	1,069,791	72%
February 8, 2011		70,764	70,764	184,469	38%
April 26, 2011		22,623	22,623	44,422	51%
August 16, 2011		338,278	338,278	1,094,533	31%
November 8, 2011		564,380	564,380	1,082,929	52%
February 14, 2012		59,258	59,258	188,407	31%
April 17, 2012		78,780	78,780	235,040	34%
August 7, 2012		432,061	432,061	1,110,063	39%
November 6, 2012		978,482	978,482	1,170,638	84%
February 12, 2013		134,126	134,126	414,028	32%
April 23, 2013		28,976	28,976	103,028	28%
June 25, 2013		1,453	1,453	3,000	48%
August 6, 2013		340,270	340,270	1,187,888	29%
November 5, 2013		551,712	551,712	1,175,879	47%
February 11, 2014		195,478	195,478	630,721	31%
April 22, 2014		445,224	445,224	1,174,773	38%
August 5, 2014		344,606	344,606	1,175,330	29%
November 4, 2014		631,046	631,046	1,181,076	53%
February 10, 2015		31,091	31,091	86,955	36%
April 28, 2015		293,397	293,397	1,185,271	25%
August 4, 2015		289,620	289,620	1,183,771	24%
November 3, 2015		467,625	467,625	1,193,706	39%
February 9, 2016		176,633	176,633	627,083	28%
April 24, 2016		119,314	119,314	375,199	32%
May 24, 2016		395,389	395,389	1,233,778	32%
August 2, 2016		448,263	448,263	1,240,245	36%
November 8, 2016		1,041,671	1,041,671	1,288,327	81%
February 14, 2017		24,908	24,909	63,706	39%
April 25, 2017		4,567	4,567	8,725	52%
August 1, 2017		437,498	437,499	1,295,691	34%
November 7, 2017		546,219	546,234	1,279,345	43%
February 13, 2018		233,106	233,106	732,461	32%
April 24, 2018		33,585	33,585	112,253	30%
August 7, 2018		546,608	546,608	1,283,855	43%
November 6, 2018		968,206	968,206	1,294,184	75%

*2008 and prior for polls are derived from ballots counted not credited

Signature challenges 2010 - 2018

Election	Challenged and cured	Challenged and not cured	Total challenged	Total ballots returned	% challenged (total challenged / total ballots returned)	% cured (challenged and cured / total challenged)	% not cured (challenged and not cured / total challenged)	Total not cured (challenged and not cured / total ballots returned)
February 9, 2010	2162	2741	4903	395624	1.24%	44.10%	55.90%	0.69%
April 27, 2010	258	327	585	19795	2.96%	44.10%	55.90%	1.65%
August 17, 2010	8721	5667	14388	421157	3.42%	60.61%	39.39%	1.35%
November 24, 2010	10461	11192	21653	786461	2.75%	48.31%	51.69%	1.42%
February 8, 2011	1130	858	1988	72586	2.74%	56.84%	43.16%	1.18%
April 26, 2011	245	328	573	23195	2.47%	42.76%	57.24%	1.41%
August 16, 2011	5457	5675	11132	349556	3.18%	49.02%	50.98%	1.62%
November 8, 2011	9506	9180	18686	580846	3.22%	50.87%	49.13%	1.58%
February 14, 2012	1103	897	2000	60880	3.29%	55.15%	44.85%	1.47%
April 17, 2012	1086	765	1851	80443	2.30%	58.67%	41.33%	0.95%
August 7, 2012	4990	2464	7454	443523	1.68%	66.94%	33.06%	0.56%
November 6, 2012	13238	8925	22163	993908	2.23%	59.73%	40.27%	0.90%
February 12, 2013	1590	942	2532	136706	1.85%	62.80%	37.20%	0.69%
April 23, 2013	340	174	514	29480	1.74%	66.15%	33.85%	0.59%
June 25, 2013	21	13	34	1476	2.30%	61.76%	38.24%	0.88%
August 6, 2013	5187	2550	7737	347020	2.23%	67.04%	32.96%	0.73%
November 5, 2013	7619	4682	12301	562549	2.19%	61.94%	38.06%	0.83%
February 11, 2014	2670	1718	4388	199192	2.20%	60.85%	39.15%	0.86%
April 22, 2014	6050	4683	10733	454197	2.36%	56.37%	43.63%	1.03%
August 5, 2014	4806	2934	7740	351927	2.20%	62.09%	37.91%	0.83%
November 4, 2014	7668	6892	14560	644192	2.26%	52.66%	47.34%	1.07%
February 10, 2015	373	307	680	31755	2.14%	54.85%	45.15%	0.97%
April 28, 2015	2457	1401	3858	299172	1.29%	63.69%	36.31%	0.47%
August 4, 2015	1685	1519	3204	295181	1.09%	52.59%	47.41%	0.51%
November 3, 2015	2803	2108	4911	474363	1.04%	57.08%	42.92%	0.44%
February 9, 2016	874	852	1726	179706	0.96%	50.64%	49.36%	0.47%
April 24, 2016	517	477	994	121287	0.82%	52.01%	47.99%	0.39%
August 2, 2016	1592	1280	2872	456955	0.63%	55.43%	44.57%	0.28%
November 8, 2016	5413	8721	14134	1054564	1.34%	38.30%	61.70%	0.83%
February 14, 2017	209	246	455	25366	1.79%	45.93%	54.07%	0.97%
April 25, 2017	29	31	60	4629	1.30%	48.33%	51.67%	0.67%
August 1, 2017	2107	2479	4586	444479	1.03%	45.94%	54.06%	0.56%
November 7, 2017	2450	3712	6162	554163	1.11%	39.76%	60.24%	0.67%
February 13, 2018	928	1521	2449	236,335	1.04%	37.89%	62.11%	0.64%
April 24, 2018	228	329	557	34,143	1.63%	40.93%	59.07%	0.96%
August 7, 2018	2033	4400	6433	557,604	1.15%	31.60%	68.40%	0.79%
November 6, 2018	4572	9053	13625	981,439	1.39%	33.56%	66.44%	0.92%

King County Elections
Historical Election Cost Allocations

Cost Category	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Administration	3,210,380	3,791,394	4,788,937	5,831,644	2,771,388	3,051,229	6,379,953	3,476,526	4,177,756	5,335,486	4,396,517
Advertising	77,180	34,885	30,851	183,169	35,903	348,855	284,523	293,634	164,028	129,098	159,700
Central Cost					3,338,669	2,919,686	1,690,888	1,265,295	1,720,616	2,863,684	2,596,311
Election Officials	1,818,580	0	0	0							
Election Support	3,564,588	2,429,002	2,279,573	1,639,377							
Elections Ops./Ballot Processing					1,807,310	744,446	750				
Extra Help	4,337,318	1,750,568	1,745,127	1,106,015							
Misc. Supplies and Services	65,065	15,540	25,301	46,070							
Polling Places	238,558	0	0	0							
Postage	1,074,575	1,545,978	1,408,082	1,073,938	281,310	350,587	527,280	444,008	600,325	409,329	619,553
Printing and Binding	2,246,969	2,175,849	1,930,668	1,036,904	2,141,998	2,130,565	2,714,159	1,601,188	2,759,974	2,194,503	2,798,272
Supplies, Repairs & Misc.					158,861	182,568	690,578	1,188,514	1,696,522	131,881	660,304
Transportation	71,815	15,034	6,329	6,823	8,407	3,785	13,888	22,481	54,546	32,792	28,613
Wages, Temporary Help, Benefits					2,466,275	4,562,024	1,644,397	1,179,404	3,727,119	1,286,906	3,056,319
Capital Cost Recovery					63,309	108,213	83,011	87,089	118,258	93,243	86,161
County Support					34,467	43,794	86,437	79,619	698,660	633,535	640,775
Overhead	158,126	178,135	338,309	171,474							
Grand Total	16,863,154	11,936,384	12,553,175	11,095,414	13,107,900	14,445,750	14,115,864	9,637,759	15,717,803	13,110,457	15,042,524

Remove building lease payments:	0	(591,000)	(1,430,000)	(2,430,000)	(1,430,000)	(2,430,000)	(1,430,000)	(2,430,000)	(1,430,000)	0	0
Comparative Adjusted Total:	16,863,154	11,345,384	11,123,175	8,665,414	11,677,900	12,015,750	12,685,864	7,207,759	14,287,803	13,110,457	15,042,524

Comments:

From 2008 to 2009 Elections consolidated from three facilities to one, resulting in increases to lease payments and facilities.
Polling sites and poll workers eliminated starting 2009.
Spike in temporary election workers in presidential years.
In 2012 the cost categories are revised to more closely reflect State of Wash. Budget, Accounting and Reporting System (BARS) Manual requirements.
2016 included a fifth election, the Presidential Primary, which increased total cost.
Effective 2017, building lease payments were absorbed into the department's square footage central cost rates.
2016, 2017, and 2018 saw increases due to State-mandated and Council-sponsored requirements for ballot drop box increases, pre-paid postage for returned ballots, and outreach to community based organizations.
The 2018 General election experienced voter turnout similar to a presidential election, and therefore increased expense.