

CORRESPONDENCE BRIEFING SHEET

Subject: 2025 voting precinct alteration package/ordinance

Originator: Julie Wise, Director, King County Department of Elections

Issue: Each year the Department of Elections GIS Section prepares a Precinct Alteration Ordinance to be submitted to the County Council, pursuant to RCW 29A.16.040-050.

Precincts can be altered for the following purposes:

- To accommodate any city annexation activity
- To accommodate population changes (precinct balancing)
- To ease election administration

Action: Precinct alterations for the year 2025 are for the most part the result of boundary changes due to precinct balancing to accommodate oversized precincts. This is due to the large increase of voter registrations during a presidential election year. This year the precinct alteration process included input and review by both major political parties in King County and a 10-day public review period. The cost of making the precinct revisions is fully funded as part of the adopted Department of Elections budget.

Precinct alteration highlights include:

- 2,755 current precincts
- 93 altered
- 19 added
- 6 abolished
- 13 net precinct gain
- 2,768 new total number of precincts after ordinance adoption

The 2025 Precinct Alteration ordinance was submitted to the King County Council on 1/29/2025. All precinct changes being proposed must be approved and effective prior to the statutory deadline of April 28, 2025. We urge action on this ordinance right away to ensure that our team can be successful in meeting all operational deadlines needed to conduct three concurrent spring elections.

The county auditor* is prohibited from making any precinct changes between the fourteenth day prior to candidate filing and the date of the General Election each year, pursuant to RCW 29A.16.040.

* In King County, the Department of Elections Director performs the Auditor functions related to Elections