

## Accessible Voting in King County

Voting by mail is the easiest and most accessible choice for many people. Accessible voting centers provide voters the opportunity to vote privately and independently using an accessible voting unit. [King County accessible voting centers](#) (AVCs) are open to any voter who may have difficulty completing their mail ballot without assistance or anyone who would like to vote privately and independently.

### Operating Accessible Voting Centers:

King County Elections currently operates three (3) AVCs during County-wide Elections in Renton, Seattle and Bellevue. Voters cast their ballot on a touch-screen device that electronically records the voters' choices and provides a voter verified paper audit trail. Voters are able to cast an independent and private ballot using the accessible voting units (AVUs) equipped with assistive technology, such as: keypad, lap paddles, sip and puff, as well as audio and large and high-contrast text options.

### Cost of Operating Voting Centers:

Voting centers operating costs consists of staffing, supplies, equipment and facility use.

- Staffing: recruitment, training
- Supplies: printed materials and signage
- Equipment: maintenance, upkeep and transport of AVUs
- Facility use: facility rental fees

Election Date	Eligible Voters	Voters at KCE office	Voters at other locations	Total Voters at AVC	Operating Costs (estimate)	Cost per Vote
Primary 2012	County-wide	129	146	275	\$ 43,573.00	\$ 158.45
General 2012	County-wide	1933	2530	4463	\$ 227,945.00	\$ 50.97
Feb 12, 2013	414,028	0	16	16	\$ 9,248.00	\$ 578.00
April 23, 2013	103,145	0	Not opened	0	\$ 6,468.00	\$ 6,468.00
Primary 2013	County-wide	50	56	106	\$ 27,028.00	\$ 254.98
General 2013	County-wide	149	209	358	\$ 29,032.00	\$ 81.09
Feb 11, 2014	635,000	4	5	9	\$ 7,878.25	\$ 875.36
April 22, 2014	1,174,773	38	83	121	\$ 21,691.13	\$ 179.27

### Saturday turnout:

In 2012, the AVCs were open to voters on Saturday. In the primary election, the AVCs were open to voters on the Saturday before Election Day. In the general election, the AVCs were open for the three Saturdays prior to Election Day. The turnout was very low.

Election	Total number of Saturday voters	Total number of AVC voters	Percentage of Saturday voters
Primary 2012	4	275	0.014%
General 2012	95	4,463	0.021%

## **Alternatives to Accessible Voting Centers:**

King County Elections' has developed an alternative accessible voting option, Online Ballot Marking Program. This program allows voters to access their ballot online. Voters make their choices, print, and return their ballot and required forms to King County Elections by mail or drop box.

- Available 24 hours a day, starting 3 weeks prior to Election Day.
- Works with assistive technology
- Access from any computer, anywhere: home, work, or library
- Live support is available during business hours.

As voters have become more accustomed to vote-by-mail elections they do not rely on casting their ballot in person. Vote-by-mail is seen as easy and convenient. Beginning in August 2012, voters seeking a replacement ballot were offered the option of accessing their ballot through our Online Ballot Marking Program. This proved to be a popular option. Voters can mark their ballots and return them using online forms, instead of visiting a voting center. The Online Ballot Marking Program offers those with disabilities the tools to access their ballot (listening and reading devices and software) from their home.