

## **CORRESPONDENCE BRIEFING SHEET**

**Subject:** 2026 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 population changes (precinct balancing)
- To accommodate any city annexation activity
- To ease election administration

**Action:** Precinct alterations for the year 2026 are for the most part the result of boundary changes due to precinct balancing to accommodate oversized precincts. 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:

- 2,768 current precincts
- 89 altered
- 11 added
- 10 abolished
- 1 net precinct gain
- 2,769 new total number of precincts after ordinance adoption

The 2026 Precinct Alteration ordinance was submitted to the King County Council on 1/28/2026. All precinct changes being proposed must be approved and effective prior to the statutory deadline of April 27, 2026. We urge action on this ordinance right away to ensure that our team can be successful in meeting all operational deadlines needed to conduct the April special election and prepare for candidate filing.

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