

Risk-limiting Audit: Contest Lot Draw

2022 General Election

In a risk-limiting audit, the audit contests are selected randomly [[RCW 29A.60.185\(c\)\(ii\)](#)] to ensure that the process is free from bias or external influence. The Office of the Secretary of State (OSOS) draws contests by lot for counties conducting official risk-limiting audits.

The Office of the Secretary of State will select at least one statewide contest, if conducting a statewide risk-limiting audit, as well as at least one contest for each county that is wholly contained within that county. For a risk-limiting audit to produce a mathematically significant result, all ballots containing the selected contest must be included in the population of ballots to be sampled.

For the contest lot draw, OSOS will create a list of potential contests that are suitable for a risk-limiting audit, considering the following factors as described in [WAC 434-261-116](#):

- Number of candidates/positions—contests where a candidate is running unopposed will not be considered for audit
- Geographical scope of the contest—all ballots containing the selected contest must be included in the population of ballots to be sampled
- Number of ballots counted in the contest—contests that appear on only a small percentage of the county's ballots are inefficient to audit
- Closeness of the reported tabulation outcome of the contests—contests that may potentially go to a recount are not considered for a risk-limiting audit
- Ability of county elections staff to complete the audit before the canvass deadline—contests whose estimated sample sizes are so large that the audit workload may compromise other election duties will generally be excluded from consideration for a risk-limiting audit



Elections Division

With these factors in mind, the following potential contests will appear in the contest lot draw for this election. Each contest name is placed into a capsule and inserted into a random-draw cage, which mixes the capsules. One capsule is selected and withdrawn; the contest name inside is the target contest for the risk-limiting audit. This process is repeated for each county conducting an official risk-limiting audit.

Cowlitz County

| District | Contest |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cowlitz County | Coroner |
| Cowlitz County | Sheriff |
| Cowlitz 2 Fire & Rescue | Proposition 1, Property Tax Levy for Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services |

Thurston County

| District | Contest |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Legislative District 22 | State Representative Pos. 1 |
| Legislative District 22 | State Representative Pos. 2 |
| Thurston County | Assessor |
| Thurston County | Auditor |
| Thurston County | Clerk |
| Thurston County | Sheriff |
| Thurston County | Treasurer |
| Thurston County | Commissioner, District No. 3 |
| Thurston County | Thurston County - Proposition No. 1 - Expanding the Board from Three to Five Commissioners |
| Port of Olympia | Proposition No. 1 - Expanding the Board from Three to Five Commissioners |



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Spokane County

| District | Contest |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Legislative District 3 | State Representative Pos. 1 |
| Legislative District 3 | State Representative Pos. 2 |
| Legislative District 4 | State Representative Pos. 1 |
| Legislative District 6 | State Representative Pos. 2 |
| Spokane County | Auditor |
| Spokane County | District Court Judge 3 |
| Spokane County | District Court Judge 6 |
| Spokane County | Prosecuting Attorney |
| Spokane County | Sheriff |
| County Commissioner | Commissioner District 1 |
| County Commissioner | Commissioner District 2 |
| County Commissioner | Commissioner District 3 |
| County Commissioner | Commissioner District 4 |

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The selected contests for the 2022 General Election risk-limiting audits are:

Cowlitz County

Cowlitz County Sheriff

Thurston County

Commissioner, District No. 3

Spokane County

Legislative District 3 State Representative Pos. 2
