

# Risk-limiting Audit: Contest Lot Draw

2023 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.

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, the Office of the Secretary of State or the county auditor will create a list of potential contests that are suitable for a risk-limiting audit, considering the following factors as described in [WAC 434-261-115](#):

- 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

With these factors in mind, the following potential contests will appear in the contest lot draw for this election:

### **Snohomish County**

<b>District</b>	<b>Contest</b>
Snohomish County	County Executive
Snohomish County	County Auditor
Snohomish County	County Assessor
Snohomish Superior Court	Judge Position 16
Snohomish Superior Court	Judge Position 17

### **Spokane County**

<b>District</b>	<b>Contest</b>
Spokane County	Spokane County Measure No. 1
City of Spokane	City of Spokane Proposition No. 1
City of Spokane	Council President
Spokane School District 81	Director Position No. 5
Spokane Valley Fire	Commissioner Position No. 5

## Thurston County

District	Contest
Thurston County	Proposition No. 1 Sales and Use Tax
Thurston County	County Commissioner District No. 5
Port of Olympia	Port Commissioner, District No. 5

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 One capsule is selected and withdrawn; the contest name inside is the target contest for the risk-limiting audit.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.

The selected contests for the 2023 General Election risk-limiting audits are:

Snohomish County	Snohomish County Assessor
Spokane County	Spokane County Measure No. 1
Thurston County	Port Commissioner, District No. 5