# 2023
# **Annual Report of Washington State Elections**

Secretary of State Steve Hobbs

**WASHINGTON**
Secretary of State
Elections Division

Dear fellow Washingtonians,

The Office of the Secretary of State is pleased to present the 2023 Annual Report of Washington State Elections to highlight and discuss voter registration, outreach, turnout, and election laws that strengthen democratic processes. The Nov. 7, 2023, General Election was the first in more than 50 years which did not include a statewide issue or race for voters to decide, but their choices still impacted cities, counties, and communities throughout the state.

Our reliable vote-by-mail system and dedicated election officials in all 39 counties successfully served the state's more than 4.8 million active registered voters. We worked hard to ensure every vote was safe and secure despite threats from election misinformation and attacks on county election offices. I am thankful Washington met every challenge in 2023.

Several factors played a significant role in the year's elections, notably:

- The VoteWA portal was redesigned to increase accessibility, function, and language access.

- Voters have the opportunity to register a cell phone number for text alerts to track when their ballot is received and processed. More than 61,000 voters signed up by the end of 2023.

- During the November General Election, multiple instances were identified of ballots being left in out-of-service United States Postal Service collection boxes.

- During the August 1 Primary Election, white powder containing trace amounts of fentanyl was sent to the King County Elections office, and the Okanogan County Courthouse was evacuated after elections workers received an envelope containing an unidentified powder.

- State and federal investigation teams supported county election offices after envelopes with unknown powdery substances were sent to several county election offices during the Nov. 7 General Election.

I am honored to share these accomplishments and challenges with you. Looking forward, the Office of the Secretary of State will continue to prioritize safe, secure, and equitable election processes.

Sincerely,

Steve Hobbs
Secretary of State

# Contents

## Introduction

The Annual Report of Washington State Elections is published each year by the Office of the Secretary of State. The report analyzes available data to provide comparisons and highlight trends across cycles regarding election topics such as voter registration, turnout, and ballot counting. The report, when applicable, also introduces new policies and steps taken to implement legislation.

Throughout this report, data from 2023 will be compared to data from 2019 because of similarities between these elections. Voter turnout is historically lower in odd-numbered years because these years usually lack popular races such as statewide executives or federal candidates which drive voters to participate. In odd years, ballots typically contain local measures and offices. Most local offices are four-year terms which means many of the offices up for election in 2023 were previously up for election in 2019. For these reasons, election data in Washington from 2023 is best compared to that from 2019.

New in 2023, Washington State Elections upgraded its website for a more modern look and feel as well as enhanced functionality, and it now uses Drupal as a content management system. Additionally, a new functionality was rolled out through VoteWA, Washington's election management system, where voters can choose to be notified by text message when their ballots are received, accepted, or rejected. In case of ballot rejections with signature issues, voters are given instructions on how they can resolve their ballot before certification day and have it be counted.

This year, the Annual Report features articles which introduce Washington's online election data offerings and explain how Washington State Elections conducts risk-limiting audits. Next, the report covers new legislative policy and implementation updates. A third section presents innovative findings through looking at election data, and also shows how 2023 compares to prior years in terms of voter registration, voter turnout, drop box usage, and ballot rejection. The report closes by outlining some activities of the Elections Division which ensure that Washington continues to be prepared for future elections, including those in 2024.

Throughout 2023, despite a number of challenges, the Office of the Secretary of State's Elections Division continued to embody core values of integrity, service excellence, visionary leadership, and collaboration. The work of every team in the division has been crucial to bringing accurate, secure, and accessible elections to the citizens of Washington state.

## Featured Articles

Whether it is through offering transparent elections data, improving election administration practices, or conducting pioneering studies, the Office of the Secretary of State's Elections Division is continually looking to inspire confidence in the elections process. This year, two featured articles are presented in this section. The first highlights valuable data that is made available on the Washington State Elections website, and the second describes one of the innovative practices which ensures integrity in Washington elections, risk-limiting audits.

## Data at Your Fingertips: Washington's Online Election Data Offerings

Washington State Elections offers a wide availability of online data, including ballot status reports, voter demographics tables, a voter participation data spreadsheet, and a reconciliation report accounting for each ballot in every election. The aim of this section is to familiarize readers with each of these offerings, as well as briefly mention additional offerings that are also available. Much of the data offered online is not readily available in other U.S. states. All of these data offerings are available via Washington State Elections' *Reports, Data, and Statistics* webpage[1].

Ballot status reports are available by navigating to "Election Data by Year", which is available under the "Data from Past Elections" heading on the *Reports, Data, and Statistics* webpage. On this page, there is a "Data" link for each election which leads to a data page where a ballot status report can be downloaded. Past ballot status reports contain a record of each ballot returned for a particular election, whether the ballot was accepted or rejected, and reasons for rejection. While the election is still ongoing, ballot status reports are updated daily from two weeks before Election Day up until the election is certified. During this period, ballots in the report are marked as received until they are accepted or challenged, and some challenged ballots, including those with signature issues, can be resolved or "cured" by a voter up until the day prior to election certification, in which case the ballot can be accepted. The ballot status report also contains several other pieces of information about each voter in that election, including their name, their gender, their county, their address, their precinct, their precinct split, how and where they returned their ballot, and the date a ballot was sent to the voter and received back by a county elections office.

Voter demographics tables are available by navigating to "Voter Demographics" which is available under the "Voter Registration Data" heading on the *Reports, Data, and Statistics* webpage. Data from the demographics tables are displayed via a new Microsoft PowerBI dashboard on the page (Figure 1), and the data is available for download in spreadsheet format using a link at the bottom of the page. The data in these tables, and on the dashboard, describes registered voters in Washington, not the voting-age population as a whole. Registered voters are broken down into county, age group, gender, congressional district, legislative district, city, active status[2], and various combinations of these characteristics. Data in the voter demographics tables and dashboard is updated at the beginning of every month.

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[1] This page is available at https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/data-research/election-data-and-maps/reports-data-and-statistics

[2] Voters are taken out of active status and placed in inactive status when any document mailed by the county elections office to a voter is returned by the United States Postal Service as undeliverable without address correction information.

**Figure 1**

*The Voter Demographics Dashboard, New in 2023*
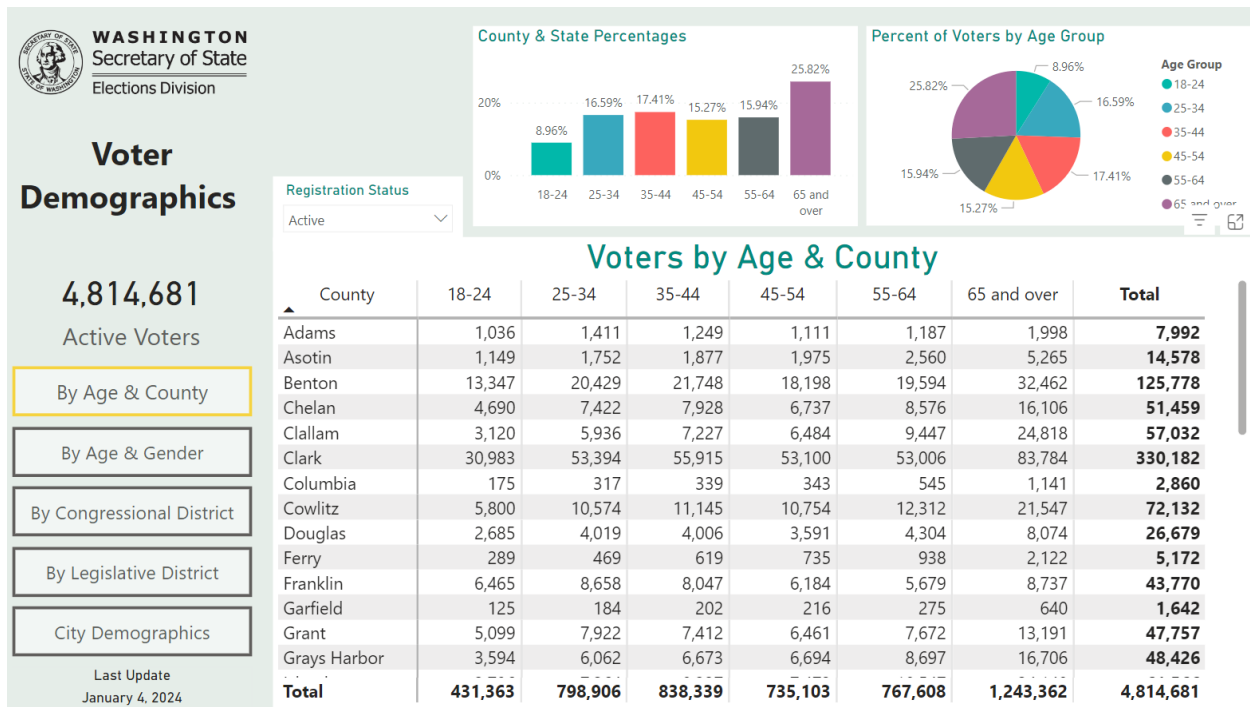


Perhaps the least known of all the data products described here, the voter participation data spreadsheet is linked directly onto the *Reports, Data, and Statistics* webpage under the "Election Data Tables" heading. This spreadsheet contains data on the voting-age population, registered voters, and counted ballots during each general election since 2005 and primary election since 2018. Voter turnout percentages are calculated for each election based on both voting-age population and registered voters. However, what makes this dataset unique is the granularity of the data; data is broken down by county, age group, and gender. This makes it possible to look up things like, for example, the voting-age population turnout for women between the ages of 18 and 24 in Skamania County during the 2022 Primary Election, or the registered voter turnout for men between the ages of 55 and 64 in Stevens County during the 2009 General Election. This fine-tuned data is ideal for those researching election administration and policy.

Finally, a reconciliation report is available online in the same location as the voter participation data spreadsheet, under the "Election Data Tables" heading of the *Reports, Data, and Statistics* webpage. This report contains data gathered from every county elections office in the state and accounts for every ballot returned in every election since 2017. The report has a trove of especially useful data, including the number of ballots issued, returned, counted, and rejected for every county. It also notes how frequently each ballot return method was used in each county and breaks down rejections by reason. Data on voters covered under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) is also available.

Although these four online data sources are exceptionally helpful, Washington State Elections provides access to additional data online as well. Notably, data from ballot status reports is combined with voter registration data and age data to create a Ballot Return Statistics dashboard (Figure 2) which, like the ballot status report, is also updated daily throughout the election period. A monthly voter registration transactions dashboard is also available, which categorizes voter registration transactions, such as new registrations and address updates, each month since March 2007 based on their source. Although a variety of other data is also available on the Washington State Elections website, the sources highlighted here were used to create many of the graphs available in the Data Updates section later in this report. Election data analysts, academic researchers, and others interested in election data may also find them to be especially helpful.

**Figure 2**

*The Front Tab of the Ballot Return Statistics Dashboard for the 2023 General Election*
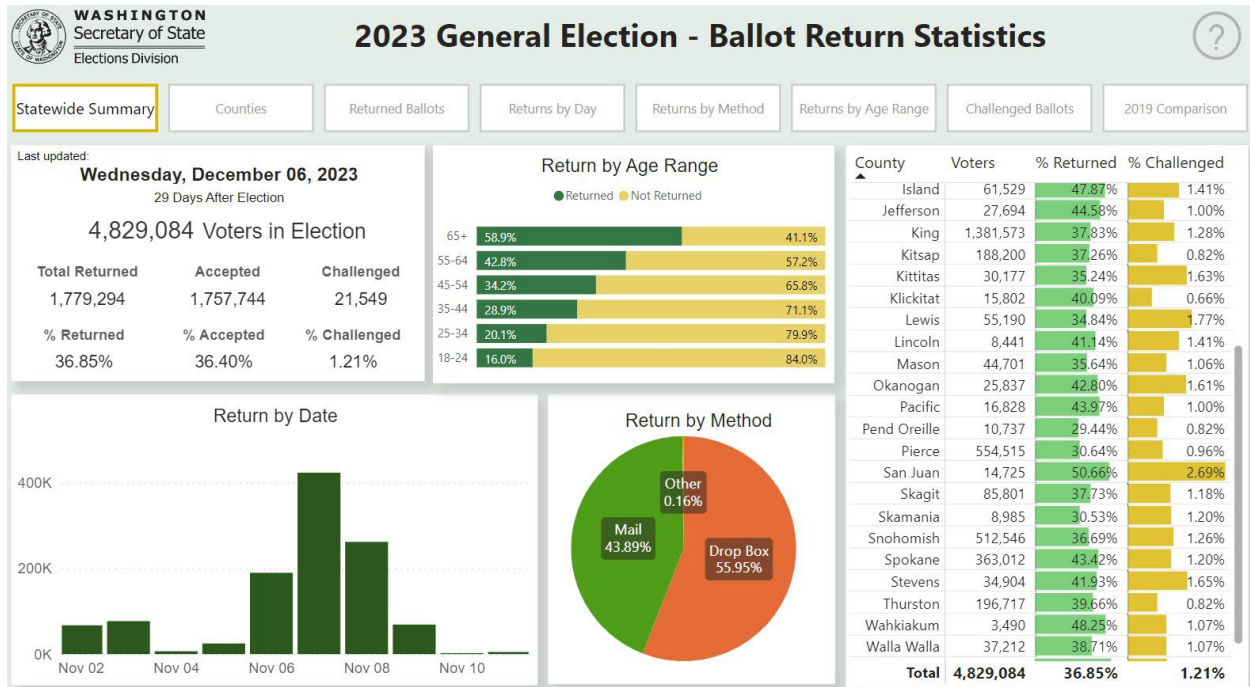


## Risk Limiting Audits: An Explainer

A risk-limiting audit (RLA) involves checking randomly selected individual ballots and comparing them to the tabulated results. A contest is selected for audit; the closeness of this contest determines the number of individual ballots to be examined. If a contest is close, the audit will examine more ballots to provide strong statistical evidence that the outcome is correct. An RLA limits the risk of certifying an election with an incorrect outcome. A risk-limiting audit will continue sampling ballots until a predetermined threshold of statistical confidence, the "risk limit", is met or surpassed. An RLA can lead to a full hand recount if the audit reveals cause for concern.

In the 81 pilots or official RLAs conducted in Washington since 2019, there has never been a discrepancy caused by the voting system incorrectly reading and interpreting a ballot. Discrepancies are rare and have always been a result of human error. The most common discrepancy in an RLA is pulling the incorrect ballot from a batch; other discrepancies have been a result of entering the data from the wrong contest, choosing the incorrect response when entering data, or applying the wrong voter intent rule. When discrepancies occur, the audited ballots are reviewed to make sure the correct ballot was found and the data entered correctly.

The strength of RLA relies on random sampling. By sampling individual ballots from batches processed throughout the election, results from the voting system can be efficiently examined at many points in time. Over the course of 81 RLAs, an average of over 65 batches per audit have been examined; by contrast, a random batch audit typically examines 3-6 batches per audit. By sampling widely and randomly, the statistical confidence in the overall performance of the voting system is increased.

Of the 31 RLAs conducted in 2023, 13 were official audits, meaning that counties have begun integrating RLAs as a regular part of their post-election auditing processes. Counties can choose one or more auditing methods according to state law and most opt to conduct both a random batch audit and an RLA. Random batch audits must be completed within 48 hours of Election Day while RLAs are conducted later in the election processing window. Cowlitz, Franklin, King, Mason, Snohomish, Spokane, Thurston and Whatcom counties all regularly conduct RLAs. To date, RLAs have been conducted in 23 counties, representing 88.34% of Washington's registered voters.

In 2023 the Office of the Secretary of State made additional changes to the Washington Administrative Codes (WACs) that benefited RLAs. Two separate WACs were created to highlight the procedural differences between county-level RLAs and state-level RLAs. For a county-level RLA, the county auditor can now choose the date and time of their audit (to begin no later than two days before certification); this gives counties the flexibility to schedule the RLA in a way that is responsive to the volume of work and staffing available. A new rule allows two or more counties to audit a contest in a shared district, removing border constraints. The random seed dice roll, used to select the individual ballots for audit, was moved to the Friday after Election Day in alignment with the RLA contest lot draw, which is used to select which contests or measures are audited. Finally, rules were created for the conduct of a state-level RLA directed by the Office of the Secretary of State, in which all counties would participate to audit one or more statewide contests. Washington will conduct its first official statewide risk-limiting audit in November 2024.

A full list of pilot and official risk-limiting audits conducted in Washington since 2019 is available in Appendix A.

## Overview of Legislation and Implementation

Washington continues to lead nationally in implementing legislation that increases the transparency, accessibility, and security of elections. Summaries of election-related legislation taking effect this year, as well as implementation updates, are available in this section.

## Prominent Legislation Passed in 2023

### ESSB 5152 – Defining Synthetic Media in Campaigns for Elective Office, and Providing Relief for Candidates and Campaigns

ESSB 5152, which took effect on July 23, 2023, specifies the private right of action of candidates if altered media is released in an electioneering communication which shows them doing, saying, or looking differently than what occurred in actuality. However, if the altered media clearly displays or states that it is manipulated, this can be used as a defense against such action. This legislation was requested by the Office of the Secretary of State to combat "deepfakes" which have become easier to produce in recent years and have contributed to election misinformation and disinformation worldwide.

### ESSB 5082 – Encouraging Electoral Participation and Making Ballots More Meaningful by Abolishing Advisory Votes

ESSB 5082, which took effect on July 23, 2023, replaces advisory votes with neutrally and accurately worded information about the state budget. An additional page is now available in the state Voters' Pamphlet containing information to access comprehensive state budget information, including information on how legislators voted (Figure 3).
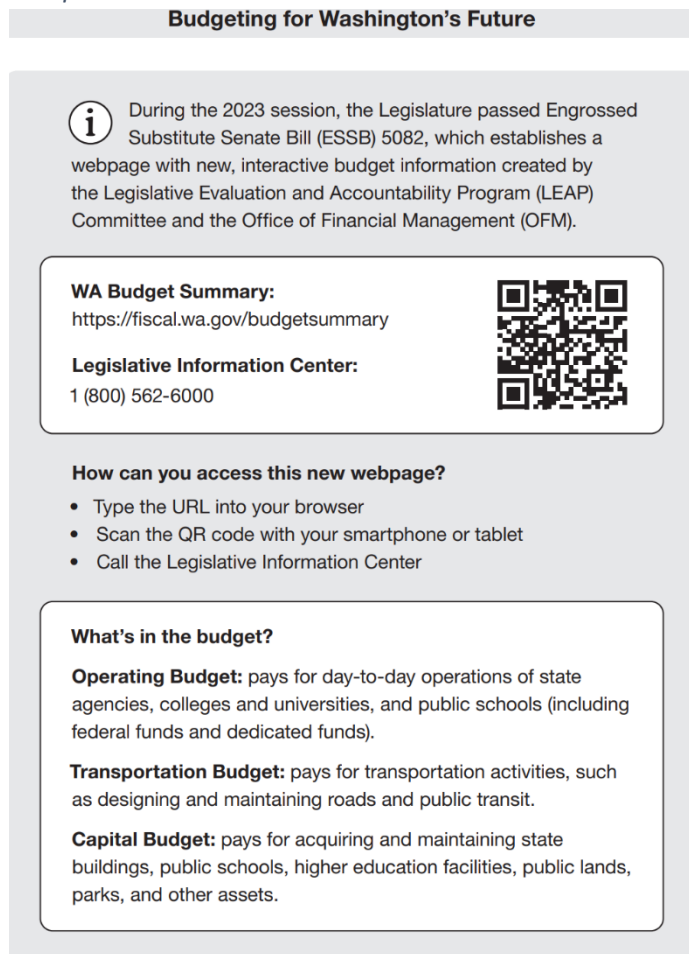
### SB 5459 – Concerning Requests for Records Containing Election Information

SB 5459, which took effect on July 23, 2023, establishes the Office of the Secretary of State as the single location for requesting public records and existing reports from VoteWA, in an effort to improve efficiency while handling an increased amount of records requests throughout the state. Counties no longer fulfill these requests, and instead send the requestor to the Office of the Secretary of State. The bill also restates and clarifies existing disclosure standards and adopts case law interpretation of the Washington State Constitution's right to privacy.

**Figure 3**

*New Budget Information Page in the State Voters' Pamphlet*



**Budgeting for Washington's Future**

During the 2023 session, the Legislature passed Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 5082, which establishes a webpage with new, interactive budget information created by the Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program (LEAP) Committee and the Office of Financial Management (OFM).

**WA Budget Summary:**
https://fiscal.wa.gov/budgetsummary

**Legislative Information Center:**
1 (800) 562-6000

**How can you access this new webpage?**
- Type the URL into your browser
- Scan the QR code with your smartphone or tablet
- Call the Legislative Information Center

**What's in the budget?**

**Operating Budget:** pays for day-to-day operations of state agencies, colleges and universities, and public schools (including federal funds and dedicated funds).

**Transportation Budget:** pays for transportation activities, such as designing and maintaining roads and public transit.

**Capital Budget:** pays for acquiring and maintaining state buildings, public schools, higher education facilities, public lands, parks, and other assets.

In response to the passage of this bill, the Office of the Secretary of State has updated its webform for requesting an extract of the Washington State Voter Registration Database so that individuals can request county-specific database extracts in addition to a statewide database extract. In addition, the

Office of the Secretary of State has published an online guide to obtaining county-level ballot status reports.

## SB 5153 – Concerning Uniform Disclosure of Records Related to Future Voters and Making Conforming Amendments Related to Participation of Future Voters in State Primaries

SB 5153, which took effect on July 23, 2023, standardizes data disclosure requirements for voters under the age of 18. It states that data is disclosable on voters under 18 who are eligible to vote in primaries and presidential primaries. Full information on these voters can now be found in the ballot status reports for primaries and presidential primaries. Additionally, records of these voters are now included in Washington State Voter Registration Database extracts during months where the first business day of the month falls within the voting period for a primary or presidential primary.

## ESSSB 5112 – Updating Processes Related to Voter Registration

ESSSB 5112 is a multi-faceted bill which implements automatic voter registration at Department of Licensing during all transactions involving enhanced driver's licenses (EDLs) or enhanced identification cards (EIDs). If a person applies for, renews, or updates an EDL or EID, then they will be automatically registered to vote at the address given, and will be mailed an acknowledgement package that includes a postage-prepaid and preaddressed return form which allows them to opt-out of the registration or address update. If a new registrant completes and sends back the opt-out return form and it is received by the county auditor within 15 days of having been sent, the person is deemed to have never registered to vote; if the form is received after that, then the person's voter registration is cancelled. The section of the bill relating to automatic voter registration at the Department of Licensing takes effect on July 15, 2024.

Another part of ESSSB 5112 already took effect on July 23, 2023 – this section protects the privacy of registered voters by limiting voter registration records from containing information about date of birth, replacing it with year of birth. The Voter Registration Database Extract has been modified by the Office of the Secretary of State so that records now only contain the year of birth of registered voters.

ESSSB 5112 also makes the following changes to law, which have either already taken effect or take effect on July 15, 2024:

- Allows the cancellation of inactive voters when receiving information about their death or move out of state.
- Makes it a gross misdemeanor for a state or county government employee to intentionally register ineligible people to vote.
- Makes updates to the voter registration challenge process, including elimination of requirements to appear in person, and clarifying that the subject of a voter registration challenge can re-register using same-day registration to vote in an election.
- Makes various other minor changes and clarifications to election law.

## SSB 5182 – Concerning Procedures and Deadlines for Candidate Filing

SSB 5182, which took effect on July 23, 2023, relates to candidate filing. Beginning in 2024, candidate filing week will begin the first Monday of May and close on Friday of the same week. Candidate filing times will be standardized in all counties so that they run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and electronic candidate filing will be available during the entire period from 8 a.m. on Monday through 5 p.m. on Friday. Following candidate filing week, candidate statement and photograph submission for the voters' pamphlet will be extended to at least 11 days after the close of candidate filing.

In addition, all legislative offices, superior court positions, and court of appeals positions now file with the Office of the Secretary of State, even if they are located in a single county. Previously, these offices filed with county election offices if they were located in a single county. Finally, precinct boundary changes now need to be made more than 7 days in advance of the candidate filing period, down from 14 days.

## Earlier Legislation Newly Effective in 2023

### SSB 5013 (2021) – Concerning Local Redistricting Deadlines

SSB 5013 specifies deadlines for local redistricting to take place. SSB 5013 was passed in 2021, sections of the bill expired on January 1, 2023, and other sections took effect to replace them. The bill specifies that in future years, local redistricting plans will be due on November 15th of years ending in 1 (2031, 2041, etc.), based on decennial census data. This past redistricting cycle, local redistricting deadlines had been extended due to delays in getting census information.

### ESB 6313 (2020) – Increasing Opportunities for Young Voters

ESB 6313, enacted in 2020, increases voting opportunities for young voters. Most portions of the bill already took effect before 2023, but a few sections newly took effect on September 1st of 2023. Since September 1st, the Department of Licensing has been required to allow a future voter aged 16 or 17 to be automatically added to the Future Voter Sign-up Program at the time of EDL or EID registration, renewal, or change of address. The future voter is offered the opportunity to opt out during the transaction. However, on July 15, 2024, this process will be updated again due to a provision of ESSSB 5112 taking effect, and the opt-out will involve a mailed acknowledgement package with an opt-out form as outlined previously.

## Legislation Implementation and Updates

### ESSB 5079 (2019) – Enacting the Native American Voting Rights Act of Washington

Passed in 2019, ESSB 5079 requires that at the request of a federally recognized tribe with a reservation in the county, a county auditor must establish at least one ballot drop box on the reservation on a site selected by the tribe and accessible by public road. Since this legislation has been enacted, additional drop boxes have been established on or near tribal reservations, and as of November 2023, there are now 34 drop boxes located on tribal reservations in Washington with another 106 drop boxes located within five miles of reservation boundaries. Figure 4 shows drop boxes located on or near tribal reservations in Washington.

**Figure 4**

*Ballot Drop Boxes Near Tribal Reservations in Washington as of November 2023*
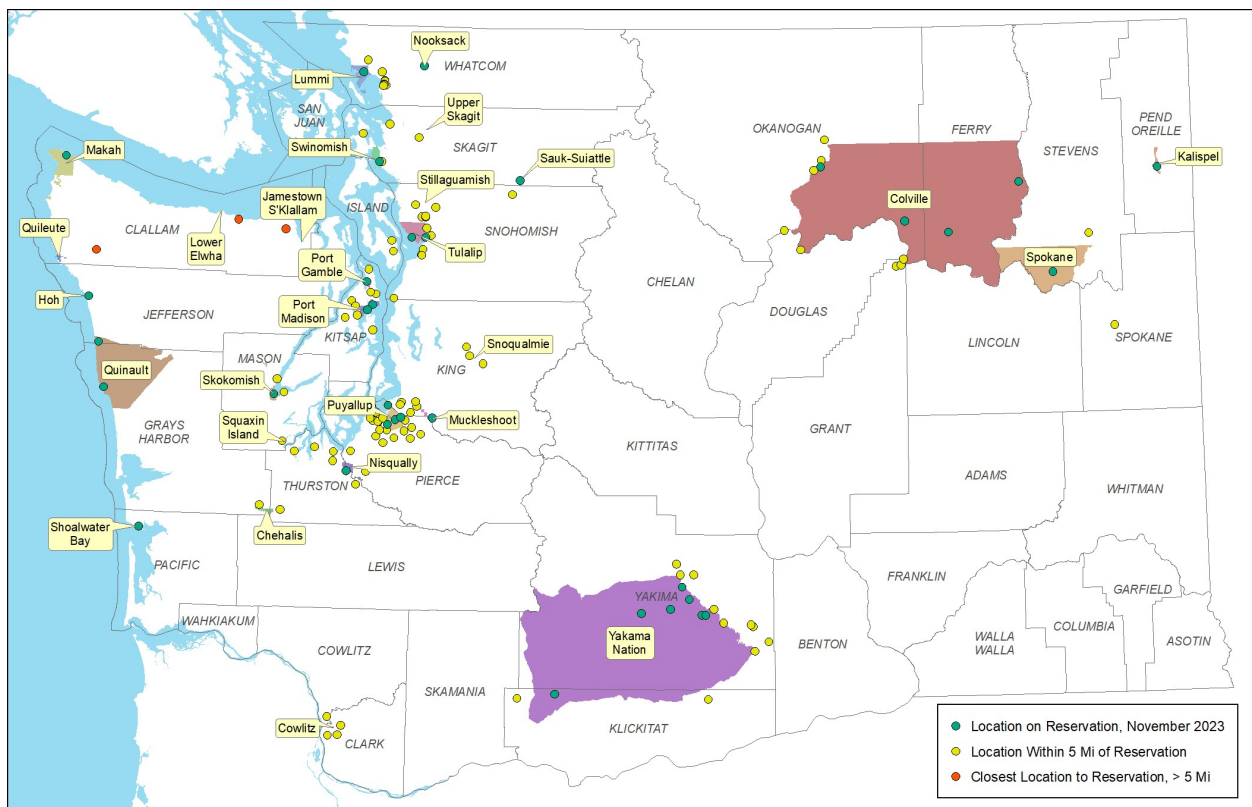


### SSB 6021 (2018) – Extending the Period for Voter Registration

In 2018, Washington passed SSB 6021, which gives voters more time to register to vote or update their address before any primary, special, or general election. This came into effect on June 20, 2019 and is known as Same Day Registration because voters can register or update their address in-person up to and including on Election Day and receive a ballot that same day.

Before SSB 6021 took effect, to be eligible to vote in an election, new registrations had to be completed in-person eight days prior to the election. New registrations submitted by mail or online had to be received by election officials 29 days prior to the election. Updates to existing registration information also had to be received 29 days before the election.

Now, eligible voters have up until 8 p.m. on Election Day to register to vote, or update registration information, in-person at a voting center or county elections department. The deadline for registrations or updates by mail or online was moved from 29 days to eight days prior to an election. Table 1 shows additional voter registrations and voter information updates which have now become possible as a result of SSB 6021.

**Table 1**

*Additional Voter Registration Transactions During Primary and General Elections Since SSB 6021 Came Into Effect*

| Election | Transferred after 28th day and before 8th day before election | Transferred in-person after 8th day before election and received an updated ballot | In-person transfers who voted | Registered after 28th day and before 8th day before election | Registered in-person after 8th day before election and received a ballot | In-person registrants who voted |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2023 General | 53,148 | 1,344 | 970 | 16,463 | 657 | 600 |
| 2023 Primary | 38,398 | 400 | 203 | 16,318 | 207 | 155 |
| 2022 General | 91,053 | 11,401 | 10,492 | 25,800 | 6,102 | 5,562 |
| 2022 Primary | 70,258 | 2,145 | 1,848 | 19,829 | 988 | 726 |
| 2021 General | 52,792 | 1,242 | 916 | 20,010 | 799 | 748 |
| 2021 Primary | 49,286 | 652 | 358 | 18,433 | 401 | 273 |
| 2020 General | 94,150 | 8,861 | 8,093 | 87,136 | 19,728 | 19,092 |
| 2020 Primary | 65,794 | 4,171 | 2,788 | 32,699 | 2,227 | 2,166 |
| 2020 Presidential Primary | 57,367 | 5,667 | 3,863 | 40,616 | 4,025 | 3,889 |
| 2019 General | 42,881 | 2,305 | 1,533 | 25,461 | 1,353 | 1,014 |
| 2019 Primary | 37,369 | 1,796 | 635 | 32,693 | 658 | 459 |

## Data Updates

Data analysis is vital to understanding and improving election administration and policy. This section begins with brief data updates from candidate filing week and the voters' pamphlet in 2023. Afterwards, the remainder of the section focuses on voter registration data as well as turnout and ballot rejection data from the 2023 Primary and 2023 General Elections.

Substantial differences exist between the electoral participation of different age groups in Washington, and in this section the voting behavior of different age groups is examined in detail using innovative methods. In addition to previously known information about younger age groups having lower registration rates, lower turnout rates, and higher ballot rejection rates than older age groups, younger voters are also found to return their ballots later than older voters and to use drop boxes more often.

## Candidate Filing

Candidate filing week in 2023 was May 15th through May 19th, and candidates were permitted to withdraw at any point before May 22nd at 5 p.m. A total of 4,408 candidates filed in 2023, only one of which filed with the Secretary of State, a candidate for the Benton-Franklin Superior Court. The rest of the candidates filed for local offices with their respective county election offices, as outlined by law. Beginning in 2024, the passage of SSB 5182 will increase the number of offices filing with the Secretary of State, as previously outlined in the section on legislation.

Table 2 highlights the number of candidate filings which were approved[3], rejected, and withdrawn. Filings are rejected if a candidate does not submit required information while filing, pay the candidate filing fee, or meet other requirements such as living within the district they are filing to represent.

**Table 2**

*Candidate Filings by Status*

| Filing Status | Number of County Candidates | Number of State Candidates | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Approved | 4,169 | 1 | 4,170 |
| Rejected | 46 | | 46 |
| Withdrawn | 192 | | 192 |
| Total | 4,407 | 1 | 4,408 |

These 4,408 candidates filed for a total of 3,385 offices which were open throughout the state. Open offices were comprised of city, county, and judicial positions, as well as a variety of positions within different types of governmental districts. A breakdown of open offices and candidate filings by district type is shown in Figure 5. City and school district positions made up the majority of offices open for election. County-level positions attracted the highest number of candidates, with 2.06 candidates filing for each open position on average. On the other hand, cemetery district positions attracted the lowest number of candidates, with 0.56 candidates filing for each open position on average. Overall, 495 open offices did not attract any candidates and candidates ran unopposed for 1,957 of the offices. During odd-year elections, many of the open positions are unpaid. Table 3 shows open offices by number of approved candidates each one had. The three offices attracting the highest number of candidates in 2023 were all seats on the Seattle City Council.

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[3] Approved candidates do not include candidates who were approved but later withdrew.

**Figure 5**

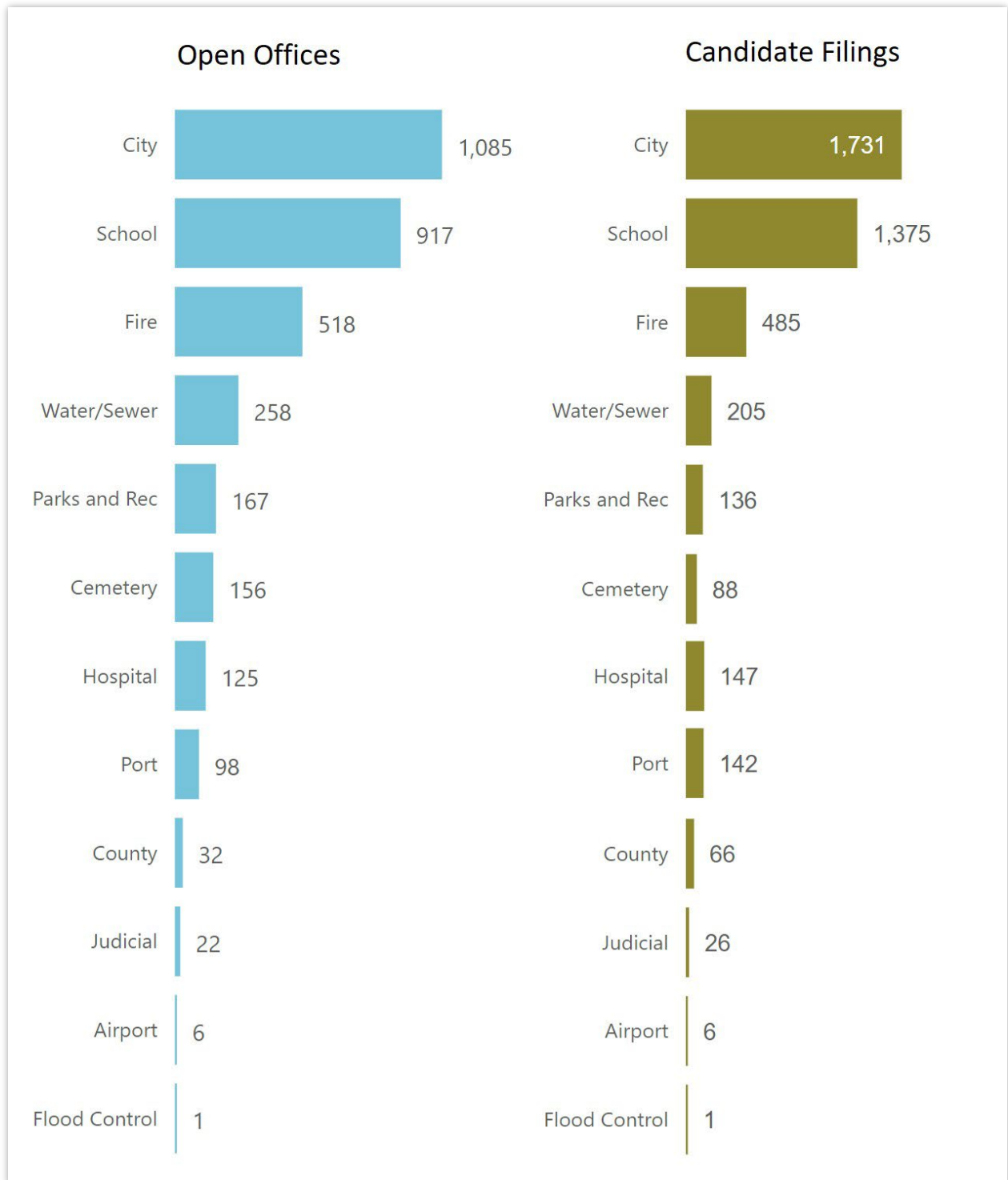*Open Offices and Candidate Filings by District Type*



**Open Offices**

| District | Count |
|---|---|
| City | 1,085 |
| School | 917 |
| Fire | 518 |
| Water/Sewer | 258 |
| Parks and Rec | 167 |
| Cemetery | 156 |
| Hospital | 125 |
| Port | 98 |
| County | 32 |
| Judicial | 22 |
| Airport | 6 |
| Flood Control | 1 |

**Candidate Filings**

| District | Count |
|---|---|
| City | 1,731 |
| School | 1,375 |
| Fire | 485 |
| Water/Sewer | 205 |
| Parks and Rec | 136 |
| Cemetery | 88 |
| Hospital | 147 |
| Port | 142 |
| County | 66 |
| Judicial | 26 |
| Airport | 6 |
| Flood Control | 1 |

**Table 3**

*Open Offices by Number of Approved Candidates*

| Approved Candidates | Number of Offices |
|---|---|
| 0 | 495 |
| 1 | 1,957 |
| 2 | 689 |
| 3 | 183 |
| 4 | 37 |
| 5 | 15 |
| 6 | 5 |
| 7 | 1 |
| 8 | 2 |
| 10 | 1 |
| Total | 3,385 |

Monday was the day with the most approved candidate filings, followed by Friday. Candidates approved on Friday were the most likely to withdraw from their races. Figure 6 shows the number of candidates who were approved each day of candidate filing week. The columns with approved status contain only candidates who were approved and chose to stay in the race, whereas the columns with withdrawn status contain candidates who were originally approved on these dates but then withdrew by the May 22nd deadline.

**Figure 6**

*Approved Candidate Filings by Date*
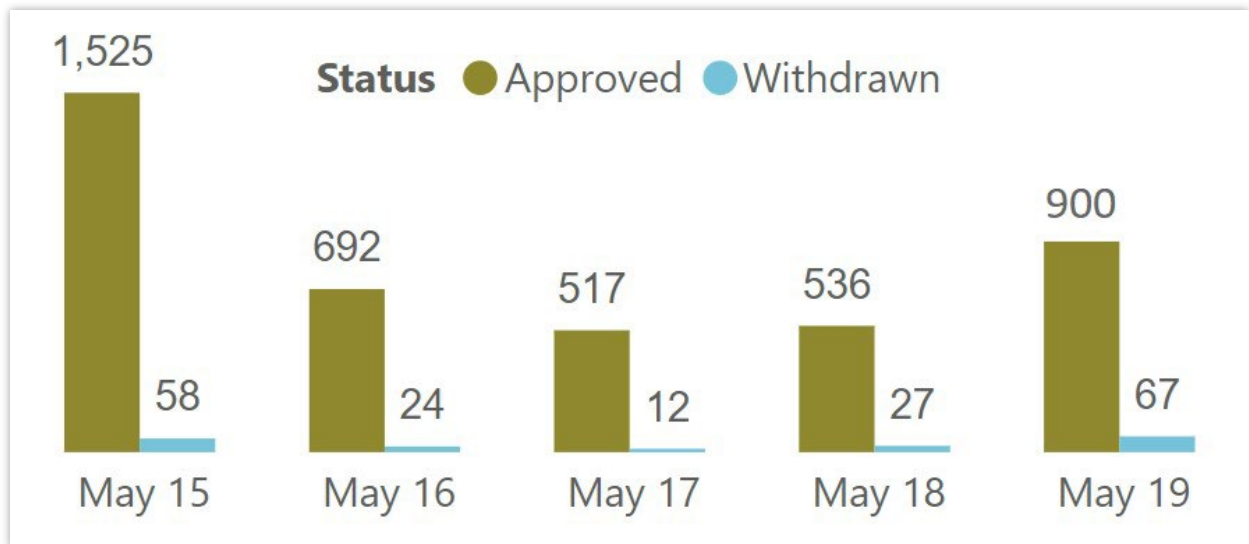
Candidates can choose to file online, by mail, or over the counter at an elections office. In 2023, the vast majority of candidates chose to file online. Filing in person was the second most popular option, with filing by mail the least popular option. A breakdown of candidates by filing method is shown in Figure 7.

**Figure 7**

*Candidate Filings by Filing Method*
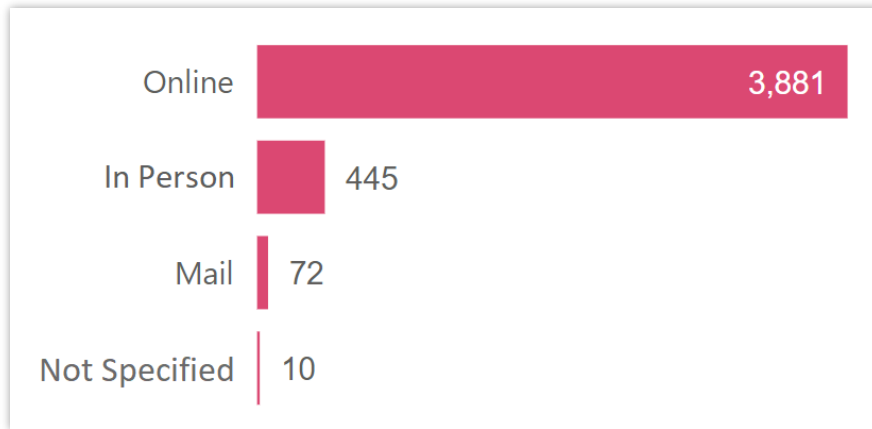


Candidate filing fees are outlined in RCW 29A.24.091; for higher paid positions the fee is usually one percent of the annual salary of the position and for lower paid positions the fee may not be anything at all. In 2023, 2,892 candidates filed for positions with no filing fees. It is also possible to submit a petition to waive the candidate filing fee and this petition must contain at least as many signatures from registered voters in the candidate's district as the whole dollar amount of the filing fee. Only two candidates submitted such a petition in lieu of paying the filing fee. Out of the candidates who paid a filing fee, most paid by credit card rather than cash or check. Payment methods used by candidates are highlighted in Figure 8.

**Figure 8**

*Candidate Filings by Payment Type*
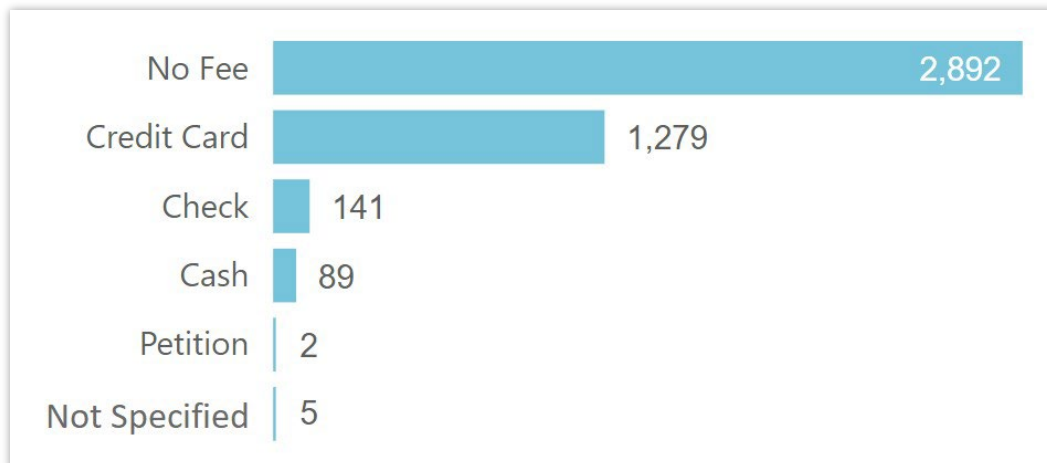
## Voters' Pamphlet

In a year with several unique challenges, the voters' pamphlet team was not only able to plan, process, proof, perfect, and publish 21 editions of the voters' pamphlet—delivered to 3.6 million households— but also to ideate innovative improvements that will be included for years to come. The two voters' pamphlet coordinators were both experiencing the full process from beginning to end for the first time, yet the support and leadership of their colleagues and supervisor guaranteed the people of Washington would, and did, receive an exemplary resource for their participation in our democracy. Furthermore, the additional coordinator this year allowed for outreach events to continue even during periods of time set aside for the voters' pamphlet.[4]

The 2023 Voters' Pamphlet was unique for several reasons, but two stood out. Because of the lack of statewide measures and candidates this year, households in some counties received a first-ever educational special edition of the voters' pamphlet. This was decided upon after careful deliberation among the voters' pamphlet team. Overall, the educational pamphlet was well-received by voters. In addition, new this year, the voters' pamphlet included a budget information page that the voters' pamphlet team coordinated with the Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program (LEAP), and this page included a link to additional online resources about the state budget. This new page was added due to the implementation of ESSB 5082.

Accessibility is a core feature of the voters' pamphlet. This year, it was offered in four different languages: English, Spanish, Chinese, and Vietnamese. In addition, an online voters' pamphlet was available in several formats including audio.

Traditionally, the state Voters' Pamphlet has been smaller during odd-year general elections, where local races and measures make up most of the ballot. This year, 12 judicial candidates in total were included in voters' pamphlet editions produced by the state, and the voters' pamphlet team successfully tracked, followed up with, and accepted statements and photos from every judicial candidate appearing in a state pamphlet.

For some counties in Washington, the Office of the Secretary of State (OSOS) combines with county elections divisions to create a combined state and local voters' pamphlet, and for other counties, the state and county provide separate voters' pamphlets. Figure 9 highlights which counties chose to combine with OSOS and which counties chose to produce a separate local voters' pamphlet, and also shows which counties had state candidates in their voters' pamphlets and which did not. For the counties which did not combine with OSOS and which had no state candidates on the ballot, OSOS sent out the educational special edition of the state Voters' Pamphlet.

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[4] The voters' pamphlet coordinators also function as two of the outreach coordinators mentioned later in the outreach section.

**Figure 9**

*The 21 Editions of the 2023 Voters' Pamphlet in Each County of Washington*
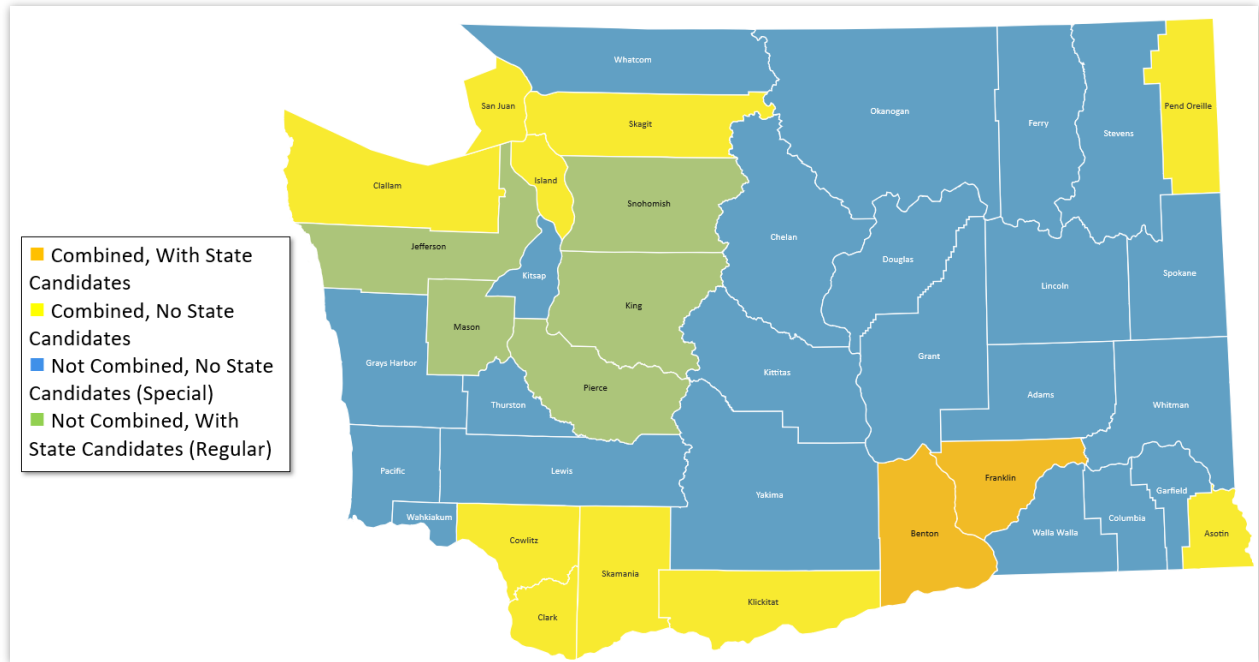
## Voter Registration

In the State of Washington, a voter needs to be registered in order to cast a ballot. Washington offers in-person same-day registration, where a voter can register or update their address in-person at a voting center and then cast a ballot at any time until 8 p.m. on election night. Registrations online or by mail need to be completed at least eight days prior to an election.

As of December 4th, 2023, there were 4,820,216 active registered voters in Washington State. According to the most recent estimates from the Office of Financial Management (2023), the voting-age population of the state was 6,255,741. Taken together, these numbers suggest that around 77.1% of the voting-age population is actively registered to vote. Figure 10 shows voter registration rates during odd-year general elections during the past couple of decades. Even-year registration rates are excluded because these years feature more prominent federal elections that include Congress and electors for President and Vice President, which generally draw more registrations and create spikes in registration rate, making them non-ideal for comparison purposes. Overall, the voter registration rate has increased in the state during recent odd years. The voter registration rate during the 2007 General Election, for instance, was only 66.3%, significantly lower than 2023. By looking at voter registration transactions (Figure 11), it becomes clear that the number of transactions at the Department of Licensing has increased dramatically in the years since 2007. Although not all of these transactions are new voter registrations – many of them are voter registration address updates, for example – it is likely that these increases have contributed to the higher voter registration rates that are seen today. A breakdown of voter registration transactions by month in 2023 is available in Appendix B.

In addition, by looking at Figure 10 it becomes evident that voter registration rates vary greatly by age. For instance, only around 60 percent of 18- to 24-year-olds are registered to vote, whereas almost 90 percent of those aged 65 or older are registered. However, this gap in registration rates based on age has narrowed since the mid-2000s, mostly due to large increases in voter registration rates among younger voters. Interestingly, every age demographic has seen an increase in registration rate except for those between the ages of 45 and 64.

**Figure 10**

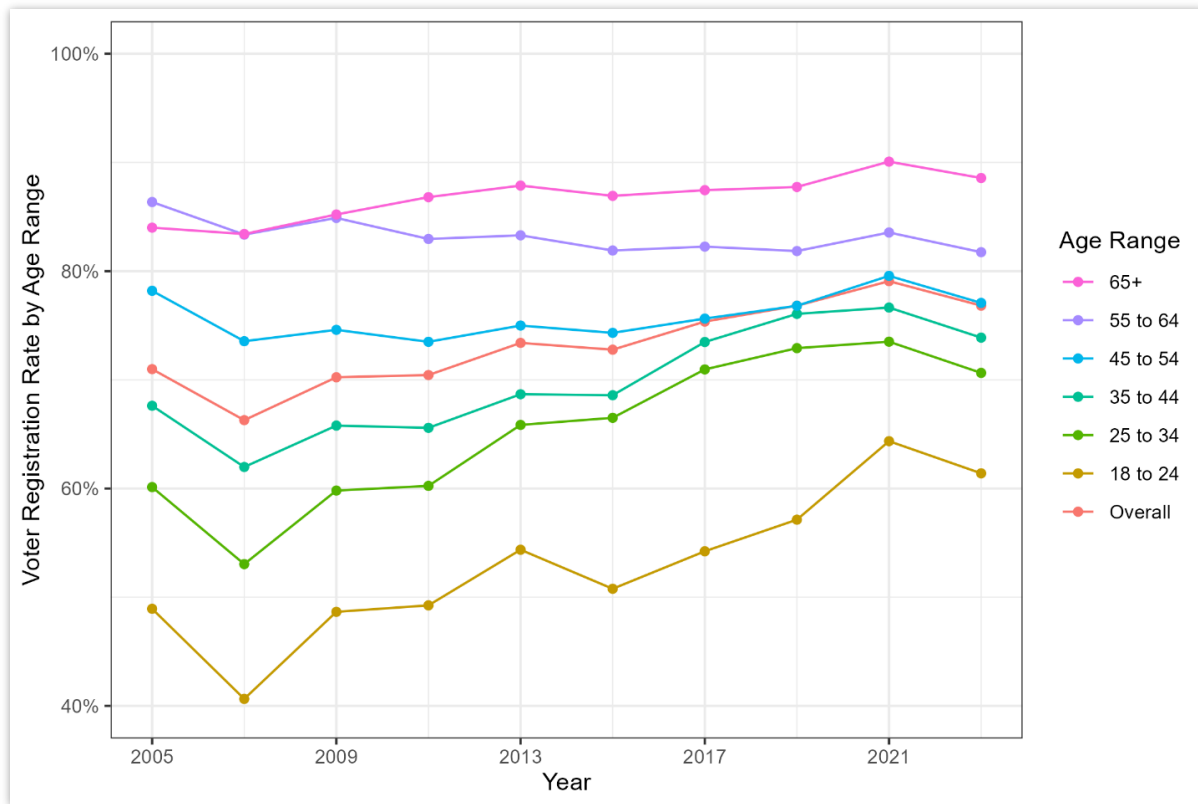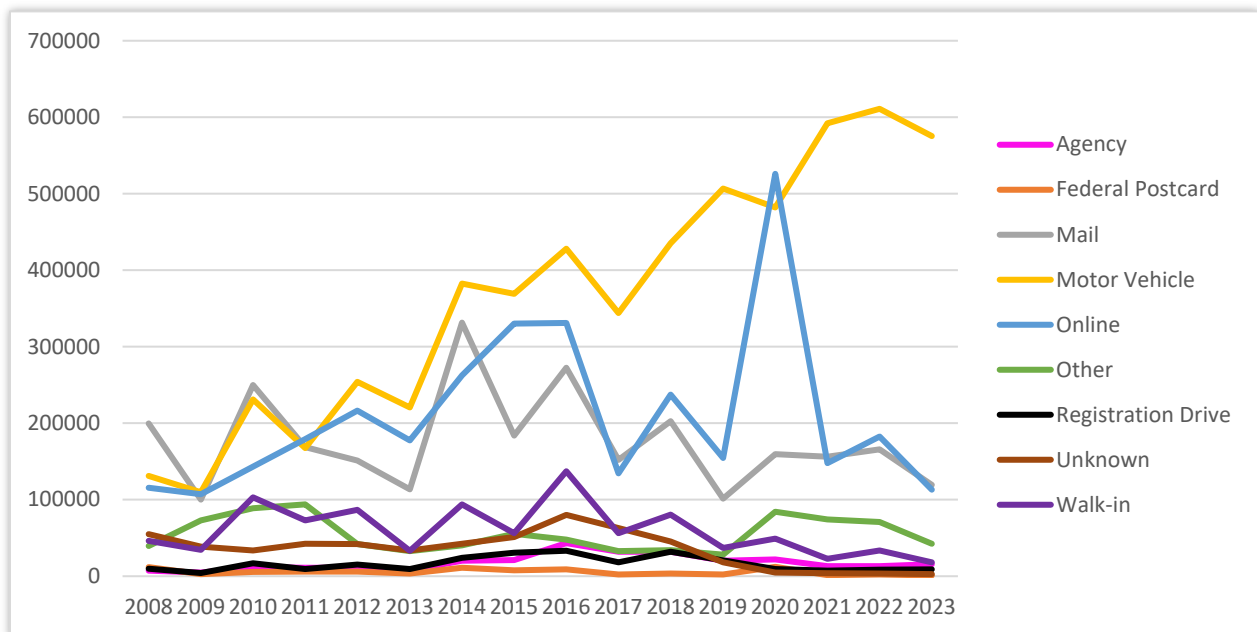*Voter Registration Rates During Odd-Year General Elections Since 2005*



**Figure 11**

*Voter Registration Transactions by Method: 2008 to 2023*

## Voter Turnout

Voter turnout is a measure of what percentage of individuals have cast a ballot and had it counted during a particular election. Turnout can be measured in terms of voting-age population turnout or registered voter turnout. Voting-age population turnout is ideal for national-level and international-level comparisons because it is not affected by voter registration policies or voter eligibility laws, while registered voter turnout data can be more useful in comparing longer-term trends or in other specific instances because of the precise data available for number of registered voters during an election. In this section, both measures of turnout will be referenced.
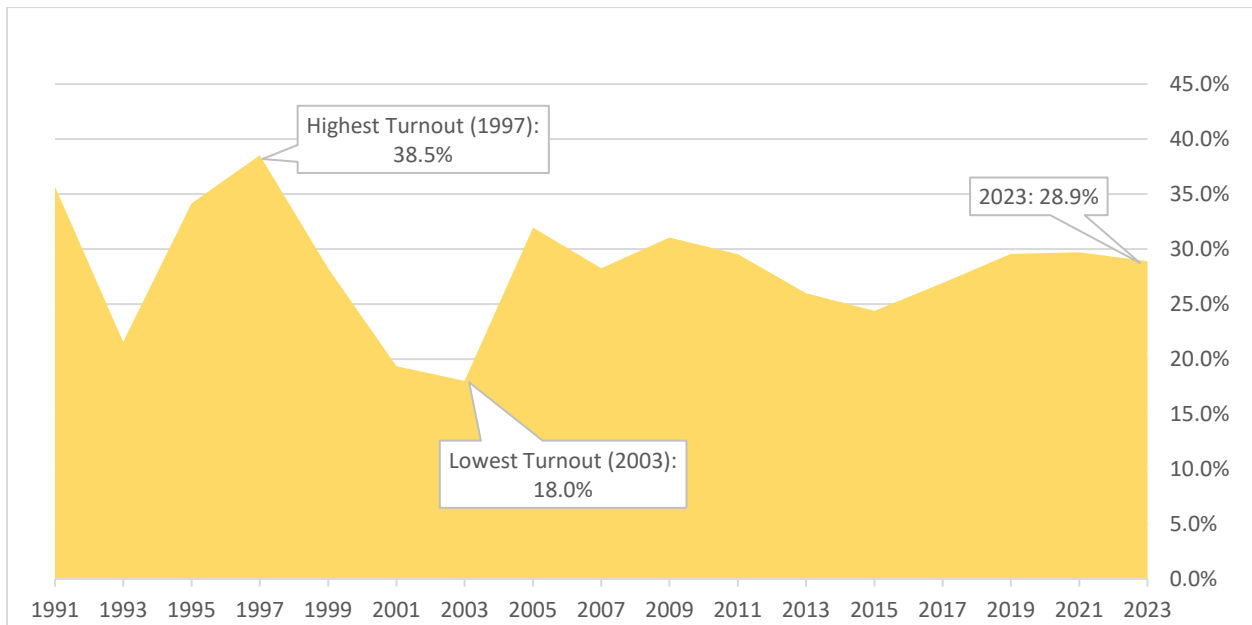
## 2023 Primary Turnout

Primaries are used to narrow down the field of candidates for a general election and to vote on local measures. Odd-year primaries are different from even-year primaries since they do not usually contain federal and state contests. In many local contests, when no more than two candidates are present, a primary is not required by law. During the 2023 Primary, which took place on August 1st, many districts did not have an office or measure up for election; Columbia, Skamania and Wahkiakum counties did not have any districts with primaries at all.

Since not all voters are eligible to participate in odd-year primaries and detailed population data is not available for every jurisdiction, it is difficult to estimate voting-age population turnout for odd-year primary elections. Therefore, it makes sense to rely on registered voter turnout for this type of election.

The registered voter turnout for the 2023 Primary was 28.89%, with 1,116,963 ballots returned and counted out of the 3,865,926 registered voters who were eligible to participate. Figure 12 shows odd-year primary election registered voter turnout since 1991. From Figure 12, it becomes clear that the 2023 Primary was fairly typical in terms of odd-year primary turnout; it is about halfway between the highest turnout of 38.5% set in 1997 and the lowest turnout of 18.0% set in 2003.

**Figure 12**

*Odd-Year Primary Registered Voter Turnout since 1991*

Voter turnout varies greatly with age, and the 2023 Primary was no exception. Figure 13 shows turnout for the 2023 Primary, along with the previous comparable election, the 2019 Primary. Voter turnout for 18- to 24-year-olds in the election was only 12.7%, but voter turnout for those 65 years of age and older was a full 49.7%, almost four times higher. In other words, older voters (65+) were nearly four times as likely to vote in the primary election as younger voters (18-24). In addition, Figure 12 and Figure 13 show that while an overall slight decrease in turnout was present between the 2019 and 2023 Primary Elections, turnout increased among voters aged 25 to 44.

**Figure 13**

*Registered Voter Turnout by Age Range in 2019 and 2023*
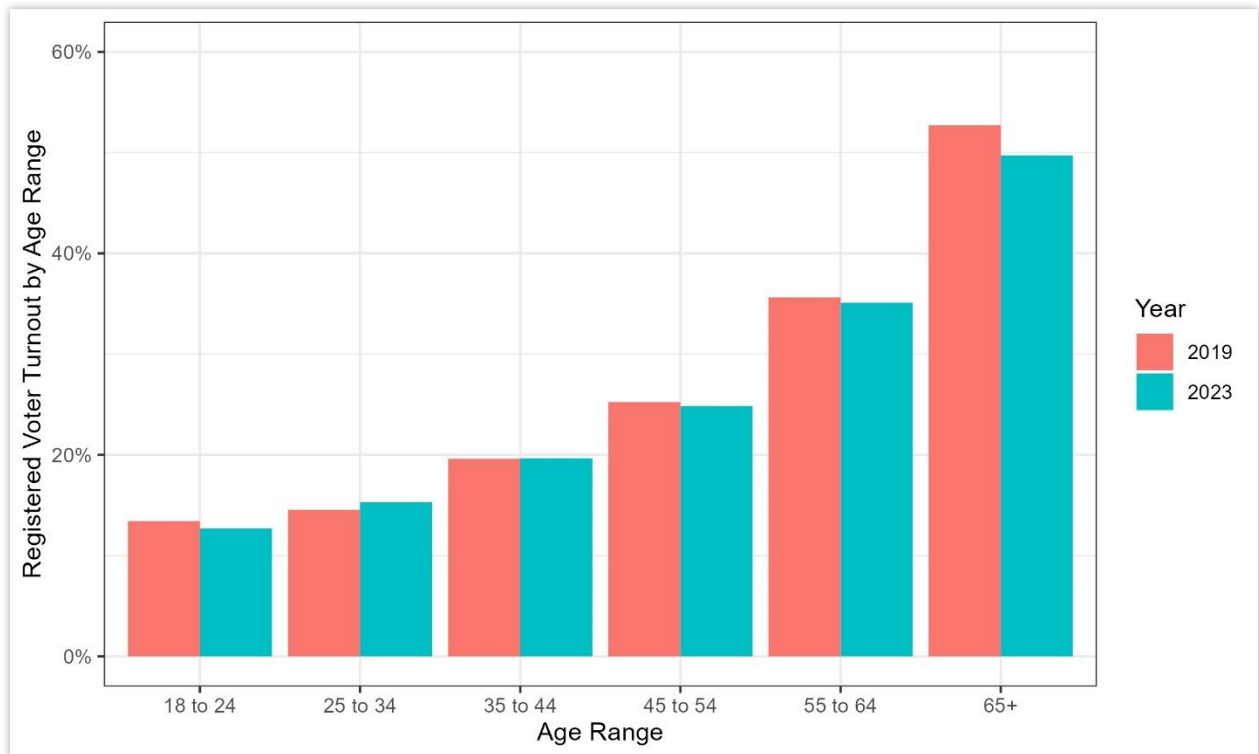
## 2023 General Election Turnout

Statewide contests or measures[5] on a general election ballot are often a key driver of turnout in odd-numbered election years, since federal and state contests are usually not on the ballot. The 2023 General Election was the first odd-year general without a statewide contest, measure, or advisory vote on the ballot since odd-year general elections began in 1973. The registered voter turnout for the 2023 General was 36.4% (1,758,084 ballots returned and counted out of 4,828,540 active registered voters), the lowest on record. The highest odd-year turnout was in 1991, when 8 different statewide measures were on the ballot. Figure 14 shows odd-year general election registered voter turnout since 1973, when odd-year general elections began. A modest decrease in turnout is apparent, possibly due to a dearth of statewide contests and measures in recent years.

**Figure 14**

*Odd-Year General Election Registered Voter Turnout*



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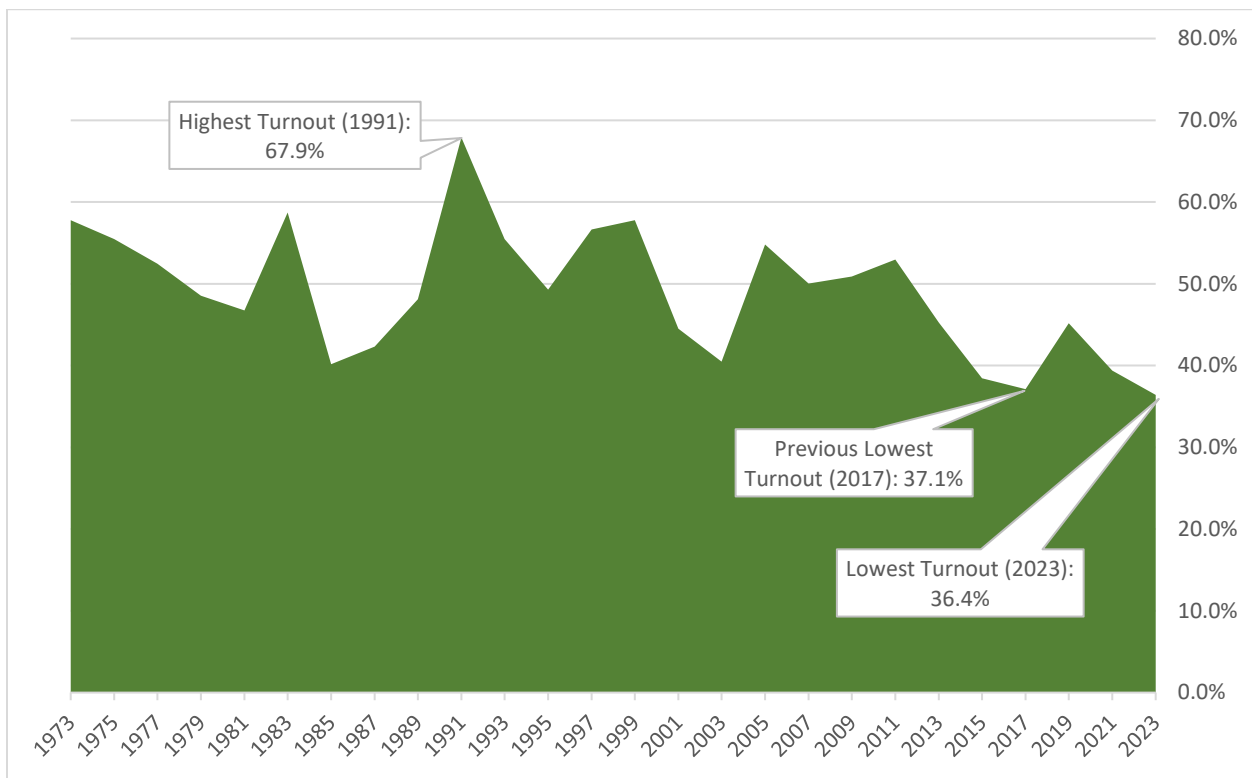
[5] Statewide measures in Washington can include initiatives to the people, initiatives to the legislature, referendum measures, constitutional amendment ballot measures, and others.

In line with other elections, the 2023 General also saw a large disparity in turnout between older and younger voters. Figure 15 shows turnout by age range, this time using available population-based turnout figures. It becomes apparent from Figure 15 that while more than half of seniors aged 65 and older voted, younger people between the ages of 18 and 24 voted less than 10% of the time.

**Figure 15**

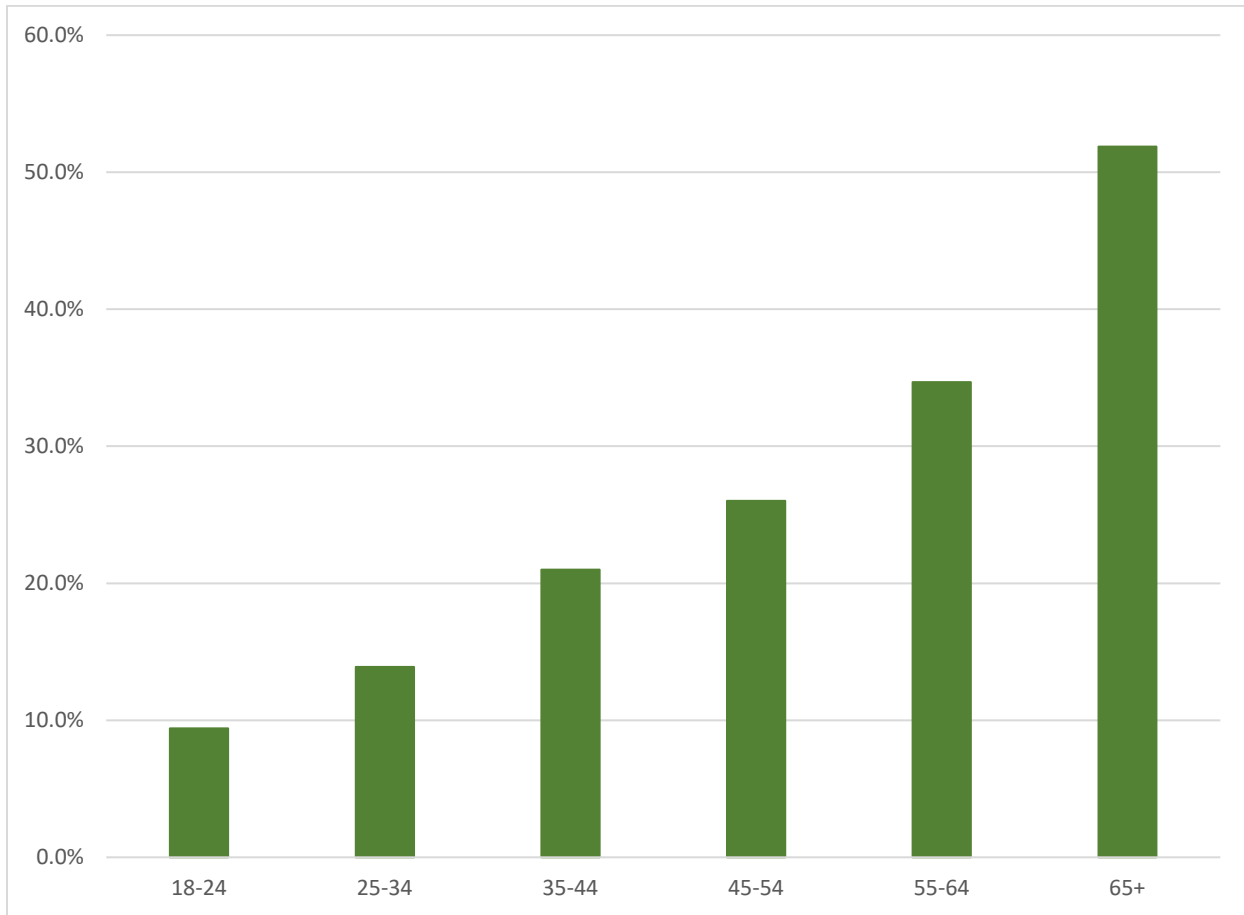*Population-Based Voter Turnout by Age Range in the 2023 General Election*

Figure 16 shows population-based voter turnout by age range in odd-year general elections since age data first became available almost two decades ago. Most of the decrease in voter turnout Washington has seen since 2005 has been due to older voters voting less; the turnout rates among younger voters have largely stayed the same. Overall, while older individuals are still much more likely to vote than younger individuals, the gap between them has been slowly narrowing over time because of decreased turnout among older voters. Today Washingtonians aged 65 and over are only about five times more likely to vote than those between the ages of 18 and 24, a decrease from 2005 when they were about seven times more likely to vote.

**Figure 16**

*Population-Based Voter Turnout by Age Range During Odd-Year General Elections Since 2005*
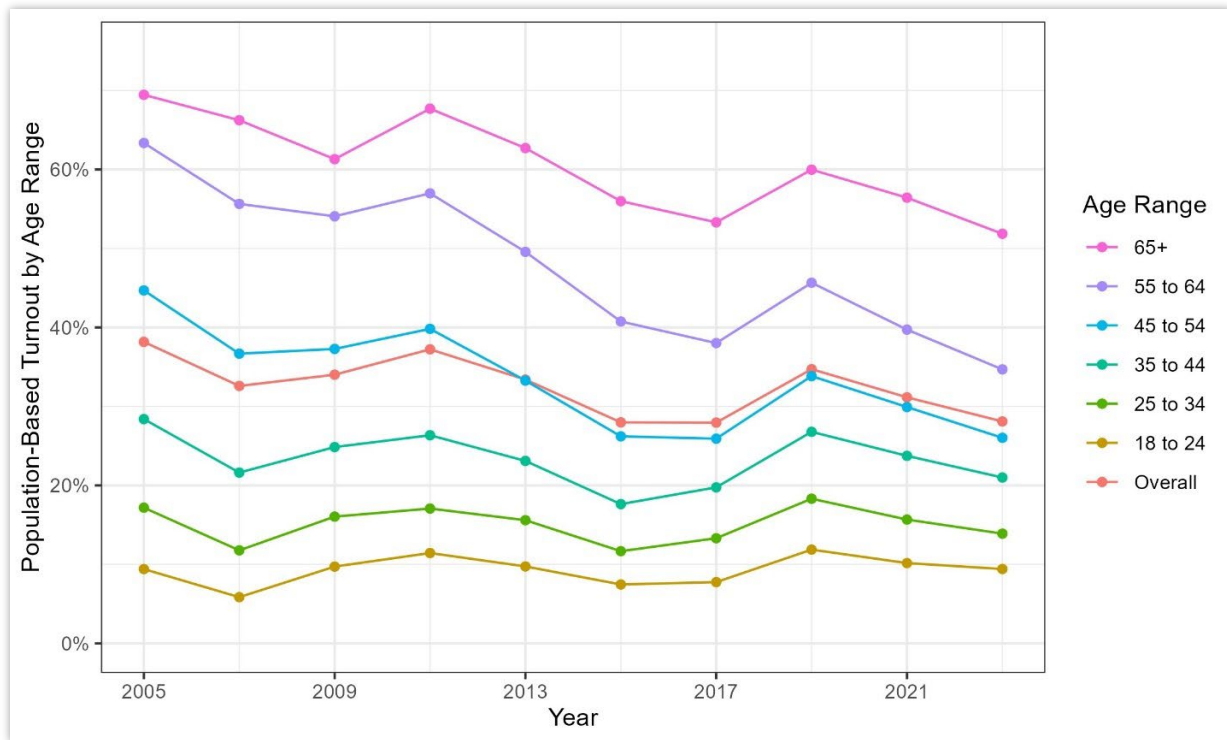


Additional voter turnout data broken down by county is available in Appendix C and Appendix D; dashes in the appendices indicate that no primary was held in a county or that data is not available.

## Drop Box Usage

Washington has been a vote-by-mail state since 2011, and each eligible registered voter is mailed a ballot packet every election. Nearly all voters return their ballot either by mail, using the provided prepaid postage return envelope provided in the ballot packet, or by returning their ballot at a drop box or staffed voting center.[6] The percentage of voters using drop boxes in primary and general elections from 2013 through 2023 is shown in Figure 17. The general trend is that drop box usage is slowly increasing. Drop box usage data broken down by county is available in Appendix E and Appendix F; dashes in the appendices indicate that no primary was held in a county or that data is not available.

**Figure 17**

*Percentage of Ballots Returned by Drop Box*



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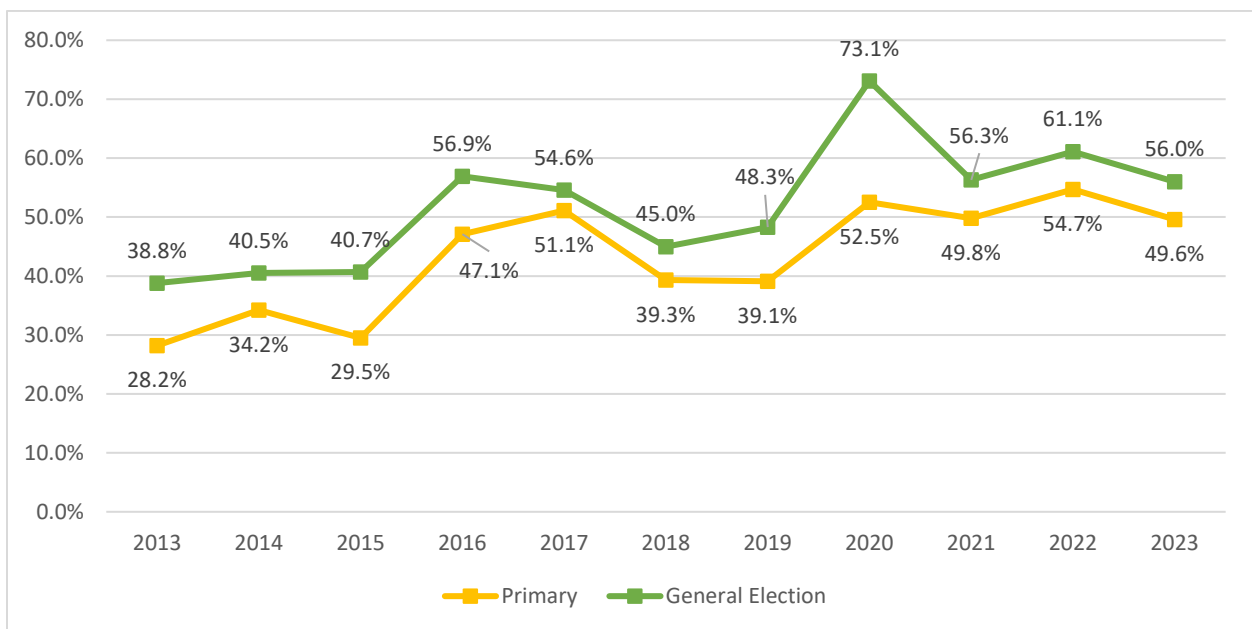
[6] Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) voters also have the option of returning their ballot to the county via email or fax.

When broken down by age, younger voters tended to use drop boxes more in the 2023 Primary and 2023 General Elections. Figure 18 shows the percentage of voters by age who returned their ballot by drop box in both elections.

**Figure 18**

*Drop Box Usage by Age in 2023*
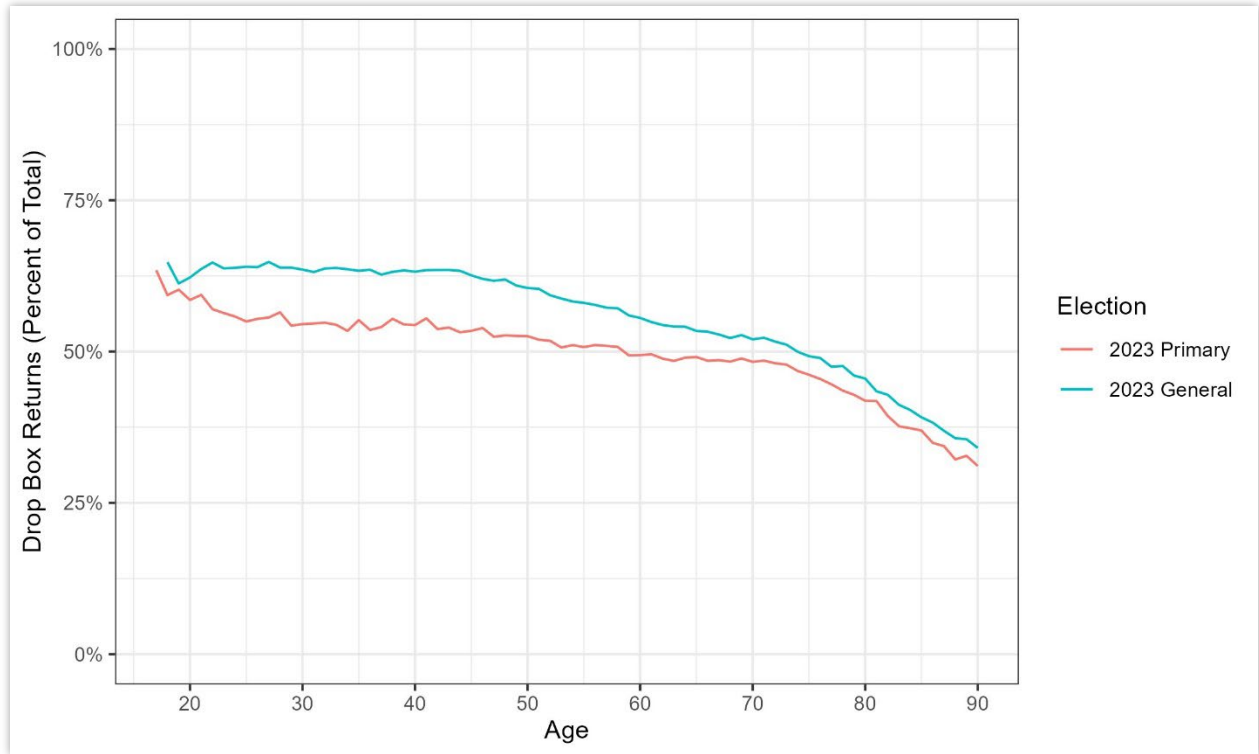


## Timing of Ballot Returns and Age

Counties in Washington are required to mail out ballots at least 18 days prior to Election Day, and voters can return their ballots at any time before 8 p.m. on the night of the election. However, voters of different ages are more likely to return their ballots at different times. Figure 19 shows the median voter age for ballot returns during each day of the voting period in both the 2023 Primary and 2023 General Elections. The first noticeable trend from Figure 19 is that the median voter age decreased as Election Day approached for both elections; in other words, younger voters voted later. This trend becomes even more apparent when looking at Figure 20, which shows the average number of days voters in Washington of a particular age returned their ballots before the 2023 Primary and 2023 General Elections. Voters in their 80s returned their ballots on average six or seven days before Election Day, whereas voters under 40 turned in their ballots, on average, only two or three days in advance of Election Day.

**Figure 19**
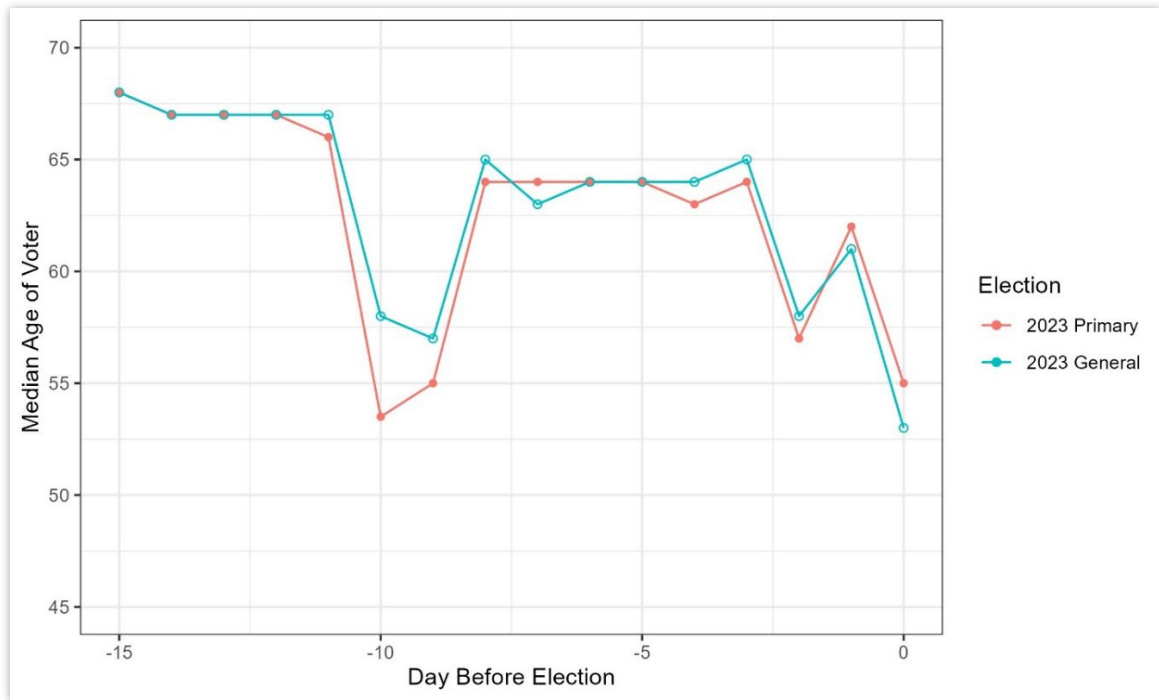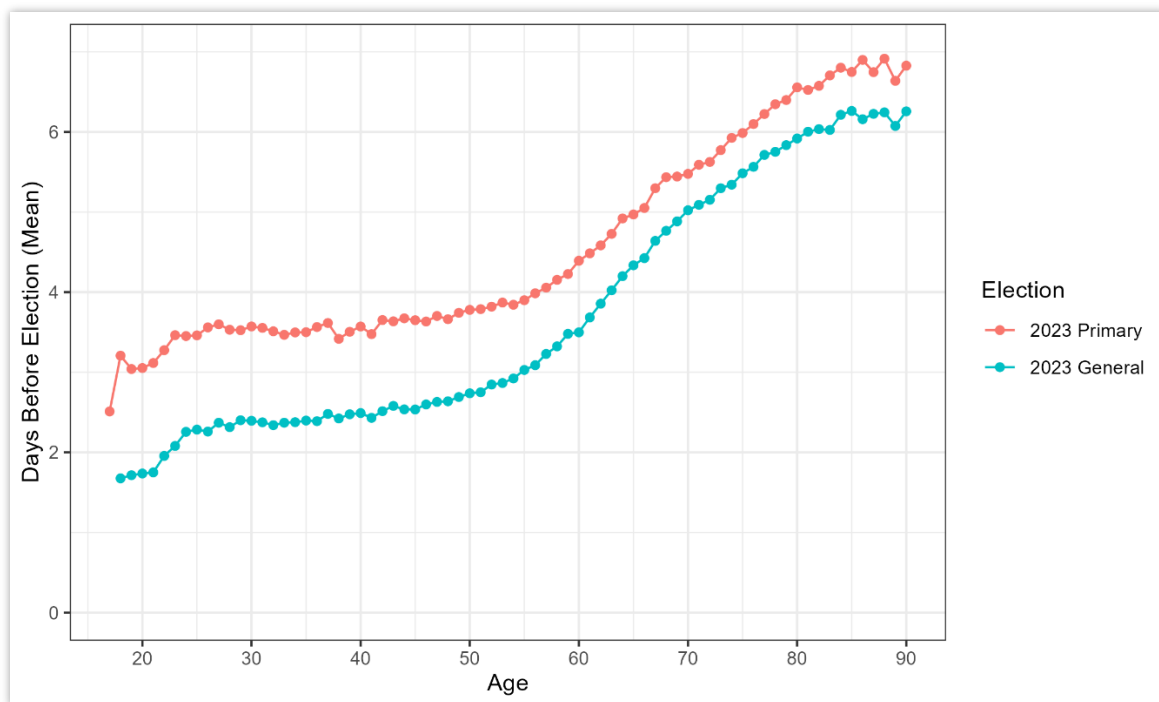
*Median Voter Age by Ballot Return Day*



**Figure 20**

*Average Ballot Return Day by Age*

A second interesting fact to note from Figure 19 is that the median voter age was much lower on the second day before Election Day and the ninth and tenth days before Election Day. These days all happen to be weekend days, which indicates that younger voters could be more likely to return their ballots on weekends, when they have more time. During every day other than Election Day itself and weekends over the voting period, the typical voter was over 60 years old during both elections. It is possible that many of the people voting midweek are retired, whereas voters who are working or attending college are more likely to return their ballot during the weekend when they have more free time. However, it is also possible that the ballots received on weekends are skewed towards larger counties because these counties can afford to pay county election staff to process ballots during the weekend, and that these larger counties have younger voters in general. Further research is needed in this area.

In any case, the median ages shown in Figure 19 are noteworthy from a representation standpoint. The overall median voter ages for the 2023 Primary and 2023 General are 62 and 60 years old, respectively. Since the current median age of voters in local elections is in the 60s, those elected under such conditions are not necessarily representative of the population of Washington as whole, where the median age is 38.6 years (Office of Financial Management, 2022).

One last trend is worth noting. There was a notable difference in ballot return timing between the 2023 Primary and 2023 General Elections, as seen in Figure 20. Voters across the age spectrum were more likely to return their ballot earlier in the 2023 Primary than the 2023 General. One explanation for this could be correlation rather than causation – the type of voters who vote in the primary are likely, on average, more civically engaged than the voters who vote in general elections. Therefore, they might be more likely to prioritize returning their ballot as soon as possible. Another explanation could be simply that voters spend less time filling out their primary ballots because they typically have less races, and so they are able to turn them in sooner. In any case, this is an area ripe for additional research.

## Ballot Rejection

In the 2023 Primary, 17,459 ballots were rejected out of the 1,134,483 ballots returned, a rejection rate of 1.5%. In the 2023 General, 21,617 ballots were rejected out of the 1,780,198 ballots returned, a rejection rate of 1.2%. A breakdown of ballot rejection rates by year for both primary and general elections can be found in Figure 21. Ballot rejection rates have been fairly consistent over time, with primary elections having higher rejection rates than general elections.

**Figure 21**

*Ballot Rejection Rates*
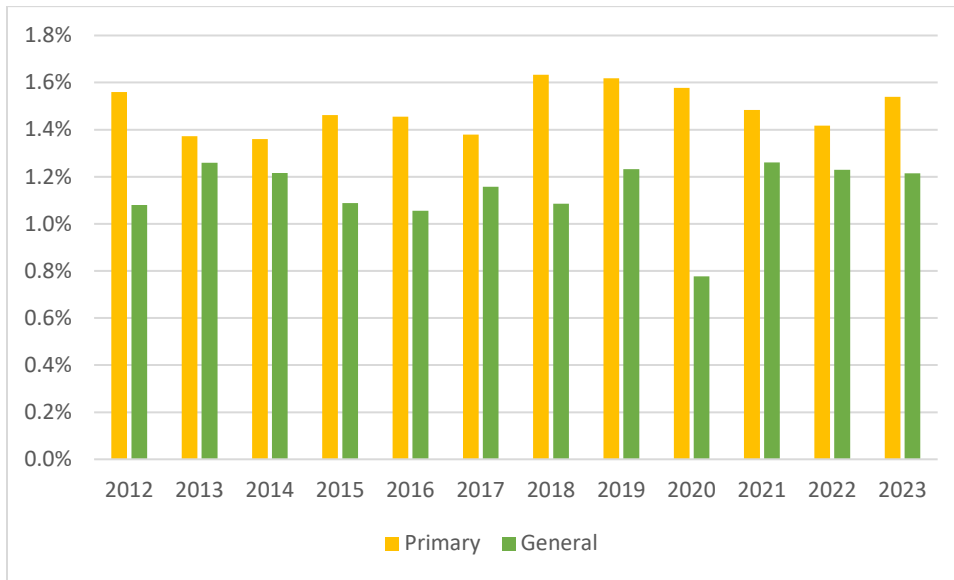


Since 2017, data on reasons for ballot rejection has been available. It can be found in Figure 22 and Figure 23 for primary and general elections, respectively. In both the 2023 Primary and 2023 General, most rejected ballots had a late postmark. In order for ballots returned by mail to be counted, they must be postmarked on Election Day or sooner. The second most common reason for ballot rejection was a mismatched signature, which accounted for 30.0% of ballot rejections in the 2023 General Election and 21.9% of ballot rejections in the 2023 Primary. Returned ballots in Washington are challenged if the signature on the ballot does not match the signature on a voter's registration file. The Washington State Ballots Project, completed near the end of 2023 by the University of Washington's Evans Policy Innovation Collaborative, found that most Washington voters do not know that their ballot envelope signatures are being compared to their voter registration file, which often features drivers' license signatures. Unlike late postmarks, both mismatched and missing signatures can be "cured" in Washington, meaning that voters whose ballots are challenged for one of these reasons can submit a form to resolve the challenge before the election is certified, and their ballots can still be counted. Over half of voters with signature challenges take advantage of this opportunity.

**Figure 22**

*Ballot Rejection Reasons During Primary Elections*
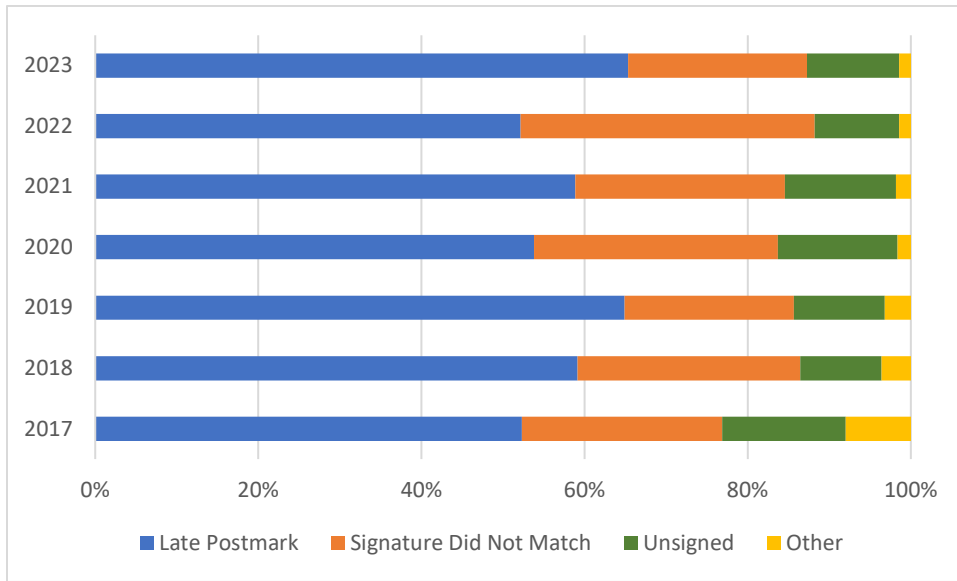


**Figure 23**

*Ballot Rejection Reasons During General Elections*
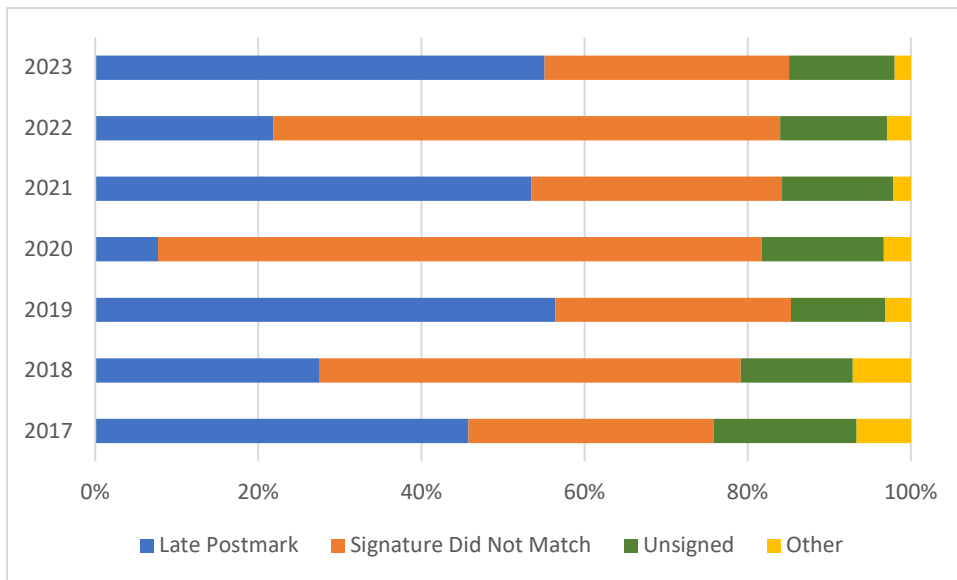
Since many rejected ballots are not curable, notably ballots with late postmarks, additional outreach could be an effective method to reduce ballot rejection rates. Outreach could focus on educating voters that placing a ballot in the mail or a USPS drop box on Election Day could result in rejection, and that they should use ballot drop boxes instead if voting on Election Day. In addition, outreach could target groups such as younger voters who are not only more likely to have their ballot rejected because of a late postmark, but also much more likely to have their ballot rejected due to a missing signature. Figure 24 shows rejected ballots by age in the 2023 Primary and 2023 General Elections, broken down by reason for the rejection. From these graphs, it becomes clear that although missing signature rejections are equally common across the age spectrum, younger voters are disproportionately affected by ballot rejections due to late postmarks and not having their signature match what is on file.

**Figure 24**

*Ballot Rejection by Age in the 2023 Primary and General Elections*



Election —— 2023 Primary —— 2023 General
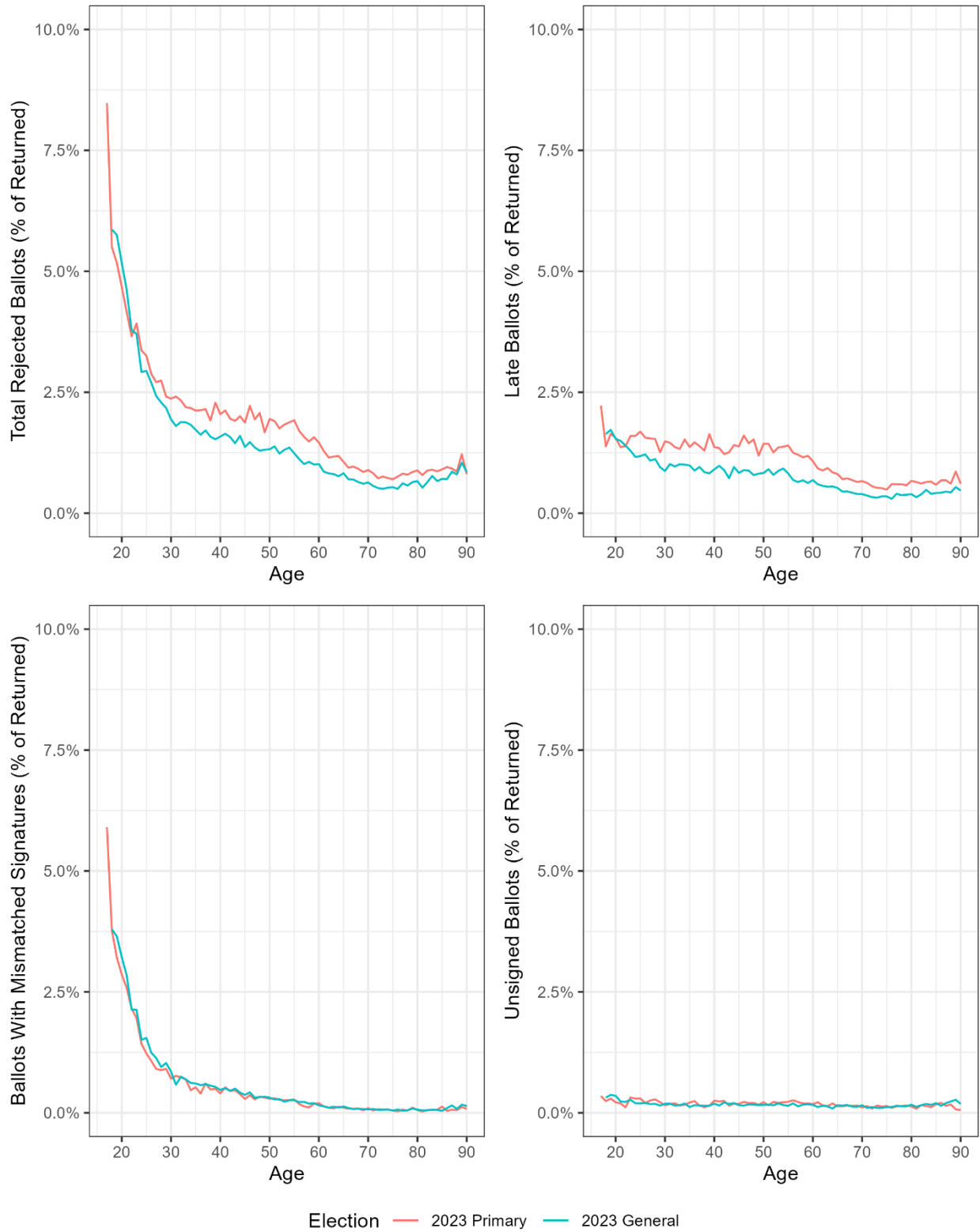
Additionally, ballots are rejected at different rates in the different counties of Washington State. Figure 25 and Figure 26 on the following pages show the different rates at which ballots were rejected in each county in Washington during the 2023 Primary and General Elections, respectively, ordered by percentage of ballots rejected for signatures that did not match. Moreover, changes since the previous comparable elections in 2019 are shown in Figure 27 through Figure 30. These changes are broken into ballots rejected due to late postmarks and ballots rejected for other reasons including signature issues.

It becomes apparent that San Juan County had an abnormally high number of ballots rejected during the 2023 General Election due to late postmarks. Since this county is comprised entirely of islands which are only accessible by boat, it seems possible that this could be due to a U.S. Postal Service issue with transport between islands, especially since the overwhelming majority of ballots (157 out of 164) rejected for being too late in the 2023 General were returned by residents of Orcas and Lopez Islands, not the most populous San Juan Island which hosts the county seat.[7]

The second most visible trend is the improvement of Okanogan County in reducing ballot rejections for mismatched signatures. In both the 2019 Primary and General Elections, over one and a half percent of ballots in the county were rejected for ballot signatures not matching voter registration file signatures, but by 2023, for both elections, that number had halved to around three-quarters of a percent.

Additional data on ballot rejection reasons by county in the 2023 Primary and 2023 General Elections is available in Appendix G and Appendix H, respectively.

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[7] Data on each ballot rejected for the 2023 General Election is available in the ballot status report for the 2023 General

**Figure 25**

*Ballot Rejections and Reasons by County in the 2023 Primary*
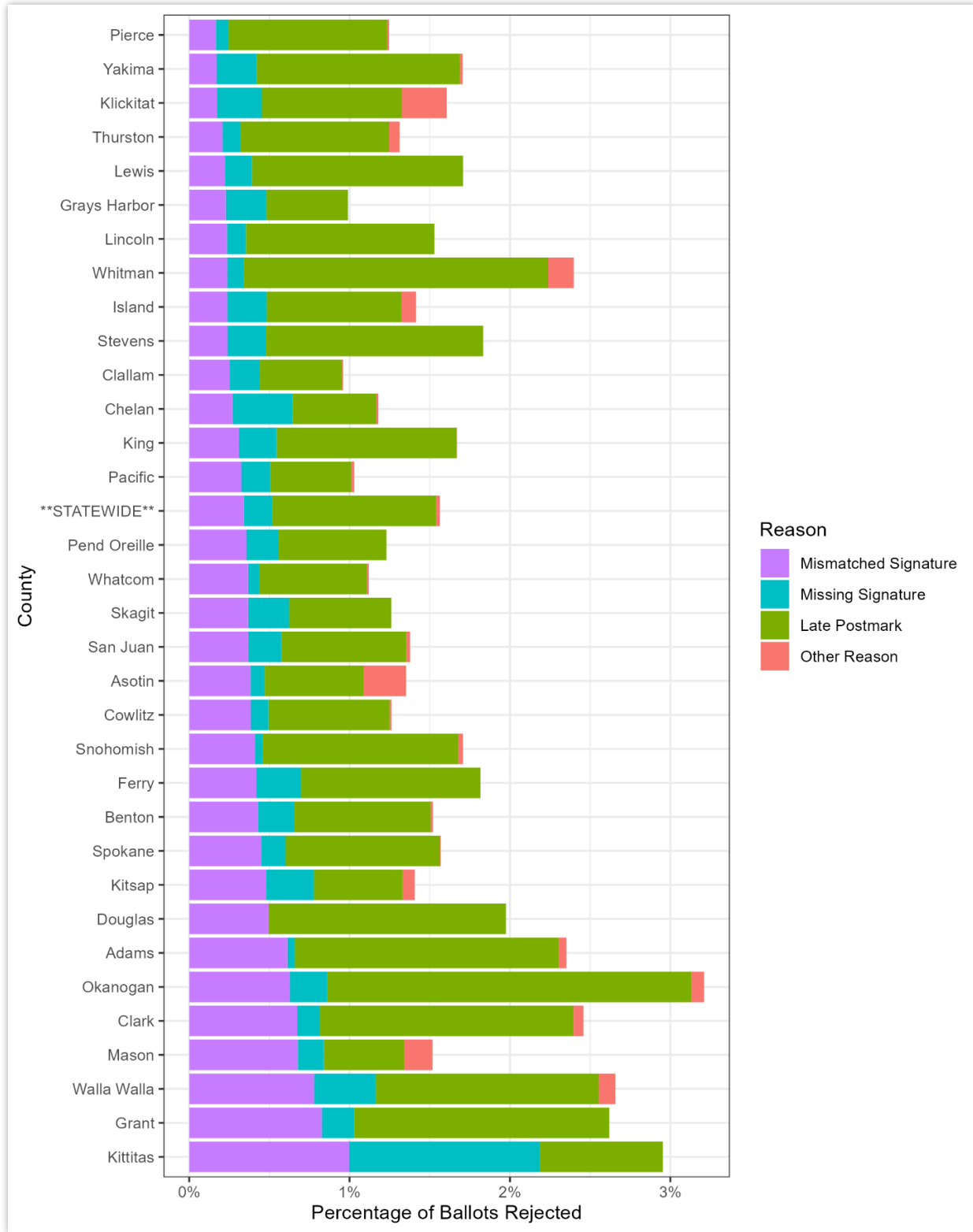
**Figure 26**

*Ballot Rejections and Reasons by County in the 2023 General Election*
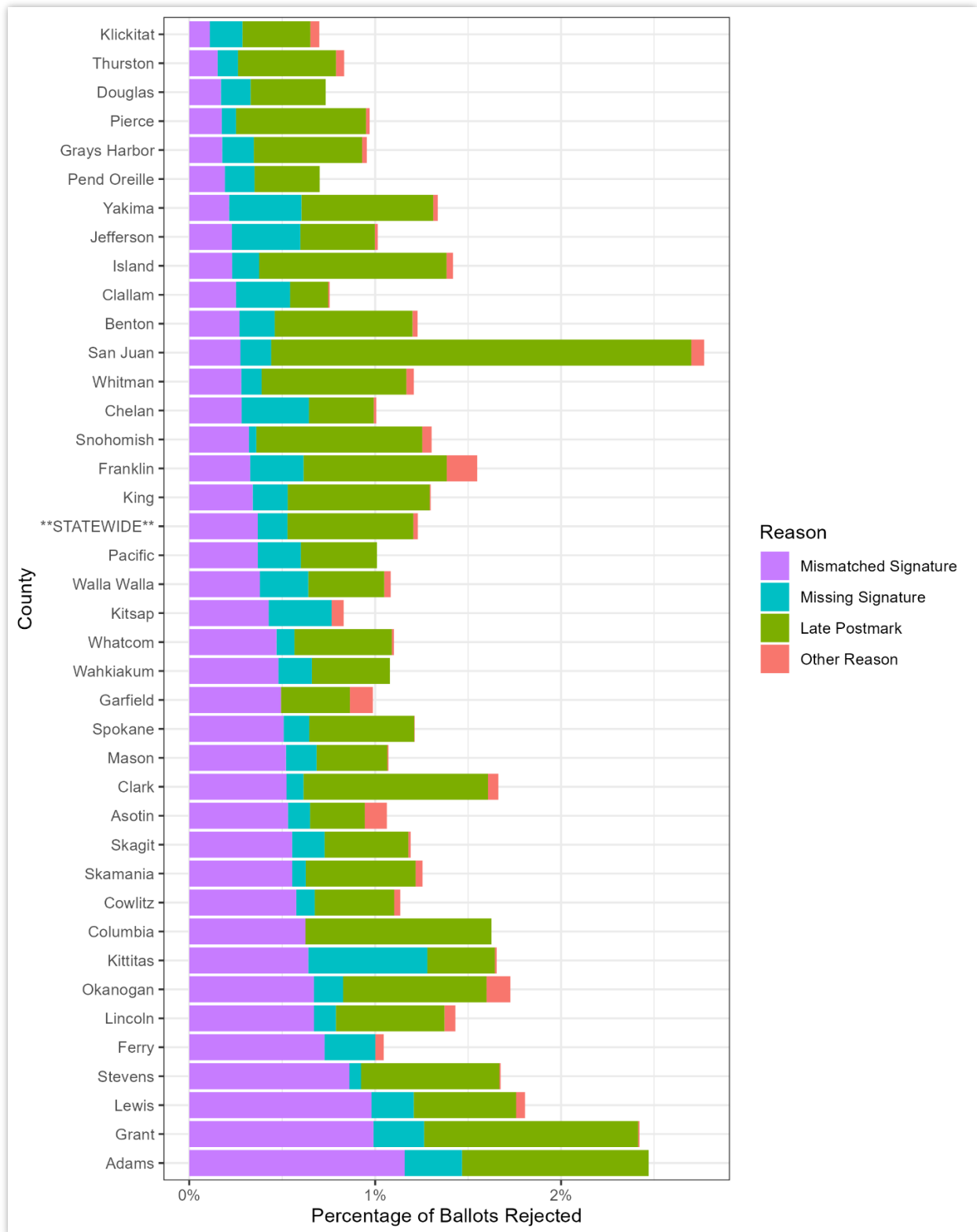
**Figure 27**

*Ballot Rejection Rate Change, Late Postmarks Only, 2019 to 2023 Primaries*



Horizontal bar chart titled "Change in Percentage of Late Ballots Between the 2019 and 2023 Primary Elections" (x-axis) by County (y-axis):

| County | Change |
|---|---|
| Grant | -1.67% |
| Benton | -1.13% |
| Lincoln | -1.05% |
| King | -0.68% |
| Pend Oreille | -0.58% |
| Skagit | -0.26% |
| Franklin | -0.24% |
| Lewis | -0.23% |
| Cowlitz | -0.21% |
| Kitsap | -0.2% |
| Clallam | -0.14% |
| Okanogan | -0.12% |
| Chelan | -0.06% |
| **STATEWIDE** | -0.05% |
| Pierce | 0% |
| San Juan | 0.05% |
| Whatcom | 0.06% |
| Spokane | 0.09% |
| Thurston | 0.11% |
| Snohomish | 0.12% |
| Kittitas | 0.18% |
| Klickitat | 0.19% |
| Walla Walla | 0.22% |
| Yakima | 0.26% |
| Jefferson | 0.42% |
| Stevens | 0.48% |
| Clark | 0.54% |
| Whitman | 0.83% |
| Grays Harbor | 0.84% |
| Douglas | 1.02% |
| Adams | 1.13% |
| Mason | 1.46% |

**Figure 28**

*Ballot Rejection Rate Change, Late Postmarks Only, 2019 to 2023 General Elections*



| County | Change |
| --- | --- |
| Ferry | -1.07% |
| Franklin | -1.04% |
| Benton | -0.84% |
| Kitsap | -0.79% |
| Pend Oreille | -0.64% |
| Adams | -0.46% |
| Yakima | -0.38% |
| Klickitat | -0.29% |
| Wahkiakum | -0.25% |
| Walla Walla | -0.24% |
| Kittitas | -0.22% |
| Columbia | -0.19% |
| Whitman | -0.17% |
| Stevens | -0.14% |
| Pacific | -0.14% |
| Douglas | -0.12% |
| Asotin | -0.12% |
| Chelan | -0.12% |
| Cowlitz | -0.11% |
| Lincoln | -0.1% |
| Jefferson | -0.07% |
| Thurston | -0.05% |
| Mason | -0.04% |
| **STATEWIDE** | -0.03% |
| Lewis | -0.01% |
| Grays Harbor | -0.01% |
| Spokane | 0% |
| Clallam | 0% |
| Skagit | 0.01% |
| Okanogan | 0.01% |
| Snohomish | 0.02% |
| King | 0.02% |
| Grant | 0.02% |
| Whatcom | 0.06% |
| Skamania | 0.1% |
| Pierce | 0.18% |
| Garfield | 0.19% |
| Clark | 0.19% |
| Island | 0.69% |
| San Juan | 2.11% |

Change in Percentage of Late Ballots Between the 2019 and 2023 General Elections

**Figure 29**

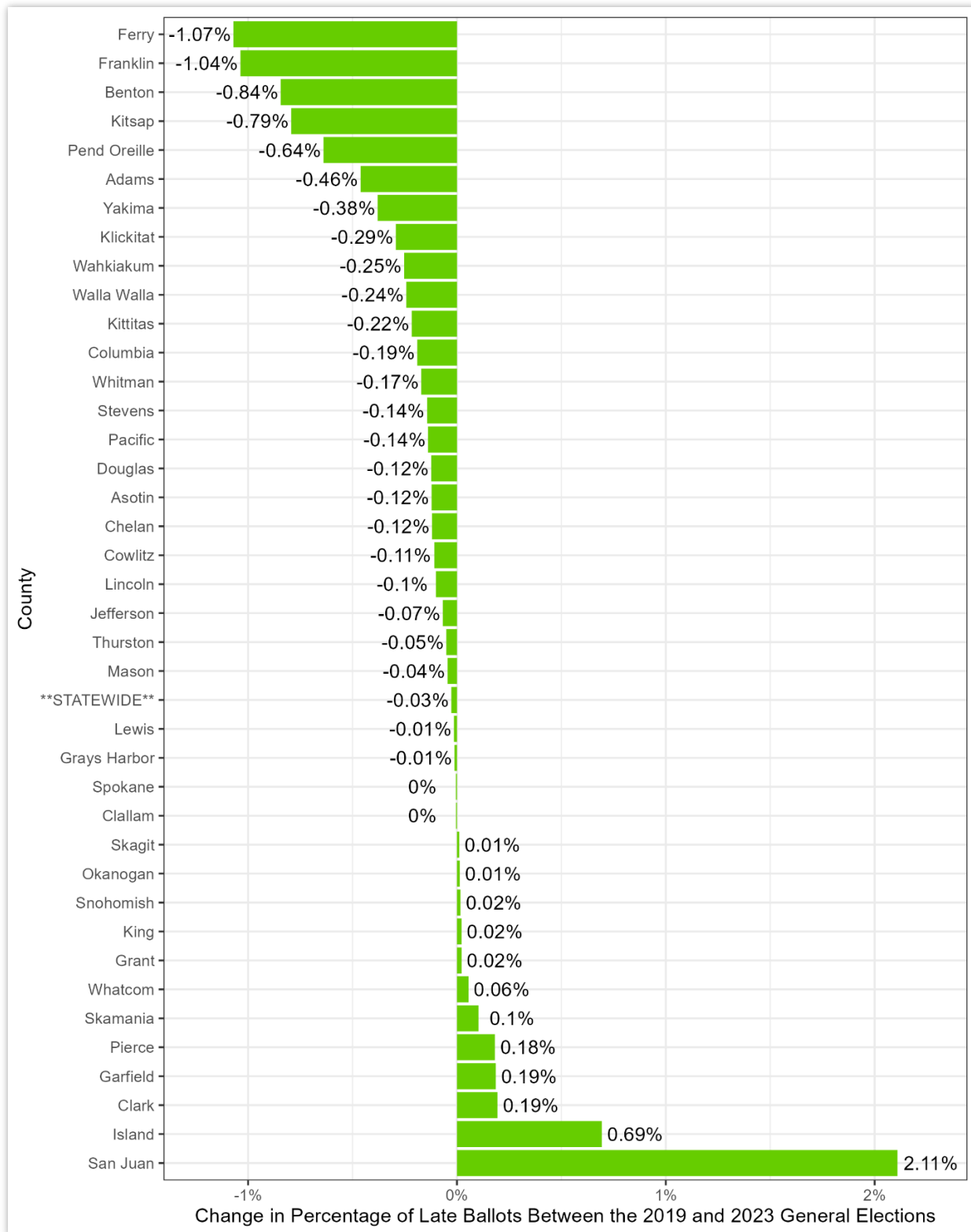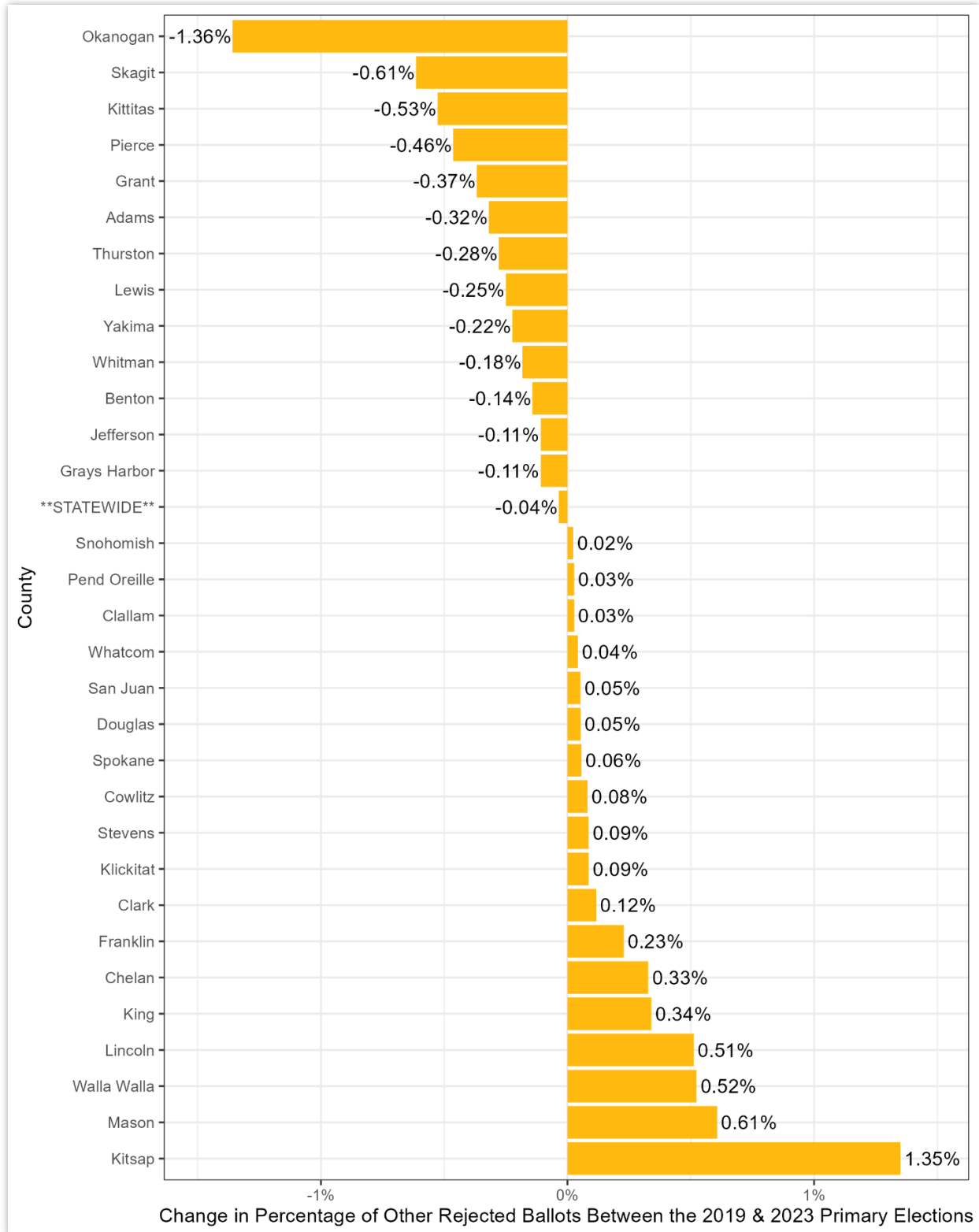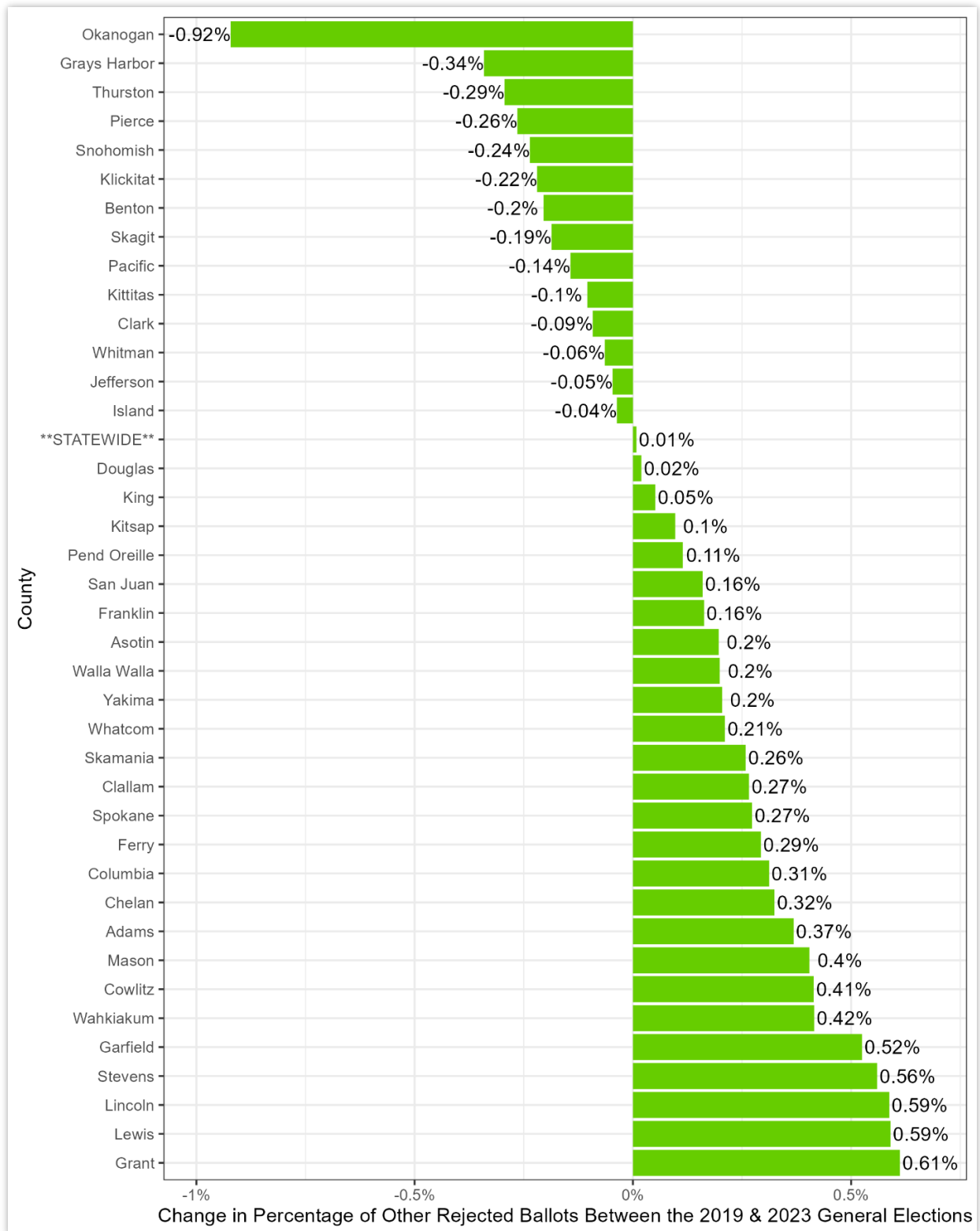*Ballot Rejection Rate Change, Excluding Late Postmarks, 2019 to 2023 Primaries*

**Figure 30**

*Ballot Rejection Rate Change, Excluding Late Postmarks, 2019 to 2023 General Elections*

## Looking Forward: 2024

Although the Office of the Secretary of State's Elections Division performs many functions and contains a variety of teams, this section highlights two teams in particular whose efforts are vital to ensuring the integrity of the elections process into the future. The Certification and Training team ensures that county elections offices in Washington administer elections securely, uniformly, and according to law. The outreach team, as part of the Voting Information Services team, educates voters about the importance of the electoral process and encourages them to be civically involved and vote. Together, the work of both of these teams in 2023 will continue to inspire confidence in the electoral process during the 2024 election year and beyond.

## Certification and Training

The Certification and Training program was established in 1992 to standardize election procedures in Washington state. The Program ensures election administration is performed in accordance with state law and administrative code in a uniform manner throughout the state's 39 counties.

The Certification and Training team conducts training of election administrators, administers the Certified Election Administrator program, conducts reviews of county elections procedures, provides election policy assistance through the publication of clearinghouses and advisories clarifying procedures outlined in law, provides security guidance to county elections offices, and assesses voting systems and equipment for use in the state. The following subsections highlight the activities of the Certification and Training program in 2023 and how they ensure that elections in 2024 and into the future will continue to be conducted accurately, securely, and according to law.

## Training of Election Administrators

The Certification and Training team develops, approves, facilitates, and conducts training sessions and presentations required to support the Election Administrator Certification or Certification Renewal process. This includes the annual multi-day administration of elections orientation training known as Elections 101 (E101). Additionally, the team develops and conducts training in response to specific requests from counties, best practices or learning gaps identified during county reviews, or in response to emergent issues like changes in legislation, technology, or security threats to elections.

**Figure 31**

*Training Hours Offered Annually by the Certification and Training Team From 2020 to 2023*

In 2023, training included topics such as Presidential Primary resource and requirements preparation, Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act requirements, signature verification training, universal voter registration, conducting voting system Logic and Accuracy tests, and more. Trainers provide instruction in person at venues throughout the state, and via live and recorded remote Election Education Talks (eED Talks) to ensure the widest access to training material when and where it is needed. Recognizing a need to increase training access, the Certification and Training team focused heavily on expanding training offerings in 2023, tripling the number of its annual training hours provided as seen in Figure 31.

## Certification of Election Administrators

The Certification and Training team maintains the responsibility of managing the Election Administrator Certification program. This program is intended to develop a cohort of statewide elections professionals with established subject matter expertise in elections processes, procedures, and laws. Each county is required to have at least two Certified Elections Administrators on staff. To become a Certified Election Administrator (CEA), individuals must meet the following requirements:

- Have two years of service in an election office within the last three years.
- Attend a multi-day elections orientation training (E101).
- Receive an additional 40 hours of approved elections education.
- Pass a written CEA Exam.
- Renew the CEA application annually.

**Table 4**

*Initial Certified Election Administrator Awards by Year*

| Year | Newly Certified Administrators |
|------|-------------------------------|
| 2019 | 13 |
| 2020 | 17 |
| 2021 | 35 |
| 2022 | 40 |
| 2023 | 18 |

As of December 2023, Washington had a total of 180 Certified Elections Administrators statewide, 18 of which achieved their initial certification in 2023. Additionally, the Certification and Training team is tracking and administering 106 elections staff members undergoing the two-year certification process. A record of initial certification awards by year from 2019 to 2023 is given in Table 4[8].

## Review of County Elections Procedures

Each of Washington's 39 county election offices are statutorily required to undergo a full procedural review, to include direct observation of the county's performance of an election, once every five years. The review encompasses all pre-election tasks, election procedures, post-election procedures, canvassing, and certification of the election and a report is drafted with the findings. The review process is concluded with a one-year follow-up with the county to verify that necessary steps were taken to correct any issues noted in the initial review report. Additionally, the Certification and Training team may conduct special reviews of county elections offices as required when there is a recount of election results of statewide or legislative offices.

In 2023, the Certification and Training program conducted the following county review actions:

- 10 full reviews in Asotin, Benton, Clark, Cowlitz, Mason, Pacific, Pend Oreille, Pierce, San Juan, and Skagit Counties.
- Nine one-year follow-up reviews in Clallam, Franklin, Grant, Kitsap, Okanogan, Skamania, Snohomish, Stevens, and Yakima Counties.

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[8] The increase in newly certified administrators in 2021 and 2022 was due to a high turnover of elections staff during the COVID-19 pandemic and a targeted increase in online election training offered by the Certification and Training team.

## Election Policy Assistance / Publications

The Certification and Training team provides election policy training and assistance to all 39 counties in the state. They produce and distribute election clearinghouse notices and advisories, newsletters, instructional articles, and other pertinent election information. Clearinghouse notices and advisories are posted on the Washington State Elections website along with other informational and training publications for election administrators. Additionally, the Certification and Training team is involved with elections policy research and tracking, providing guidance on elections processes and procedures, and the interpretation of established Washington Administrative Code (WAC) or Revised Code of Washington (RCW) regulations.

In 2023, the Certification and Training team updated over 35 different Clearinghouses, Advisories, and Washington Administrative Codes (WACs) to update and clarify procedures for statewide county elections partners in its mission to support fair and accurate elections in Washington State.

## Security Guidance and Support

The Certification and Training team is responsible for reviewing, updating, and maintaining physical security and voting data integrity standards for elections in accordance with federal law, RCW, and WAC. The Certification and Training team meets this responsibility by conducting integrity-specific training, performing county reviews and assessments highlighting security best practices, and by supporting county election offices with secured data transfer solutions through the Elections Secure USB Program.

### *Integrity Training and Reviews*

In 2023, the Certification and Training team conducted training in elections equipment security best practices statewide through various training events and in-person county elections office visits, and through presentations at the 2023 Elections Conference in Spokane. While visiting county elections offices, the team conducted 45 voting system Logic and Accuracy tests and 10 comprehensive policy and procedure reviews where they provided guidance to counties in methods of increasing election integrity through adherence to physical and data security standards.

### *Election Integrity Review Program*

To further meet the security needs of county election offices, the Certification and Training team began the development of an Election Integrity Review Program that will provide formalized comprehensive physical security assessments statewide. Executed collaboratively between the Secretary of State and county election staff, these assessments will help identify security concerns, risk levels, and include the preparation of a mitigation plan.

### *Elections Secure USB Program*

Additionally, the Certification and Training team provided data integrity support to county election offices through the administration of the Elections Secure USB Program. The Elections Secure USB Program supports 35 of the 39 county election offices in Washington with secure, sealed, single-use USBs for the transport of elections data in secured election offices. In 2023, the program distributed over 1500 secure USB devices statewide. To further meet the security needs of county election offices, the program has also supported the distribution of two-factor authentication devices and begun testing programmable, encrypted USB devices to add to the statewide program.

## Voting Systems Assessment

The Certification and Training program is responsible for certifying voting systems used in Washington and testing the specific ballot scanning and tabulation equipment used each of the 39 counties. Voting systems include accessible voting devices used by voters to mark a paper ballot in voting centers, as well as the systems that scan the ballots and tabulate the votes cast by all Washington voters.

### Certification of Voting Systems
For a voting system to be certified for use in Washington State, it must first be tested by an independently accredited laboratory to ensure that it meets minimum performance standards set by the Election Assistance Commission (EAC). After this testing is complete, its vendor may then apply to the Office of the Secretary of State for use in Washington by submitting operating manuals and other documentation, as well as the results of the independent testing.

Currently the Certification and Training team administers the certification of four voting systems used in Washington, which are listed in Table 5. In 2023, all four of the vendors with systems certified for use in Washington introduced upgrades to the hardware and software used in their voting systems, which required recertification by the Secretary of State. The systems were tested by independent laboratories accredited by the EAC, the Certification and Training team conducted inspection of the systems, and the vendors demonstrated the systems' full functionality in a public hearing. The Secretary of State certified updates to all four systems on the dates indicated in Table 5.

**Table 5**

*Certification of Voting Systems Used in Washington*

| Voting System | Vendor | Date of Certification of Update |
|---|---|---|
| ClearVote | Clear Ballot Group, Inc. | May 16, 2023 |
| Democracy Suite | Dominion Voting Systems Corporation | May 16, 2023 |
| EVS | Election Systems and Software, Inc. (ES&S) | December 6, 2023 |
| Verity Voting | Hart InterCivic, Inc. | May 16, 2023 |

### Testing of Ballot Scanning and Tabulation Equipment
In addition to certifying all voting systems to be used in the state, the Certification and Training program also certifies that every voting system used in each county is tested ahead of every primary or general election as required by state law (RCW 29A.12.130). These voting system Logic and Accuracy (L&A) tests are designed to check every aspect of tabulation programing, including positions, offices, measures, undervote and overvote capability, and reporting functions of the tabulation systems. L&A tests are conducted by the county elections personnel and are observed and certified by Certification and Training program staff. Members of the public are encouraged to observe the test, along with designated representatives of the major political parties.

In 2023, the Certification and Training program observed 45 L&A tests, including in six counties where procedure reviews occurred during special elections or the 2023 Primary, and in all 39 counties during the 2023 General Election. This process of certifying the use of all voting systems ensures counties maintain the accuracy of Washington's elections.

## Outreach

The outreach team, a part of the Voting Information Services team in the Elections Division, not only contributed significantly to increasing voter participation in the electoral process in 2023, but also focused on continuing relationships which will last into the 2024 election season as well as future years. In 2023, the team participated in 9 naturalization events, 21 classroom visits, 7 college visits, 16 tabling events, and 8 training sessions for groups involved with getting out the vote. New this year, the team focused on outreach with tribal partners, and was present at both the Paddle to Muckleshoot Canoe Landing and the Centennial Accord meeting (Figure 32).

This was the first year where there were three voter education and outreach coordinators, thanks to the addition of a third coordinator in late 2022. This enabled additional opportunities for outreach during the year, including during periods of time set aside for the voters' pamphlet. For instance, the outreach team was able to visit more than double the number of K-12 students in 2023 compared to the previous odd-election year of 2021, increasing the number of K-12 students reached from 831 to 1941. This increase is even more notable considering that visits from 2021 were conducted entirely virtually, while visits in 2023 were conducted in-person as well.

**Figure 32**

*The Outreach Team at the Centennial Accord Meeting*



### Youth Outreach

Young voters vote at significantly lower rates than older voters in Washington. For instance, in the 2023 General Election, only 16% of voters between the ages of 18 to 24 returned their ballots, compared to 59% of voters aged 65 or older. Motivated by this disparity, the outreach team spends a significant amount of effort reaching out to younger residents of the state to convey the importance of participating in the political process and voting.

Despite the already huge increase in outreach to K-12 students previously mentioned, the outreach team is looking for further ways to expand their reach given limited resources and long driving distances between locations in the state. One opportunity that has come up is outreach to K-12 groups that are visiting the Washington State Capitol. In 2023, the outreach team was able to present to one of these visiting groups and hope to expand this into a regular activity in the future. The outreach team is also cultivating relationships with community leaders, including teachers and department heads at schools.

The team attended a Washington State Council of the Social Studies conference in 2023 and was able to meet with educators there who were interested in working together to increase civic awareness among students. Finally, the team attended a celebration event for young people aging out of the foster care system.

The Student Mock Election is an annual event which teaches K-12 students about the process and importance of voting. In 2023, a new dashboard was featured for the mock election, which displayed information on which schools were participating in the election (Figure 33). In addition, a "history edition" of the Student Mock Election was developed, with candidates and measures who were featured on the ballot at past times in Washington state history. Over 14,000 K-12 students participated in the Student Mock Election in 2023, and participants were awarded with an "I Voted" sticker.

**Figure 33**

*The First Page of the Student Mock Election Dashboard*
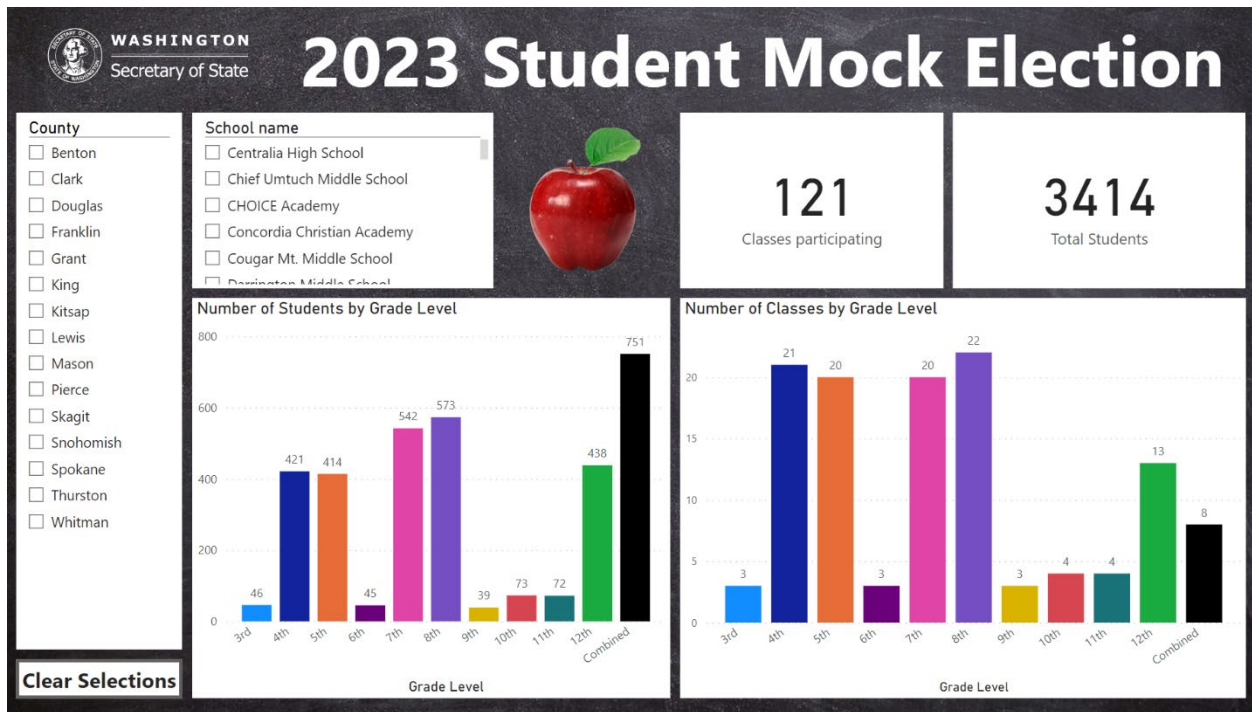


## College Outreach

The Washington Campus Voting Challenge[9] is a friendly competition between colleges and universities in Washington which commit to increasing student voting rates. This year, the outreach team reached out to every college in the state, including two-year colleges, to recruit them for the challenge. The result was successful, with a total of 27 colleges and universities now participating. An awards ceremony

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[9] To read more about the Washington Campus Voting Challenge, visit sos.wa.gov/elections/education-outreach/k-12-college/washington-campus-voting-challenge.

at the capitol is planned for February 2024 to recognize the accomplishments of participating higher education institutions.

In addition to their work with the Washington Campus Voting Challenge, the outreach team visited seven different colleges and universities in the state in 2023: Centralia College, Gonzaga University, Skagit Valley College, South Puget Sound Community College, Spokane Falls Community College, Western Washington University, and Whatcom Community College. During each visit, they emphasized the importance of participating in the democratic process.

## Outreach Materials and Trainings

The materials that the outreach team produces are not only valuable for Washington State Elections' outreach efforts, but also for those of other groups conducting get-out-the-vote (GOTV) campaigns. New outreach materials were produced this year, including bumper stickers, coasters, and pens. In addition, a beautiful "vote" button badge design, downloadable from the Washington State Elections website, is now available in four different languages for use by outreach partners. These new materials have proven popular at tabling events.

Groupings of outreach materials, also known as "starter kits", containing informational papers and pamphlets, stickers, pins, pens, and other items were distributed to every branch of the League of Women Voters throughout the state, and were also distributed to various other groups by request. New this year, training was provided to community partners receiving these materials in order to highlight best practices for voter registration drives and effective use of materials in starter kits. Other specialized training events in 2023 included a special session at the Washington State Elections Conference which highlighted ways for county auditors and county elections staff to connect with K-12 educators in their counties, and training for staff at other divisions of the Office of the Secretary of State on how to register voters while tabling at Penny Arcade Expo, an event held in Seattle during the summer of 2023.

## Outreach to Tribes, New U.S. Citizens, Language Minority Groups, and Voters with Disabilities

The outreach team has also spent a significant amount of effort reaching out to groups that have traditionally been underrepresented in the voting process. As previously mentioned, the team was present at both the Paddle to Muckleshoot Canoe Landing and the Centennial Accord meeting in 2023 for the first time, connecting with tribal leaders and members at both events. At the Paddle to Muckleshoot Canoe Landing and Protocol, the team, along with the Assistant Secretary of State, was able to connect with some of the 8,000 to 10,000 attendees and provide them with information about voting in Washington state and assistance in registering to vote (Harrison, 2023).

Members of the outreach team regularly attend United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) naturalization ceremonies at the USCIS field office in Tukwila to provide new U.S. citizens with the opportunity to register to vote. In 2023, they were also able to attend two special naturalization ceremonies in Seattle: one at the Museum of History and Industry in April and another at the Seattle Center's Fisher Pavilion on the Fourth of July. During the Fourth of July ceremony alone, the Office of the Secretary of State, along with King County Elections and the Institute for Community Leadership, collectively registered more than 200 newly naturalized citizens to vote. In addition to attending naturalization ceremonies, the Office of the Secretary of State has also provided over 25,000 printed voter registration forms to USCIS.

Spanish is the second most widely spoken language in Washington after English, and it is spoken by over 7% of the citizen voting-age population in the state. Around one in seven of that 7% have limited proficiency in English, comprising around 1% of the total citizen voting-age population. To reach out to this large Spanish-speaking demographic and ensure they are able to participate in the demographic process, the outreach team has two bilingual English/Spanish staff members who regularly participate in events in the Spanish language community. In 2023, the outreach team attended the Fiestas Mexicanas event in Wenatchee as well as the Latinx Youth Summit in Centralia, where staff spoke at both events about the importance of voting. In addition to Spanish, the Washington State Elections website is accessible to voters speaking Chinese and Vietnamese. Voter registration forms are available in 23 languages spoken in the state.

Finally, to ensure that voters with disabilities have proper access to the elections process, the outreach team participates in events with members of the disability community. In 2023, Washington State Elections staff attended events at the People First of Washington Convention, the Washington Council for the Blind, and the Washington School for the Blind, and partnered with county election staff from Yakima, King, and Clark counties at each event to demonstrate Accessible Voting Units, which can aid certain voters with disabilities in the voting process. The team also gave a presentation about accessible voting to the Washington Talking Book and Braille Library's Patron Advisory Council.

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2018 Wash. Sess. Laws p. 661

2019 Wash. Sess. Laws p. 32

2020 Wash. Sess. Laws p. 1469

2021 Wash. Sess. Laws p. 996

2023 Wash. Sess. Laws p. 490

2023 Wash. Sess. Laws p. 1892

2023 Wash. Sess. Laws p. 1893

2023 Wash. Sess. Laws p. 2097

2023 Wash. Sess. Laws p. 2172

2023 Wash. Sess. Laws p. 2733

## Appendix A

List of Pilot and Official Risk-Limiting Audits Conducted in Washington Since 2019

| Date | County | Election Type | RLA Type | Voting System | # of Ballots | # of Batches |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2/19/2019 | Snohomish | Special | Comparison | ClearBallot | (no data) | (no data) |
| 8/10/2021 | Snohomish | Primary | Polling | ClearBallot | 106 | 101 |
| 9/10/2021 | King | L&A | Comparison | ClearBallot | 105 | 13 |
| 11/8/2021 | Thurston | General | Comparison | ES&S | 64 | 48 |
| 11/9/2021 | Cowlitz | General | Comparison | ClearBallot | 29 | 27 |
| 11/10/2021 | Mason | General | Comparison | ClearBallot | 70 | 60 |
| 11/15/2021 | Whatcom | General | Comparison | ClearBallot | 82 | 78 |
| 11/16/2021 | Franklin | General | Comparison | Dominion | 74 | 53 |
| 11/16/2021 | Snohomish | General | Polling | ClearBallot | 288 | 249 |
| 2/10/2022 | Mason | Special | Comparison | ClearBallot | 69 | 31 |
| 2/11/2022 | Thurston | Special | Comparison | ES&S | 32 | 20 |
| 2/14/2022 | Kitsap | Special | Polling | Hart | 75 | 66 |
| 2/15/2022 | Franklin | Special | Comparison | Dominion | 83 | 48 |
| 2/15/2022 | San Juan | Special | Comparison | Hart | 22 | 21 |
| 2/16/2022 | Okanogan | Special | Comparison | Hart | 197 | 115 |
| 2/16/2022 | Snohomish | Special | Polling | ClearBallot | 241 | 199 |
| 2/17/2022 | Cowlitz | Special | Comparison | ClearBallot | 56 | 26 |
| 2/17/2022 | Spokane | Special | Comparison | ClearBallot | 33 | 16 |
| 4/28/2022 | Mason | Special | Comparison | ClearBallot | 17 | 10 |
| 4/29/2022 | Ferry | Special | Comparison | ClearBallot | 18 | 7 |
| 5/3/2022 | Franklin | Special | Comparison | Dominion | 68 | 45 |
| 5/3/2022 | Island | Special | Comparison | Hart | 71 | 46 |
| 5/3/2022 | Snohomish | Special | Polling | ClearBallot | 496 | 151 |
| 5/3/2022 | Thurston | Special | Comparison | ES&S | 42 | 18 |
| 5/4/2022 | King | Special | Comparison | ClearBallot | 208 | 96 |
| 8/8/2022 | Cowlitz | Primary | Comparison | ClearBallot | 53 | 50 |
| 8/8/2022 | Whatcom | Primary | Comparison | ClearBallot | 56 | 49 |
| 8/9/2022 | Mason | Primary | Comparison | ClearBallot | 114 | 92 |
| 8/9/2022 | Pend Oreille | Primary | Comparison | ClearBallot | 65 | 51 |
| 8/9/2022 | Snohomish | Primary | Polling | ClearBallot | 170 | 151 |
| 8/9/2022 | Spokane | Primary | Comparison | ClearBallot | 71 | 66 |
| 8/9/2022 | Thurston | Primary | Comparison | ES&S | 152 | 71 |
| 8/10/2022 | Franklin | Primary | Comparison | Dominion | 86 | 47 |
| 8/10/2022 | Lincoln | Primary | Comparison | Hart | 56 | 44 |
| 8/11/2022 | Pierce | Primary | Polling | ClearBallot | 400 | 318 |
| 8/12/2022 | King | Primary | Comparison | ClearBallot | 453 | 413 |
| 8/12/2022 | Kitsap | Primary | Comparison | Hart | 46 | 42 |
| 9/29/2022 | Clark | L&A | Comparison | Hart | 50 | 1 |
| 11/15/2022 | Thurston | General | Comparison | ES&S | 54 | 43 |

| Date | County | Election Type | RLA Type | Voting System | # of Ballots | # of Batches |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11/15/2022 | Spokane | General | Comparison | ClearBallot | 129 | 120 |
| 11/15/2022 | Cowlitz | General | Comparison | ClearBallot | 27 | 25 |
| 11/16/2022 | Kitsap | General | Comparison | Hart | 39 | 38 |
| 11/16/2022 | Snohomish | General | Polling | ClearBallot | 271 | 255 |
| 11/17/2022 | Pierce | General | Comparison | ClearBallot | 55 | 54 |
| 11/17/2022 | Okanogan | General | Comparison | Hart | 168 | 148 |
| 11/18/2022 | Whatcom | General | Comparison | ClearBallot | 26 | 26 |
| 11/18/2022 | Franklin | General | Comparison | Dominion | 21 | 20 |
| 11/18/2022 | Benton | General | Comparison | ClearBallot | 87 | 74 |
| 11/18/2022 | Mason | General | Comparison | ClearBallot | 62 | 57 |
| 11/22/2022 | King | General | Comparison | ClearBallot | 59 | 59 |
| 2/21/2023 | Cowlitz | Special | Comparison | ClearBallot | 89 | 46 |
| 2/21/2023 | Snohomish | Special | Comparison | ClearBallot | 118 | 86 |
| 2/21/2023 | Mason | Special | Comparison | ClearBallot | 174 | 73 |
| 2/22/2023 | Benton | Special | Comparison | ClearBallot | 122 | 89 |
| 2/22/2023 | King | Special | Comparison | ClearBallot | 52 | 52 |
| 5/2/2023 | Thurston | Special | Comparison | ES&S | 25 | 16 |
| 5/2/2023 | Cowlitz | Special | Comparison | ClearBallot | 350 | 39 |
| 5/2/2023 | King | Special | Comparison | ClearBallot | 68 | 67 |
| 5/2/2023 | Snohomish | Special | Comparison | ClearBallot | 33 | 19 |
| 5/2/2023 | Mason | Special | Comparison | ClearBallot | 23 | 13 |
| 8/7/2023 | Benton | Primary | Comparison | ClearBallot | 21 | 20 |
| 8/8/2023 | Cowlitz | Primary | Comparison | ClearBallot | 156 | 104 |
| 8/8/2023 | Snohomish | Primary | Comparison | ClearBallot | 68 | 65 |
| 8/8/2023 | Spokane | Primary | Comparison | ClearBallot | 53 | 52 |
| 8/8/2023 | Thurston | Primary | Comparison | ES&S | 87 | 52 |
| 8/9/2023 | Whatcom | Primary | Comparison | ClearBallot | 96 | 93 |
| 8/10/2023 | Mason | Primary | Comparison | ClearBallot | 25 | 23 |
| 8/11/2023 | King | Primary | Comparison | ClearBallot | 17 | 17 |
| 11/14/2023 | Cowlitz | General | Comparison | ClearBallot | 135 | 99 |
| 11/14/2023 | Klickitat | General | Comparison | Hart | 35 | 29 |
| 11/14/2023 | Snohomish | General | Comparison | ClearBallot | 21 | 21 |
| 11/14/2023 | Spokane | General | Comparison | ClearBallot | 27 | 27 |
| 11/14/2023 | Thurston | General | Comparison | ES&S | 128 | 69 |
| 11/14/2023 | Yakima | General | Comparison | Hart | 75 | 64 |
| 11/15/2023 | Columbia | General | Comparison | Hart | 21 | 18 |
| 11/15/2023 | Garfield | General | Comparison | Hart | 18 | 16 |
| 11/16/2023 | Asotin | General | Comparison | Hart | 22 | 17 |
| 11/17/2023 | Benton | General | Comparison | ClearBallot | 17 | 16 |
| 11/21/2023 | King | General | Comparison | ClearBallot | 11 | 11 |
| 11/21/2023 | Whatcom | General | Comparison | ClearBallot | 27 | 27 |
| 11/22/2023 | Mason | General | Comparison | ClearBallot | 48 | 40 |

## Appendix B

Voter Registration Transactions by Month in 2023

| | Agency | Federal Postcard | Mail | Motor Vehicle | Online | Other | Registration Drive | Unknown | Walk-in | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jan | 1,254 | 115 | 10,931 | 46,841 | 8,528 | 3,121 | 643 | 284 | 1,405 | 73,122 |
| Feb | 980 | 55 | 7,425 | 32,216 | 6,944 | 2,247 | 357 | 211 | 1,172 | 51,607 |
| Mar | 1,609 | 111 | 10,786 | 53,257 | 7,391 | 4,477 | 666 | 220 | 1,279 | 79,796 |
| Apr | 1,165 | 58 | 9,379 | 39,584 | 7,686 | 3,025 | 515 | 250 | 1,654 | 63,316 |
| May | 1,378 | 89 | 14,076 | 55,066 | 9,853 | 3,745 | 993 | 332 | 1,419 | 86,951 |
| Jun | 1,240 | 91 | 8,545 | 51,843 | 7,985 | 2,541 | 500 | 239 | 1,405 | 74,389 |
| Jul | 1,069 | 68 | 6,876 | 42,030 | 8,778 | 2,652 | 637 | 182 | 1,474 | 63,766 |
| Aug | 1,650 | 114 | 15,046 | 74,483 | 14,038 | 6,692 | 591 | 238 | 1,831 | 114,683 |
| Sep | 895 | 26 | 4,800 | 36,679 | 6,819 | 1,261 | 1,105 | 89 | 588 | 52,262 |
| Oct | 1,522 | 95 | 10,783 | 52,183 | 16,724 | 4,482 | 2,037 | 358 | 2,261 | 90,445 |
| Nov | 1,511 | 111 | 10,750 | 42,676 | 10,510 | 4,805 | 458 | 82 | 2,139 | 73,042 |
| Dec | 1,523 | 85 | 10,166 | 48,704 | 8,059 | 3,484 | 575 | 287 | 1,516 | 74,399 |
| Total | 15,796 | 1,018 | 119,563 | 575,562 | 113,315 | 42,532 | 9,077 | 2,772 | 18,143 | 897,778 |

## Appendix C

Registered Voter Turnout by County in Primary Elections Since 2014

| County | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Adams | 37.2% | 29.2% | 32.4% | 31.1% | 36.3% | 42.7% | 50.1% | 28.2% | 37.3% | 27.3% |
| Asotin | 38.5% | 28.7% | 34.1% | - | 40.4% | - | 50.8% | - | 40.7% | 27.7% |
| Benton | 38.2% | 16.9% | 33.5% | 24.6% | 37.2% | 21.7% | 53.7% | 35.2% | 39.5% | 37.0% |
| Chelan | 33.3% | 24.5% | 38.4% | 34.3% | 45.7% | 39.2% | 60.3% | 34.7% | 46.2% | 29.5% |
| Clallam | 37.1% | 35.2% | 41.0% | 28.8% | 49.0% | 30.9% | 60.7% | 37.3% | 51.4% | 37.9% |
| Clark | 28.6% | 25.9% | 30.6% | 19.9% | 36.1% | 24.6% | 50.8% | 24.5% | 43.7% | 19.4% |
| Columbia | 49.8% | - | 42.6% | - | 65.8% | 50.6% | 65.4% | 49.9% | 54.8% | - |
| Cowlitz | 32.8% | 22.1% | 32.4% | 20.2% | 40.5% | 23.1% | 55.6% | 23.2% | 44.6% | 26.9% |
| Douglas | 34.7% | 63.0% | 37.6% | 21.4% | 40.1% | 35.8% | 57.8% | 26.1% | 41.3% | 28.0% |
| Ferry | 54.2% | - | 44.3% | 39.6% | 57.3% | 42.6% | 68.9% | 24.0% | 47.9% | 31.1% |
| Franklin | 33.7% | 22.2% | 28.1% | 16.6% | 33.6% | 21.1% | 48.8% | 21.3% | 32.7% | 23.3% |
| Garfield | 54.0% | 48.8% | 46.2% | 55.5% | 69.0% | - | 67.8% | - | 56.3% | 15.6% |
| Grant | 38.8% | 25.0% | 31.3% | 24.6% | 37.9% | 27.9% | 51.8% | 28.1% | 38.9% | 20.6% |
| Grays Harbor | 38.8% | 32.9% | 35.5% | 25.6% | 40.2% | 28.3% | 54.0% | 34.8% | 41.1% | - |
| Island | 37.0% | 32.8% | 44.1% | 31.6% | 49.2% | 66.7% | 62.9% | 34.5% | 52.1% | 28.7% |
| Jefferson | 50.6% | 37.1% | 48.4% | 35.2% | 60.3% | 34.7% | 67.5% | 42.5% | 57.2% | 32.3% |
| King | 29.3% | 24.5% | 36.1% | 33.8% | 42.6% | 34.5% | 55.1% | 34.4% | 38.5% | 30.2% |
| Kitsap | 33.1% | 22.5% | 35.0% | 26.0% | 39.5% | 22.3% | 54.9% | 32.4% | 44.0% | 28.1% |
| Kittitas | 38.8% | 23.9% | 38.1% | 16.9% | 44.4% | 36.7% | 60.5% | 29.3% | 43.2% | 34.5% |
| Klickitat | 43.9% | - | 35.8% | 37.5% | 46.6% | 32.2% | 58.3% | 35.2% | 51.9% | 36.3% |
| Lewis | 34.0% | 26.3% | 35.2% | 20.3% | 40.8% | 24.0% | 61.1% | 27.9% | 45.5% | 25.5% |
| Lincoln | 43.8% | 26.6% | 43.1% | 44.7% | 54.2% | 37.6% | 64.2% | 27.1% | 57.4% | 33.7% |
| Mason | 39.3% | 33.9% | 40.0% | 28.6% | 44.6% | 36.3% | 58.7% | 22.4% | 47.1% | 29.5% |
| Okanogan | 33.6% | 35.8% | 43.2% | 37.3% | 50.9% | 34.4% | 59.4% | 33.7% | 49.1% | 36.6% |
| Pacific | 43.3% | 44.3% | 43.8% | 33.1% | 56.2% | 37.3% | 61.7% | 38.3% | 52.1% | 50.8% |
| Pend Oreille | 41.6% | - | 42.2% | 35.4% | 54.6% | 38.3% | 57.7% | 38.1% | 44.2% | 35.4% |
| Pierce | 27.4% | 20.5% | 31.7% | 18.7% | 34.4% | 20.6% | 51.9% | 22.3% | 36.4% | 24.8% |
| San Juan | 41.5% | 38.4% | 52.0% | 26.7% | 54.4% | 40.0% | 68.6% | 49.9% | 50.4% | 45.1% |
| Skagit | 35.0% | 20.2% | 36.5% | 28.7% | 42.3% | 31.3% | 60.0% | 32.4% | 44.1% | 24.9% |
| Skamania | 37.2% | 33.4% | 33.6% | 50.0% | 40.2% | - | 51.6% | 31.6% | 50.7% | - |
| Snohomish | 25.6% | 22.9% | 33.6% | 23.9% | 37.0% | 24.3% | 53.5% | 27.0% | 37.6% | 26.6% |
| Spokane | 35.3% | 29.6% | 34.0% | 22.1% | 46.1% | 34.4% | 49.7% | 24.9% | 40.3% | 29.5% |
| Stevens | 40.4% | 21.9% | 39.6% | 35.2% | 51.5% | 26.7% | 59.3% | 36.0% | 45.0% | 26.5% |
| Thurston | 29.0% | 22.3% | 37.0% | 22.8% | 38.6% | 26.2% | 56.6% | 31.9% | 41.8% | 30.9% |
| Wahkiakum | 43.3% | - | 42.8% | - | 63.2% | - | 63.9% | 45.8% | 57.5% | - |
| Walla Walla | 43.3% | 18.1% | 37.3% | 24.9% | 47.2% | 29.3% | 56.6% | 34.6% | 44.1% | 32.3% |
| Whatcom | 33.7% | 25.3% | 37.1% | 31.1% | 44.9% | 39.5% | 61.7% | 34.1% | 48.2% | 36.2% |
| Whitman | 34.0% | 30.5% | 34.5% | 21.0% | 46.4% | 36.9% | 52.7% | 36.2% | 42.0% | 30.0% |
| Yakima | 31.9% | 26.3% | 27.6% | - | 34.7% | 27.7% | 44.2% | 21.2% | 31.3% | 19.3% |
| Total | 31.2% | 24.4% | 34.9% | 26.9% | 40.8% | 29.6% | 54.4% | 29.7% | 40.4% | 29.1% |

## Appendix D

Registered Voter Turnout by County in General Elections Since 2014

| County | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Adams | 56.2% | 39.1% | 72.6% | 34.6% | 63.7% | 42.8% | 76.0% | 33.4% | 53.0% | 32.3% |
| Asotin | 55.3% | 43.7% | 72.0% | 46.3% | 63.6% | 42.8% | 81.1% | 38.0% | 69.3% | 34.9% |
| Benton | 55.1% | 32.8% | 78.6% | 37.9% | 69.0% | 39.6% | 82.1% | 38.8% | 60.5% | 35.6% |
| Chelan | 58.7% | 44.0% | 80.4% | 38.1% | 75.7% | 49.6% | 86.2% | 47.2% | 67.8% | 43.5% |
| Clallam | 62.2% | 48.1% | 80.5% | 43.3% | 76.2% | 52.2% | 86.1% | 48.1% | 71.3% | 45.0% |
| Clark | 50.6% | 34.0% | 77.1% | 30.9% | 69.5% | 36.1% | 85.1% | 35.0% | 63.4% | 26.7% |
| Columbia | 73.5% | 52.9% | 83.8% | 46.9% | 82.7% | 59.3% | 89.0% | 60.6% | 77.1% | 55.9% |
| Cowlitz | 55.2% | 33.4% | 75.4% | 36.4% | 69.9% | 44.6% | 83.4% | 35.7% | 63.0% | 33.6% |
| Douglas | 57.1% | 40.1% | 76.9% | 31.0% | 69.2% | 46.8% | 83.8% | 38.6% | 62.3% | 35.1% |
| Ferry | 68.1% | 47.3% | 80.4% | 51.0% | 76.7% | 52.1% | 85.1% | 44.3% | 66.7% | 42.2% |
| Franklin | 50.7% | 33.4% | 73.5% | 34.9% | 64.3% | 34.2% | 78.3% | 27.8% | 52.2% | 27.7% |
| Garfield | 80.2% | 60.6% | 83.6% | 75.8% | 83.3% | 64.0% | 89.0% | 52.1% | 78.0% | 49.0% |
| Grant | 57.6% | 39.7% | 75.7% | 33.2% | 66.1% | 41.6% | 79.3% | 39.2% | 56.9% | 29.9% |
| Grays Harbor | 55.8% | 45.3% | 73.6% | 34.9% | 67.7% | 46.1% | 79.1% | 36.9% | 61.9% | 32.3% |
| Island | 63.2% | 45.3% | 81.5% | 41.3% | 76.1% | 52.0% | 85.9% | 49.3% | 70.8% | 47.2% |
| Jefferson | 70.6% | 55.1% | 86.2% | 62.3% | 83.1% | 58.5% | 90.1% | 48.4% | 77.5% | 44.1% |
| King | 53.4% | 39.2% | 80.9% | 42.7% | 74.8% | 48.5% | 85.4% | 43.4% | 64.8% | 37.4% |
| Kitsap | 56.0% | 38.2% | 78.4% | 38.5% | 72.4% | 43.9% | 83.8% | 39.6% | 66.3% | 37.0% |
| Kittitas | 60.4% | 40.8% | 81.3% | 36.1% | 76.2% | 50.9% | 87.5% | 41.4% | 70.2% | 34.7% |
| Klickitat | 65.1% | 40.8% | 80.6% | 39.4% | 76.3% | 45.8% | 85.1% | 43.7% | 72.7% | 39.8% |
| Lewis | 57.1% | 40.7% | 77.6% | 36.6% | 72.5% | 46.4% | 84.2% | 38.3% | 66.4% | 34.2% |
| Lincoln | 66.0% | 57.8% | 83.9% | 46.9% | 79.0% | 57.0% | 87.9% | 46.4% | 75.4% | 40.6% |
| Mason | 59.5% | 40.9% | 77.7% | 36.2% | 71.7% | 48.1% | 84.9% | 40.2% | 67.5% | 35.3% |
| Okanogan | 59.7% | 44.6% | 79.5% | 42.2% | 73.7% | 47.5% | 83.0% | 40.0% | 64.9% | 42.1% |
| Pacific | 55.7% | 47.7% | 79.2% | 42.6% | 75.4% | 49.4% | 85.0% | 45.2% | 71.5% | 43.5% |
| Pend Oreille | 64.6% | 49.1% | 79.9% | 44.1% | 77.2% | 49.7% | 83.5% | 39.3% | 64.1% | 29.2% |
| Pierce | 50.0% | 34.0% | 74.5% | 28.6% | 66.4% | 39.9% | 82.3% | 32.3% | 60.5% | 30.4% |
| San Juan | 71.6% | 57.6% | 88.2% | 56.0% | 83.8% | 58.3% | 90.8% | 57.3% | 78.2% | 49.3% |
| Skagit | 60.7% | 43.0% | 79.8% | 37.9% | 73.4% | 50.1% | 86.4% | 41.7% | 67.1% | 37.3% |
| Skamania | 60.4% | 40.8% | 79.2% | 33.1% | 72.5% | 45.7% | 82.1% | 37.4% | 69.4% | 30.2% |
| Snohomish | 51.3% | 34.8% | 79.0% | 32.7% | 70.6% | 42.9% | 85.2% | 35.9% | 63.3% | 36.2% |
| Spokane | 56.4% | 42.1% | 78.1% | 34.2% | 72.9% | 47.5% | 81.8% | 36.9% | 61.9% | 42.9% |
| Stevens | 62.3% | 43.9% | 79.0% | 43.5% | 74.2% | 48.0% | 84.3% | 45.1% | 66.9% | 41.2% |
| Thurston | 52.5% | 37.0% | 77.7% | 34.3% | 69.5% | 44.3% | 83.8% | 38.2% | 64.8% | 39.4% |
| Wahkiakum | 64.5% | 48.4% | 82.1% | 43.1% | 80.5% | 50.7% | 86.7% | 52.4% | 75.1% | 47.6% |
| Walla Walla | 59.7% | 38.5% | 79.5% | 32.9% | 74.7% | 44.0% | 84.7% | 44.5% | 65.8% | 38.2% |
| Whatcom | 59.8% | 47.3% | 82.6% | 45.9% | 77.1% | 56.3% | 87.9% | 48.9% | 70.9% | 51.3% |
| Whitman | 60.5% | 44.2% | 84.7% | 38.8% | 69.9% | 44.4% | 86.0% | 42.9% | 68.8% | 44.3% |
| Yakima | 47.5% | 32.7% | 70.9% | 28.1% | 61.8% | 34.1% | 76.0% | 32.1% | 49.8% | 25.8% |
| Total | 54.1% | 38.5% | 78.6% | 37.1% | 71.8% | 45.2% | 84.1% | 39.4% | 63.9% | 36.4% |

## Appendix E

Percentage of Voters Using Ballot Drop Boxes by County in Primary Elections Since 2014

| County | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Adams | 48.3% | 52.1% | 63.7% | 61.0% | 49.4% | 49.5% | 56.2% | 49.4% | 55.6% | 50.4% |
| Asotin | - | 45.9% | 52.8% | - | 47.6% | - | 55.4% | - | 57.4% | 46.2% |
| Benton | 42.8% | - | 44.2% | 60.9% | 47.2% | 45.8% | 60.4% | 60.6% | 61.6% | 70.4% |
| Chelan | 60.4% | - | 69.6% | 70.0% | 57.5% | 49.4% | 60.5% | 58.3% | 63.2% | 57.9% |
| Clallam | 59.2% | - | 69.6% | 69.9% | 58.3% | 58.9% | 67.4% | 63.4% | 69.2% | 63.9% |
| Clark | 22.4% | 32.5% | 40.3% | 33.3% | 36.2% | 26.2% | 44.9% | 38.0% | 52.2% | 32.3% |
| Columbia | 54.8% | - | 40.2% | - | 44.9% | 47.7% | 53.1% | 46.4% | 56.2% | - |
| Cowlitz | 65.9% | 75.1% | 74.9% | 69.3% | 62.4% | 54.6% | 66.4% | 55.8% | 68.3% | 60.4% |
| Douglas | 13.7% | - | 84.5% | 53.1% | 45.7% | 39.7% | 54.7% | 57.7% | 61.7% | 46.7% |
| Ferry | - | - | - | 24.5% | 18.9% | 26.0% | 31.6% | 0.0% | 31.9% | 22.4% |
| Franklin | 43.2% | - | 61.0% | 59.7% | 43.1% | 39.2% | 58.2% | 49.2% | 56.8% | 54.5% |
| Garfield | 47.6% | 37.3% | 65.1% | 67.1% | 53.6% | - | 63.1% | - | 63.0% | 0.0% |
| Grant | 18.4% | 24.1% | 28.8% | 20.7% | 23.5% | 0.2% | 44.4% | 35.4% | 47.4% | 40.4% |
| Grays Harbor | 13.6% | - | 26.8% | - | 16.9% | 12.9% | 45.2% | 23.2% | 47.6% | 39.4% |
| Island | 34.4% | 39.2% | 53.8% | 48.9% | 34.7% | 0.0% | 49.9% | 48.0% | 61.0% | 49.9% |
| Jefferson | 36.9% | 48.2% | 40.6% | 48.0% | 35.2% | 33.2% | 40.3% | 34.0% | 42.5% | 9.5% |
| King | 15.9% | 19.3% | 35.6% | 47.7% | 32.3% | 37.4% | 50.6% | 50.8% | 52.1% | 47.2% |
| Kitsap | 38.2% | - | 24.4% | 49.9% | 44.7% | 43.6% | 56.6% | 49.3% | 58.6% | 58.6% |
| Kittitas | 61.7% | - | 67.0% | 64.3% | 56.2% | 50.2% | 64.9% | 59.7% | 65.9% | 57.4% |
| Klickitat | 69.3% | - | 74.2% | 78.2% | 67.0% | 56.6% | 63.2% | 55.3% | 73.0% | 60.3% |
| Lewis | 20.6% | - | 43.2% | 42.2% | 38.5% | 27.7% | 49.1% | 39.6% | 50.5% | 42.4% |
| Lincoln | 24.3% | 33.8% | 27.8% | 3.4% | 19.7% | 14.6% | 23.6% | 14.0% | 25.0% | 15.1% |
| Mason | 59.5% | - | 67.8% | 77.3% | 44.1% | 37.8% | 57.2% | 46.4% | 57.8% | 39.8% |
| Okanogan | 15.4% | - | - | 26.3% | 30.3% | 14.1% | 35.3% | 16.9% | 42.2% | 25.0% |
| Pacific | - | - | - | 18.8% | 33.2% | 1.2% | 37.9% | 32.1% | 40.2% | 31.5% |
| Pend Oreille | 45.8% | - | 44.8% | 43.6% | 30.5% | 100% | 39.0% | 42.7% | 40.0% | 26.5% |
| Pierce | 48.3% | 47.8% | 54.9% | 54.7% | 41.0% | 40.4% | 57.4% | 56.1% | 60.7% | 49.9% |
| San Juan | 57.0% | 76.9% | 65.8% | 72.5% | 53.0% | 0.1% | 55.9% | 54.7% | 57.4% | 45.5% |
| Skagit | 66.3% | - | 71.9% | 72.4% | 57.6% | 48.1% | 63.6% | 62.3% | 66.8% | 59.3% |
| Skamania | 57.1% | - | 65.6% | 50.2% | 58.9% | - | 64.9% | 55.8% | 73.2% | - |
| Snohomish | 42.5% | - | 53.9% | 57.4% | 45.6% | 42.4% | 55.8% | 49.6% | 56.5% | 52.9% |
| Spokane | 46.0% | - | 50.5% | 51.9% | 35.4% | 34.7% | 39.4% | 34.1% | 40.5% | 36.0% |
| Stevens | - | - | - | 26.2% | 18.2% | 6.2% | 24.9% | 19.0% | 24.2% | 22.3% |
| Thurston | 66.3% | - | 72.3% | 72.0% | 57.8% | 52.4% | 67.6% | 59.1% | 66.0% | 60.3% |
| Wahkiakum | 44.0% | - | 49.5% | - | 25.7% | - | 34.5% | 42.6% | 51.4% | - |
| Walla Walla | 55.3% | 50.8% | 62.7% | 60.9% | 49.5% | 40.5% | 58.3% | 52.7% | 58.7% | 49.3% |
| Whatcom | 46.6% | 52.1% | 67.4% | 66.8% | 55.4% | 55.5% | 65.0% | 61.8% | 68.9% | 66.1% |
| Whitman | - | - | - | 35.8% | 24.4% | 26.1% | 32.7% | 39.5% | 37.2% | 41.8% |
| Yakima | 15.3% | - | 20.1% | 18.2% | 16.9% | 16.9% | 25.4% | 22.3% | 32.5% | 25.6% |
| Total | 34.2% | 29.5% | 47.1% | 51.1% | 39.3% | 39.1% | 52.5% | 49.8% | 54.7% | 49.6% |

## Appendix F

Percentage of Voters Using Ballot Drop Boxes by County in General Elections Since 2014

| County | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Adams | 54.7% | 56.0% | 62.2% | 63.7% | 52.8% | 55.4% | 67.4% | 52.1% | 59.5% | 57.0% |
| Asotin | 54.3% | 55.2% | 53.0% | 59.2% | 60.3% | 51.1% | 76.0% | 60.3% | 58.3% | 54.0% |
| Benton | 46.5% | 57.2% | 66.9% | 45.6% | 38.7% | 54.8% | 78.2% | 66.7% | 68.3% | 63.1% |
| Chelan | 67.9% | 69.4% | 72.9% | 71.5% | 59.9% | 58.1% | 77.7% | 63.7% | 67.5% | 63.6% |
| Clallam | 65.3% | 68.4% | 73.3% | 73.2% | 61.1% | 67.5% | 76.3% | 69.6% | 74.3% | 68.1% |
| Clark | 34.1% | 22.3% | 47.6% | 42.7% | 42.5% | 42.1% | 72.1% | 52.5% | 61.6% | 47.8% |
| Columbia | 60.5% | 63.5% | 69.4% | 64.5% | 48.6% | 50.1% | 67.6% | 59.4% | 64.6% | 60.6% |
| Cowlitz | 75.1% | 73.0% | 76.5% | 23.9% | 67.6% | 66.9% | 82.0% | 65.7% | 72.9% | 66.4% |
| Douglas | 48.1% | 50.6% | 64.6% | 40.0% | 48.9% | 49.3% | 75.0% | 57.1% | 67.9% | 60.3% |
| Ferry | 29.6% | 28.9% | 29.5% | 31.3% | 21.5% | 19.2% | 45.2% | 32.4% | 37.4% | 34.6% |
| Franklin | 59.7% | 61.7% | 68.2% | 64.4% | 50.4% | 51.1% | 76.8% | 56.0% | 63.8% | 57.4% |
| Garfield | 29.9% | 68.2% | 70.1% | 74.8% | 63.5% | 65.5% | 73.6% | 66.1% | 68.0% | 63.6% |
| Grant | 28.1% | 25.3% | 30.3% | 29.6% | 42.6% | 40.8% | 64.5% | 42.9% | 59.9% | 46.2% |
| Grays Harbor | 10.6% | - | 53.8% | 23.7% | 39.6% | 41.2% | 63.2% | 43.2% | 18.5% | 43.1% |
| Island | 41.8% | 43.7% | 50.6% | 56.2% | 45.1% | 47.8% | 75.2% | 58.9% | 62.7% | 62.0% |
| Jefferson | 40.0% | 40.9% | 47.2% | 49.9% | 40.8% | 41.2% | 70.2% | 38.7% | 47.7% | 44.5% |
| King | 21.6% | 26.3% | 49.3% | 53.2% | 39.7% | 46.6% | 73.9% | 57.3% | 60.0% | 55.0% |
| Kitsap | 46.4% | 36.9% | 54.9% | 54.8% | 50.6% | 50.9% | 76.5% | 60.5% | 71.7% | 65.0% |
| Kittitas | 66.2% | 65.1% | 71.2% | 67.5% | 59.3% | 60.6% | 82.4% | 65.5% | 70.9% | 65.6% |
| Klickitat | 73.9% | 71.3% | 74.2% | 73.4% | 75.4% | 73.1% | 78.4% | 65.6% | 76.8% | 66.7% |
| Lewis | 24.6% | 33.3% | 57.8% | 50.2% | 44.5% | 43.2% | 66.1% | 46.1% | 56.2% | 45.4% |
| Lincoln | 27.2% | 26.0% | 28.7% | - | 15.4% | 21.9% | 45.1% | 22.0% | 29.7% | 18.5% |
| Mason | 62.9% | 62.5% | 69.8% | 66.8% | 46.5% | 48.2% | 79.7% | 52.7% | 62.1% | 53.7% |
| Okanogan | 17.4% | 16.3% | 26.1% | 33.8% | 28.1% | 25.7% | 54.8% | 28.8% | 41.0% | 41.1% |
| Pacific | 25.2% | 22.1% | 32.0% | 30.6% | 35.1% | 41.8% | 64.8% | 40.8% | 48.2% | 40.0% |
| Pend Oreille | 45.8% | 42.3% | 47.4% | 45.8% | 37.4% | 31.8% | 56.6% | 39.9% | 45.7% | 34.9% |
| Pierce | 54.6% | 51.9% | 61.1% | 61.2% | 43.2% | 48.5% | 74.9% | 61.6% | 65.8% | 59.4% |
| San Juan | 62.3% | 64.2% | 61.1% | 65.1% | 53.4% | 55.7% | 72.8% | 61.7% | 61.1% | 55.9% |
| Skagit | 71.7% | 70.8% | 77.1% | 71.9% | 63.0% | 61.6% | 81.5% | 64.9% | 71.3% | 63.6% |
| Skamania | 66.2% | 56.0% | 67.2% | 58.3% | 62.8% | 65.7% | 75.5% | 65.8% | 71.9% | 65.8% |
| Snohomish | 47.2% | 51.0% | 64.4% | 60.9% | 51.2% | 52.1% | 75.2% | 57.2% | 63.4% | 60.3% |
| Spokane | 52.6% | 53.1% | 61.2% | 52.4% | 37.8% | 39.0% | 62.4% | 40.7% | 45.9% | 41.9% |
| Stevens | - | 34.5% | 33.5% | 25.1% | 20.0% | 20.1% | 38.4% | 24.3% | 30.0% | 28.6% |
| Thurston | 69.4% | 70.0% | 73.0% | 74.6% | 57.2% | 61.7% | 80.9% | 65.6% | 70.2% | 65.8% |
| Wahkiakum | 46.7% | 47.8% | 50.4% | 45.7% | 36.4% | 30.7% | 79.7% | 50.7% | 60.1% | 51.9% |
| Walla Walla | 62.4% | 59.9% | 70.0% | 61.7% | 56.5% | 52.6% | 78.6% | 62.3% | 66.8% | 58.3% |
| Whatcom | 54.5% | 66.1% | 77.6% | 72.7% | 59.3% | 62.9% | 80.2% | 70.2% | 69.7% | 71.4% |
| Whitman | - | - | 35.8% | 35.5% | 31.2% | 32.3% | 56.5% | 43.5% | 48.4% | 58.8% |
| Yakima | 19.5% | 19.4% | 28.9% | 24.2% | 23.0% | 22.1% | 52.7% | 31.7% | 39.9% | 32.4% |
| Total | 40.5% | 40.7% | 56.9% | 54.6% | 45.0% | 48.3% | 73.1% | 56.3% | 61.1% | 56.0% |

## Appendix G

### Ballot Rejection Reasons by County in the 2023 Primary

| County[10] | Missing Signature | Mismatched Signature | Late Postmark | Other Reason | Total Ballots Rejected |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Adams | 1 | 13 | 35 | 1 | 50 |
| Asotin | 3 | 13 | 21 | 9 | 46 |
| Benton | 49 | 95 | 187 | 3 | 334 |
| Chelan | 57 | 41 | 79 | 2 | 179 |
| Clallam | 29 | 39 | 79 | 1 | 148 |
| Clark | 25 | 119 | 279 | 11 | 434 |
| Cowlitz | 20 | 70 | 138 | 2 | 230 |
| Douglas | 0 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 8 |
| Ferry | 2 | 3 | 8 | 0 | 13 |
| Franklin | 0 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 10 |
| Garfield | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Grant | 16 | 65 | 125 | 0 | 206 |
| Grays Harbor | 19 | 17 | 38 | 0 | 74 |
| Island | 27 | 26 | 92 | 10 | 155 |
| Jefferson | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| King | 982 | 1,292 | 4,685 | 23 | 6,982 |
| Kitsap | 137 | 220 | 254 | 35 | 646 |
| Kittitas | 31 | 26 | 20 | 0 | 77 |
| Klickitat | 8 | 5 | 25 | 8 | 46 |
| Lewis | 15 | 20 | 118 | 0 | 153 |
| Lincoln | 1 | 2 | 10 | 0 | 13 |
| Mason | 11 | 46 | 34 | 12 | 103 |
| Okanogan | 9 | 24 | 87 | 3 | 123 |
| Pacific | 10 | 18 | 28 | 1 | 57 |
| Pend Oreille | 5 | 9 | 17 | 0 | 31 |
| Pierce | 81 | 171 | 1,012 | 12 | 1,276 |
| San Juan | 9 | 16 | 34 | 1 | 60 |
| Skagit | 37 | 53 | 92 | 0 | 182 |
| Snohomish | 65 | 561 | 1,666 | 39 | 2,331 |
| Spokane | 146 | 431 | 923 | 6 | 1,506 |
| Stevens | 6 | 6 | 34 | 0 | 46 |
| Thurston | 66 | 123 | 550 | 39 | 778 |
| Walla Walla | 30 | 61 | 109 | 8 | 208 |
| Whatcom | 40 | 212 | 388 | 7 | 647 |
| Whitman | 4 | 9 | 72 | 6 | 91 |
| Yakima | 31 | 21 | 157 | 2 | 211 |
| Total | 1,972 | 3,830 | 11,407 | 250 | 17,459 |

[10] Columbia, Skamania, and Wahkiakum counties did not have a primary election in 2023.

## Appendix H

Ballot Rejection Reasons by County in the 2023 General Election

| County | Missing Signature | Mismatched Signature | Late Postmark | Other Reason | Total Ballots Rejected |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Adams | 8 | 30 | 26 | 0 | 64 |
| Asotin | 6 | 27 | 15 | 6 | 54 |
| Benton | 85 | 122 | 334 | 12 | 553 |
| Chelan | 81 | 63 | 78 | 3 | 225 |
| Clallam | 75 | 65 | 53 | 2 | 195 |
| Clark | 81 | 465 | 882 | 49 | 1,477 |
| Columbia | 0 | 10 | 16 | 0 | 26 |
| Cowlitz | 24 | 140 | 104 | 8 | 276 |
| Douglas | 15 | 16 | 38 | 0 | 69 |
| Ferry | 6 | 16 | 0 | 1 | 23 |
| Franklin | 35 | 40 | 94 | 20 | 189 |
| Garfield | 0 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 8 |
| Grant | 39 | 142 | 165 | 1 | 347 |
| Grays Harbor | 27 | 28 | 92 | 4 | 151 |
| Island | 42 | 67 | 293 | 10 | 412 |
| Jefferson | 45 | 28 | 49 | 2 | 124 |
| King | 970 | 1,762 | 3,940 | 29 | 6,701 |
| Kitsap | 236 | 297 | 0 | 45 | 578 |
| Kittitas | 67 | 67 | 38 | 1 | 173 |
| Klickitat | 11 | 7 | 23 | 3 | 44 |
| Lewis | 43 | 185 | 104 | 9 | 341 |
| Lincoln | 4 | 23 | 20 | 2 | 49 |
| Mason | 26 | 82 | 60 | 1 | 169 |
| Okanogan | 17 | 73 | 84 | 14 | 188 |
| Pacific | 17 | 27 | 30 | 0 | 74 |
| Pend Oreille | 5 | 6 | 11 | 0 | 22 |
| Pierce | 129 | 295 | 1,177 | 33 | 1,634 |
| San Juan | 12 | 20 | 164 | 5 | 201 |
| Skagit | 56 | 177 | 144 | 4 | 381 |
| Skamania | 2 | 15 | 16 | 1 | 34 |
| Snohomish | 73 | 597 | 1,657 | 94 | 2,421 |
| Spokane | 215 | 791 | 878 | 5 | 1,889 |
| Stevens | 9 | 124 | 107 | 1 | 241 |
| Thurston | 85 | 118 | 408 | 34 | 645 |
| Wahkiakum | 3 | 8 | 7 | 0 | 18 |
| Walla Walla | 37 | 54 | 58 | 5 | 154 |
| Whatcom | 79 | 385 | 430 | 9 | 903 |
| Whitman | 11 | 28 | 78 | 4 | 121 |
| Yakima | 129 | 71 | 235 | 8 | 443 |
| Total | 2,805 | 6,475 | 11,911 | 426 | 21,617 |