

2008 General Election Briefing

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Voter information

- Voter hotline: 206-296-VOTE
 - (Assistance available in 120 different languages)
- Web site: www.kingcounty.gov/elections
 - Verify your assigned polling place before you vote
 - Results posted



King County
Elections

Quick facts and statistics

- Number of registered voters: **1,105,965**
 - Permanent absentee: **720,585**
 - Poll voters: **385,380**
 - Inactive voters: **129,708**
 - Early, in-person voting: **3,840 through Oct.30**
 - Mail ballots issued as of Oct. 30: **750,000**
 - Mail ballots returned as of Oct.30: **282,453**
- Use of 10 drop boxes open since Oct.17**

Des Moines	2,100
Algona/Pacific	900
Black Diamond	930
Fall City	810
Crossroads Library	4,030
Lake Forest Park	3,115
KC Admin Building	4,110
King County Elections in Renton	4,345
Delridge Neighborhood Center (Seattle)	1,365
University Neighborhood Center (Seattle)	2,100
Total ballots as of Oct. 30:	23, 795



Polls

- 392 polling places will open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Nov. 4.
- Chinese speaking poll workers are be available on election day to assist voters
- A voter who does not present ID may vote a provisional ballot.
- 115 bilingual, Chinese speaking poll workers will be available to assist voters.

Turnout and results

- Projected turnout: 85 percent – two points higher than 2004
- On Election Day, it is expected King County will count 100,000 absentee ballots plus all ballots cast at the polls.
- Starting Wednesday, Nov.5 results will be posted twice daily until the majority of ballots are counted. Posting times are 3 p.m. and 11:30 p.m.
- By Tuesday, Nov.11, we estimate we will have counted 97 percent of the ballots cast in the election. This does not including provisional, military, oversea ballots.

Results schedule for the Nov.4 General Election

Tuesday, Nov.4	7 a.m. 8 p.m.	Polls open
	8:15 p.m.	Mail ballots counted on election day results posted to the Web.
	10:30 p.m.	First returns from polls posted on to the Web (5% of poll precincts reporting)
	11:30 p.m.	Second set of poll results added to the cumulative returns (35% of poll precincts reporting)
	12:30 a.m.	Third set of poll results added to the cumulative returns (75% of poll precincts reporting)
	1:30 a.m.	Fourth and likely the last batch of poll results added to the cumulative returns (98 to 100% of poll precincts reporting or when poll count is complete.)
Wednesday, Nov.5	3 p.m. and 11:30 p.m.	Results posted. Poll precincts not reported on Election Day are added to the returns.
Thursday, Nov.6	3 p.m. and 11:30 p.m.	Results posted.
Friday, Nov.7	3 p.m. and 11:30 p.m.	Results posted. Unofficial abstract of results as of election night, broken down by legislative district and congressional district and posted to the Web.
Saturday, Nov.8	3 p.m. and 11:30 p.m.	Reporting times will depend on the number of ballots staged and ready for tabulation.
Monday, Nov.10	3 p.m. and 11:30 p.m.	Reporting times will depend on the number of ballots staged and ready for tabulation.
Tuesday, Nov.11 Veteran's Day Holiday	3 p.m. and 11:30 p.m.	Reporting times will depend on the number of ballots staged and ready for tabulation.
Wednesday, Nov. 12	6 p.m.	Results posted
Thursday, Nov. 13	6 p.m.	Results posted
Friday, Nov.14	6 p.m.	Results posted
Saturday, Nov.15	TBA	Will be announced – depending on the number of ballots staged and ready for tabulation.
Monday, Nov.17	6 p.m.	Results posted

Results schedule for the Nov.4 General Election

Tuesday, Nov.18	6 p.m.	Results posted
Wednesday, Nov.19	6 p.m.	Results posted
Thursday, Nov.20	6 p.m.	Results posted
Friday, Nov.21	6 p.m.	Results posted
Monday, Nov. 24	Approximately 11:30 p.m.	Results posted
Tuesday, Nov. 25	9 a.m.	Canvassing Board convenes to certify final election results.
	By noon	Final results posted by noon
Tuesday, Dec.2	4:30 p.m.	Official canvass report: Results of the election detailed by precinct and summarized by district electronically (on CD) are available for purchase and on the Web. Advance orders are recommended and will be given priority.
Friday, Dec.5	4:30 p.m.	A PDF copy of the official canvass report will be available.

We're ready – improvements to ensure we're ready for Election Day

Sufficient supplies ordered for high turnout at the polling places

- Busy poll sites are overstaffed with poll workers with some locations having official greeters to manage crowds. Our Partnership in Democracy program brought in more than 1,000 college and high school students to work as poll workers on Election Day.
 - Each poll worker was trained in the primary and general election.
 - Inspectors received eight hours of training.
- Ballot order
 - Poll ballots - 100% ordered (one for every active registered poll voter)
 - Provisional ballot quantities at polls will be significantly increased. Specific volumes were determined by the size and location of the polling place. Areas with larger expected provisional turnouts (e.g. the University District in Seattle) were targeted and will receive 800 provisional ballots per site.
 - Accessible voting units at the polls provide a significant quantity of regular ballots at the polls for any voter regardless of their ability.
- Troubleshooters (48 total) are assigned to zones on Election Day (8-10 polling places per zone) to field any questions and quickly respond to supply issues.
 - Troubleshooters complete 15-16 hours of training
 - Troubleshooters have extra supplies (e.g., forms, blue bags, provisional ballot envelopes) and know how to operate equipment
 - Troubleshooters will visit assigned polling places to ensure things are going smoothly and as needed on election day
 - Troubleshooters are the eyes and ears of King County and respond to reports of any issues at the polls.

Provisional ballots

- Provisional ballots were redesigned and cannot be read by Accuvote machines at the polls. In addition, machines are programmed to reject any provisional ballots by rejecting them.
- Provisional ballots are also color-coded and visually different from poll ballots allowing poll workers to easily identify them.

Thorough accounting of all absentee ballots returned to poll sites

- Three different poll workers look into the machine to see that it is empty when they close on election night.
- A unique number is located on the inside bottom of the machine and must be recorded on accountability paperwork as part of closing procedures.
- A specific, Accuvote worker and the inspector are trained on emptying the machine and practice the process in hands-on training (recreate the scenario with a ballot envelope caught on the latch).
- Immediately following election day, troubleshooters (in teams of two) visit each polling place to check that the base units are empty. Any remaining are brought to the Canvassing Board for determination.

Ensuring capacity in "blue bags" for absentee ballots dropped off at the polls

- King County addressed the capacity issue related to absentees being returned at the polls and has sufficient bags to transport these ballots securely back to our office.
- Troubleshooters will also have extra bags.
- Each poll site has capacity to store a minimum of 300 absentee ballots with larger poll sites having even more capacity.

Voting equipment

- The vast majority of ballot in King county will be cast on paper.
- The Accessible Voting Units (AVU) in King County have a Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail.
- One AVU in each polling place for accessibility and those who want to use it.
- AVU has been used and audited successfully since implemented in May of 2006.
- We do extensive testing of the AVU and audit 4 percent of the machines after the election.
- Each one of the audits since May of 2006 has been 100% accurate.
- Six sigma quality standards are used to reconcile and account for ballots. Accuracy is our first goal.

Mail ballots were mailed on time

- Military/overseas/out-of-state ballots were mailed and e-mailed on 10/3. (Legal deadline was 10/5).
- All absentee ballots were mailed on 10/15 (legal deadline 10/17).
- Requests received after initial mailings are processed within 24 hours.

Signature verification

- All lead workers assigned to signature verification received refreshed training by the Washington State Patrol on Oct.20, 2008. The method used includes signature verification techniques and the standards set in WAC 434-379-020.

Ballot duplication

- King County follows statewide standards on voter intent WAC 434-261-086.
- Questionable ballots go to canvassing board.
- Enhancing, once an option in 2004, was eliminated by law in 2005. Duplication procedures are set forth in canvassing board administrative rules (Section 4.6).

NSOF absentee ballots (No signature on file)

- If absentee ballot received for a voter whose signature is not on file, elections sends a letter with a new registration form asking voter to fill out and return, and will call the voter twice.
- In 2007 starting with the Seattle Viaduct Advisory election in March, the division reached out to all poll voters in the county to get an updated signature. This is especially useful for traditional poll voters whose signature was not on file and usually becomes a problem if they vote for the first time by mail. This issue was done in all council districts and has resulted in fewer NSOF issues.
- More time for voter to respond - certification is now 21 days after each general election compared to 15 in 2004.

- If voter does not respond to correspondence or phone calls, by law, the ballot cannot be counted.
- Lists are available to political parties who wish to reach out to these voters.
 - November 2007 General -- 25 NSOF rejected
 - February 2008 Presidential Primary -- 13 NSOF rejected
 - August 2008 Primary -- 10 NSOF rejected

Ballots found after the election was certified in mail ballot envelopes

- Ballot envelopes now have holes in them which provide a visual indicator that the envelope is empty. A zip tie is put through each envelope.
- Further, we have a quality control and reconciliation station to ensure ballots are accounted for and not left in the envelope.

Fatal pends – Provisional voting

- Elections makes a great effort to get missing registration information from voters before election day.
- If the provisional ballot is received for a voter whose registration is fatally pending due to missing DOB, or incomplete address information, Elections will pull the information from the provisional ballot envelope and send on for further processing (including signature verification).
- If fatally pending due to missing signature or citizenship on registration form, Elections will send the voter a new registration form to sign and return, and will call the voter.
- If voter does not respond to the letter and does not return the signed registration form, Elections cannot count the ballot.
- Voters can confirm if their provisional ballot is counted on the King County Web site starting Friday, Nov.7.

Opportunities for observers

- King County conducted an official observer training on 10/10/08.
- Any member of the public can observe ballot processing from "the observation loop" that surrounds the entire processing floor.
- Paid party observers are allowed in all areas of the building where ballot processing activities are occurring with the exception of ballot cages and server rooms.

Processing the high volumes of ballots

- Even though it is not required by law, elections will be processing on weekends and holidays as needed.
- Results will be posted twice daily starting Wednesday, Nov. 5 through Friday, Nov.7.
- Elections is prepared to use shifts the week of the election. All shifts will be managed by trained elections supervisors.

Reconciliation

- State law changes in 2005 require more detailed reports (RCW 29A.60.235, WAC 434-262-030, 434-262-135, 434-262-204).
- Extended certification deadline.
- Significantly improved reconciliation efforts at the polls, provisional and by mail. August 2008 primary -- total discrepancy of 4 (2 in polls and 2 in absentees).

- King County received a national award in 2006 for mail ballot reconciliation by bringing best practices used in Fortune 500 companies in to election administration.

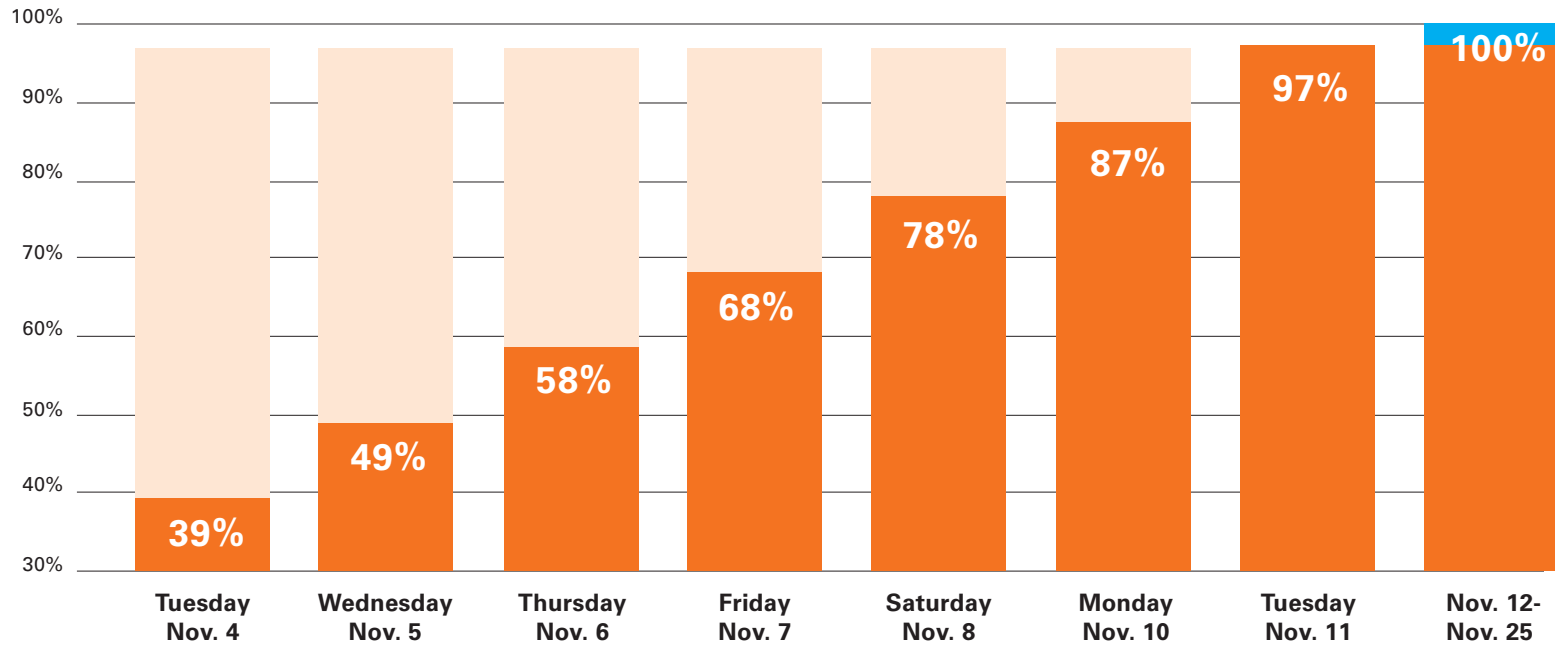
Felon voting, duplicate registrations and deceased voters casting ballots



- Since 2005, Washington counties have been operating from one voter registration database and the voter rolls are cleaner because of it. The voter rolls are managed daily and we're catching things like duplicate registrations.
- Staff are canceling felons from reports we receive from federal, superior and district court and the state is canceling felons from the state courts.
- Staff screen the obituaries daily to cancel voters who may have died and have sophisticated research tools like Lexus Nexus and the Death Index to research deceased voters.

2008 Tabulation Forecast

Percent of ballots counted daily based on expected return

Forecast based on an estimated 85% turnout



 Percent of Total Tabulated
 Provisional, Military & Overseas Ballots
(counted Nov. 12 - Nov. 25)

Last updated: 10/31/08

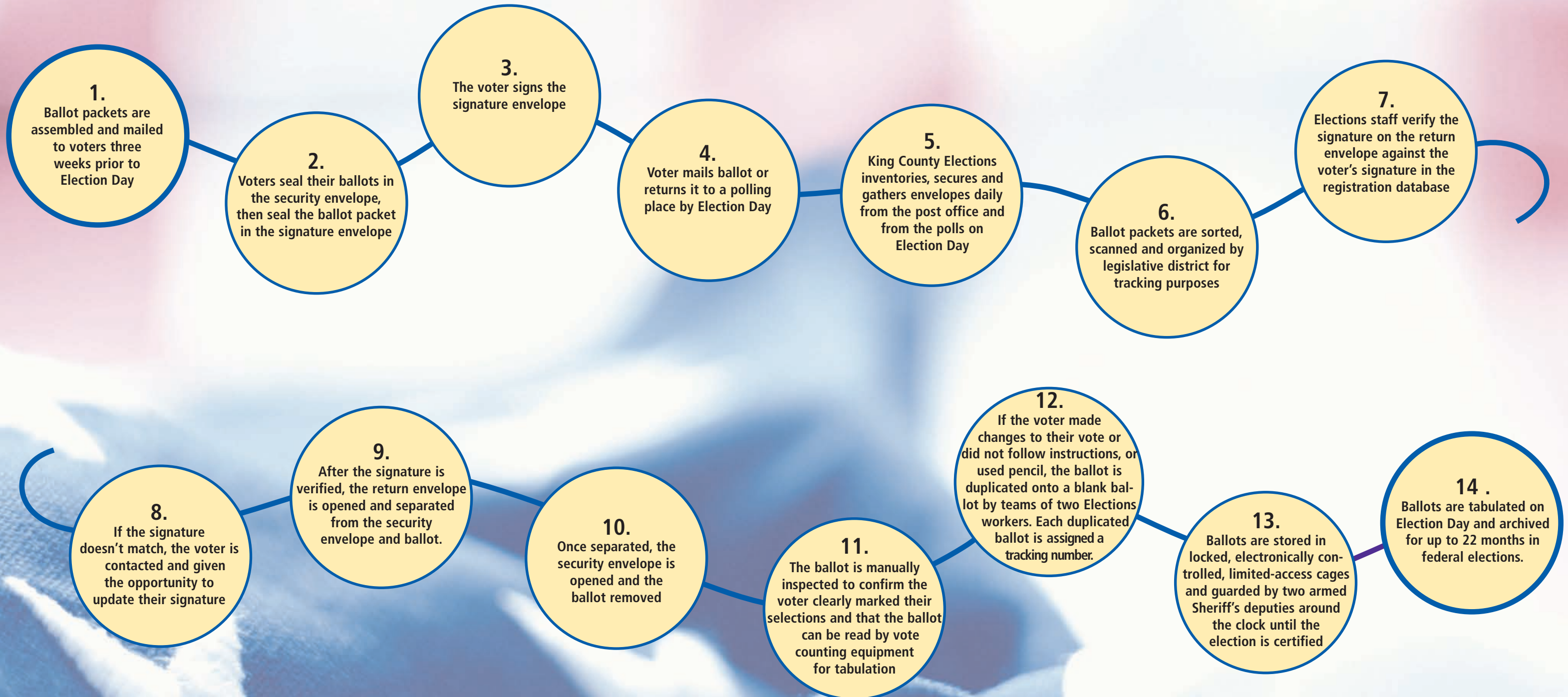


**KING COUNTY ELECTIONS
TURNOUT FORECAST
November 4, 2008
GENERAL AND SPECIAL ELECTIONS**

PRE-ELECTION Forecast

Category	Active Registered Voters	Estimated Poll Ballots Cast	Estimated Poll Ballot Turnout %	Estimated Absentees Ballots Cast	Estimated Absentee Ballot Turnout %	Estimated total turnout	Estimated total turnout %	Estimated % Absentee ballots of total ballots cast
City of Seattle	386,699	104,409	27.00%	222,352	57.50%	326,761	84.50%	68.05%
Remainder of the County	719,194	183,394	25.50%	431,516	60.00%	614,911	85.50%	70.18%
<i>Countywide total</i>	<i>1,105,893</i>	<i>287,803</i>	<i>26.02%</i>	<i>653,868</i>	<i>59.13%</i>	<i>941,672</i>	<i>85.15%</i>	<i>69.44%</i>

Lifecycle of an ABSENTEE ballot



Lifecycle of an POLL ballot

