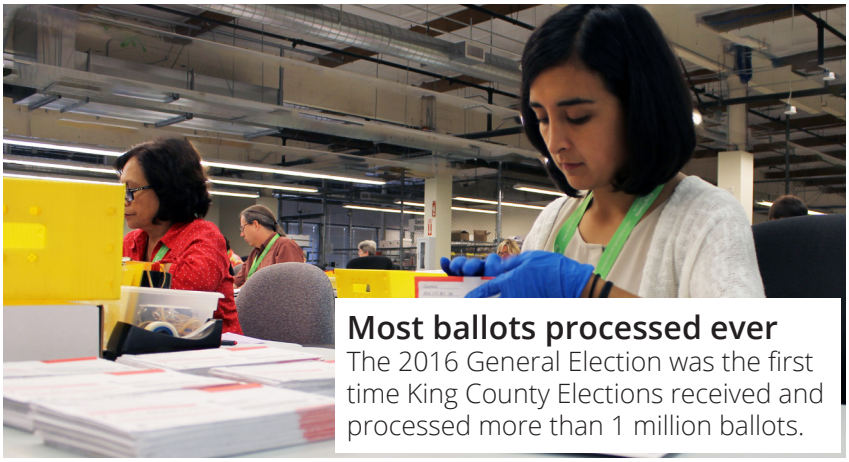
King County vote!

YEAR IN REVIEW 2016

New languages

Voting materials were made available in two new languages: Korean and Spanish.



Most ballots processed ever

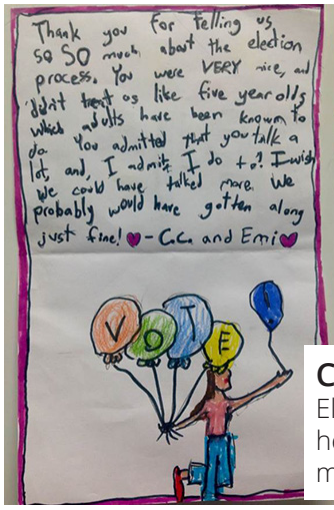
The 2016 General Election was the first time King County Elections received and processed more than 1 million ballots.

Record number of ballots returned to drop boxes

King County's action to increase the number of ballot drop boxes provided unprecedented convenience and access to voters.

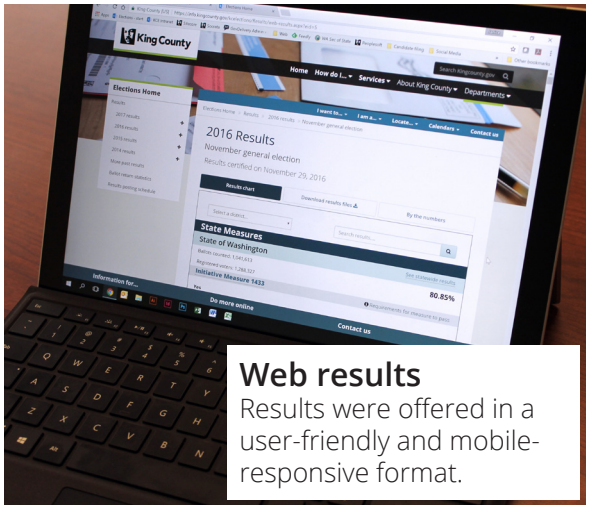
Community-based organization partnership program

King County Elections and Seattle Foundation teamed up to make voting more accessible to communities who speak a language other than English.



Civic engagement

Elections partnered with Seattle Public Schools to help students engage in the Secretary of State's mock election program.



Web results

Results were offered in a user-friendly and mobile-responsive format.

New drop boxes installed
With support from King County Executive Dow Constantine and funding provided by the Metropolitan King County Council, Elections quadrupled the number of ballot drop boxes in 2016.

New branding
In 2016, King County Elections debuted a new look that resonates with the county's diverse population of voters.

New blog and social media
King County Elections launched a new blog called the Election Connection to provide the latest election news and updates.

Employee development
Elections employees gained new certifications and developed new skills.

From the Director

I am happy to share with you King County Elections' Year in Review for 2016. This was the first full year of my term as Director of Elections, and I'm very proud of our many accomplishments. We've selected 10 that we believe embody our values and our mission to improve voter access.

I'm especially proud of the work we did to remove barriers to voting. We teamed up with Seattle Foundation to make voting more accessible to communities who speak a language other than English. The project provided a total of $224,000 to community-based organizations to do voter engagement.

We also opened 33 new drop boxes throughout King County, for a total of 43. About 91 percent of County residents now live within three miles of a drop box. The additional drop boxes provided unprecedented convenience to voters. During the 2016 General Election, more than half of the voters returned their ballots at drop boxes.

King County Elections processed a record number of ballots during the 2016 General Election, more than 1 million. Our dedicated staff worked diligently to make sure every ballot was counted quickly and accurately.

As we settle into 2017, I'm excited about what's ahead. We're testing prepaid postage with two jurisdictions in the February Special Election. We're also replacing our elections tabulation equipment with a state-of-the-art system that will let us be more efficient and adaptive to voters' needs. I look forward to 2017 being a transformative year!

Sincerely,

Julie Wise

Julie Wise

Read more about our accomplishments at kingcounty.gov/elections/2016.

Get social with us

- kcelections.com
- twitter.com/kcelections
- facebook.com/kcelections
- instagram.com/kcelections
- snapchat.com/add/kcelections

New languages

Voting materials were made available in two new languages: Korean and Spanish.

Voters can get ballots and voters' pamphlets in Korean and Spanish, in addition to English, Chinese and Vietnamese. Elections worked with community-based organizations to increase awareness and voter registration in communities where English is not the primary language. The voter registration form is also translated into the following languages: Amharic, Arabic, Bengali, Burmese, Cambodian, Hindi, Japanese, Khmer, Laotian, Punjabi, Russian, Somali, Tagalog and Ukrainian.

Most ballots processed ever

The 2016 General Election was the first time King County Elections received and processed more than 1 million ballots.

Elections mailed ballots to 1,288,327 registered voters and received 1,054,564 ballots from voters. To process the large volume of ballots, Elections added a second shift during the General Election. Teams working in scanning and adjudication worked a night shift from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. The additional shift helped Elections report more results in a shorter amount of time.

Elections staff scanning ballots for tabulation.

Record number of ballots returned to drop boxes

King County's action to increase the number of ballot drop boxes provided unprecedented convenience and access to voters.

About 91 percent of King County residents now live within three miles of a drop box. During the 2016 General Election, slightly more than half of our voters (51.4%) chose ballot boxes over the mail, a sharp increase compared to previous elections.

In the General Election, we received 519,400 ballots via drop boxes. The most popular locations were the Ballard Branch Library, the King County Elections Building in Renton and the Crossroads Shopping Center in Bellevue.

Community-based organization partnership program

Community-based organization partnership program event.

King County Elections and Seattle Foundation teamed up to make voting more accessible to communities who speak a language other than English.

The joint project provided $224,000 to community-based organizations representing the vast diversity of King County. Collectively, their voter engagement efforts reached 27,000 limited-English speaking voters; they hosted more than 200 activities and events. One of the main priorities of the community partnership was to increase access to the materials translated in Chinese, Korean, Spanish and Vietnamese. Elections received about 2,300 requests from limited-English speaking voters to get their voting materials in their preferred language, a 60 percent increase.

Teachers at civic curriculum workshop.

Civic engagement

Elections partnered with Seattle Public Schools to help students engage in the Secretary of State's mock election program.

Nearly 12,000 King County students and 4,300 Seattle students participated in the mock election. Elections also hosted about 30 teachers for a civic curriculum workshop and more than 500 students visited the facility on field trips during the General Election.

Web results

Results were offered in a user-friendly and mobile-responsive format.

Election results are the most viewed item on the Elections web site. Elections wanted to ensure that turnout for different races, the votes cast for each race and other results information was readily available. The Department reported the most results ever on election night: 615,025 ballots cast, an increase of about 59,000 from 2012.

New drop boxes installed

With support from King County Executive Dow Constantine and funding provided by the Metropolitan King County Council, Elections quadrupled the number of ballot drop boxes in 2016.

In 2016, Elections increased the number of permanent drop boxes from 10 to 43; now 9-in-10 King County residents live within three miles of a ballot box. Working with King County's Office of Equity and Social Justice, Elections evaluated more than 100 potential ballot box locations. We focused on geographically isolated or culturally distinct communities as well as areas that have lower than average voter registration rates. As a result, we increased the number of permanent drop boxes from 10 to 43, ensuring that about 91 percent of King County residents live within three miles of a ballot box.

Voter returning his ballot the new Rainer Community Center drop box.

The new drop boxes were installed in two phases: 19 locations were added for the 2016 Primary, and an additional 14 opened for the General Election.

New branding

Ballot packet with new "vote" branding.

In 2016, King County Elections debuted a new look that resonates with the county's diverse population of voters.

The new brand focuses on the word "vote" because it is a simple, enduring concept that can be translated into many languages.

We now use blue and red as our principal color scheme with purple and green as secondary colors. The new brand logo and colors convey enthusiasm, democracy, pride and dedication to the power of each citizen's voice. The "vote" logo was designed in Chinese, English, Korean, Spanish and Vietnamese.

New blog and social media

Election Connection blog on mobile phone.

King County Elections launched a new blog called the Election Connection to provide the latest election news and updates.

Blog content revolved around voter education and outreach. Topics such as updates on registration deadlines and on when ballots were mailed to voters were covered. Local media also read the blog for news content and data, such as the election results and the number of ballot drop box returns. Elections' followers on Twitter and Facebook more than doubled, with a majority of the growth occurring during the General Election.

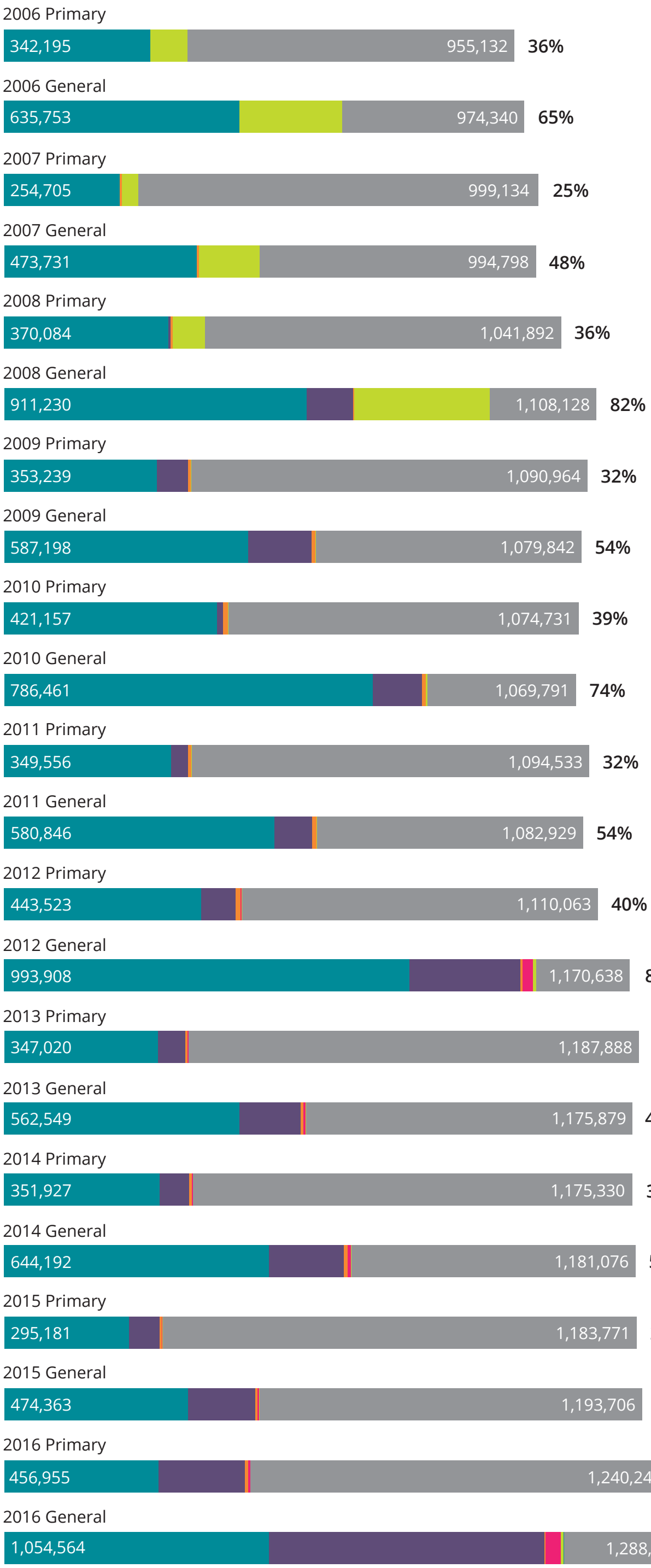
Employee development

Elections employees gained new certifications and developed new skills.

A total of 32 employees attended the 2016 Washington State Elections Conference in Spokane. Five staff members attended various Certified Elections/Registration Administrator (CERA) courses, pursing or maintaining their national certifications. And 31 employees received Washington State election administrator certifications.

Voter turnout

(total ballots returned / active registered voters)



Active registered voters

Accessible voting centers (includes provisionals) or polling locations

Alternate format (email, fax, etc.)

Ballot drop box location return

Ballots returned too late

Mail ballots returned

% Turnout

For 2006 the turnout calculation is based on the number of ballots counted divided by the number of active registered voters. For 2007 - 2015 the turnout calculation is based on the number of ballots returned divided by the number of active registered voters.

Appendix B

King County Elections

King County Elections Historical Turnout Information						Included in Total Ballots Counted		
Election	Active Registered Voters**	Turnout*	Total ballots returned	Total ballots counted	Mail ballots counted on Election Day (first report)	Provisional ballots issued (includes those issued by other counties)	Provisional ballots counted	Ballots cast in Accessible voting units (AVU)
General 2016	**1,288,327**	**82%**	**1,054,564**	**1,041,613**	**615,025**	**761**	**428**	**5,027**
Primary 2016	1,240,245	37%	456,955	448,263	232,810	30	22	211
May Presidential Primary 2016	1,233,778	33%	406,298	390,743	317,724	49	31	124
Apr Special 2016	375,199	32%	121,287	119,287	98,091	5	0	14
Feb Special 2016	627,083	29%	179,706	176,617	146,101	2	1	28
General 2015	1,193,706	40%	474,363	467,608	246,090	47	34	274
Primary 2015	1,183,771	25%	295,181	289,596	204,938	12	7	98
Apr Special 2015	1,185,271	25%	299,172	293,372	250,437	1	1	24
Feb Special 2015	86,955	37%	31,755	31,090	26,053	1	0	5
General 2014	1,181,076	55%	644,192	631,020	331,228	130	85	760
Primary 2014	1,175,330	30%	351,927	344,583	266,539	12	5	86
Apr Special 2014	1,174,773	39%	454,197	445,190	363,788	0	0	121
Feb Special 2014	630,721	32%	199,192	195,646	160,447	0	0	9
General 2013	1,175,879	48%	562,549	551,665	262,790	41	35	358
Primary 2013	1,187,888	29%	347,020	340,236	244,529	4	4	106
Apr Special 2013	103,028	29%	29,480	28,974	25,642	0	0	0
Feb Special 2013	414,028	33%	136,706	134,116	108,435	0	0	16
Jun Recall 2013	2,947	50%	1,476	1,453	1,242	0	0	0
General 2012	1,170,638	85%	993,908	978,377	556,083	1,114	573	4,465
Primary 2012	1,110,063	40%	443,523	432,049	223,811	37	27	275
Apr Special 2012	235,040	34%	80,443	78,773	68,037	0	0	7
Feb Special 2012	188,407	32%	60,880	59,257	43,866	0	0	6
General 2011	1,082,929	54%	580,846	564,331	279,744	131	64	542
Primary 2011	1,094,533	32%	349,566	338,255	208,833	5	2	192
April Special 2011	44,422	52%	23,195	22,621	19,889	0	0	6
Feb Special 2011	184,469	39%	72,586	70,757	55,608	0	0	10
General 2010	1,069,791	74%	786,461	766,477	373,941	604	376	2,286
Primary 2010	1,074,731	39%	421,157	406,391	243,755	34	29	274
Apr Special 2010	64,567	31%	19,795	18,628	16,061	0	0	0
Feb Speical 2010	1,029,039	38%	395,624	387,249	291,305	1	0	114
General 2009	1,079,842	53%	587,198	574,298	254,261	102	57	978
Primary 2009	1,090,964	32%	353,239	344,712	182,036	7	2	353
Mar Special 2009	66,886	38%	25,664	24,880	**21,768**	0	0	13
Feb Special 2009	1,117,869	23%	254,852	250,394	**173,607**	1	1	88
					VOTE BY MAIL ELECTIONS ↑	Included in poll returns ↓		
General 2008	1,108,128	84%	Data archived	930,038	117,500	32,577	27,466	21,166
Primary 2008	1,041,892	35%	Data archived	363,197	127,341	3,388	3,061	7,127
Presidential Primary 2008	1,008,189	34%[1]	341,640	No data	No data	No data	1,884	14
General 2007	994,798	47%	Data archived	465,999	144,622	4,979	4,579	10,524
Primary 2007	999,134	25%	Data archived	248,964	120,664	1,218	1,115	3,509
General 2006	974,340	65%	Data archived	635,753	119,240	13,483	11,565	14,800
Primary 2006	955,132	36%	Data archived	342,195	45,521	3,024	2,738	7,576
General 2005	1,017,995	54%	Data archived	547,325	149,601	7,170	6,329	
Primary 2005	1,012,559	30%	Data archived	300,569	90,709	2,353	2,153	
General 2004	1,082,406	83%	Data archived	899,199	233,254	32,996	28,010	
Primary 2004	1,006,839	46%	Data archived	466,732	70,299	5,707	5,165	
General 2003	1,035,764	36%	Data archived	369,779	147,759	1,892	1,793	
Primary 2003	1,029,833	30%	Data archived	304,217	140,875	1,582	1,487	
General 2002	1,031,348	53%	Data archived	548,353	75,053	6,885	6,148	
Primary 2002	1,069,573	26%	Data archived	282,987	62,687	1,294	1,224	
General 2000	1,069,139	75%	Data archived	798,942	152,249	17,082	13,307	
Primary 2000	1,037,394	37%	Data archived	380,126	88,597	2,463	2,296	

* Beginning in 2009, calculation of turnout is derived from dividing the total number of ballots returned by the total number of active registered voters. Prior to 2009, it is derived from dividing the total number of ballots counted by active registered voters.

** Active registered voter count: From 2009 to Feb 2013, the count is taken on the day official Logic and Accuracy Tests were conducted. Effective April 2013, the count is taken on the day before election.

[1] Exception to pre 2009 turnout rate. Turnout rate for 2008 Feb 19 Presidential Primary is derived from ballots returned divided by total number of active registered voters. Ballots counted data were not available for computation of turnout rate.

Appendix C

Voters verified with voting

Election	Poll/provisional ballots counted	Mail voters verified as voting	Total voters verified	Active registered voters	% of voters verified
November 8, 2005	160,254	387,616	547,870	1,017,995	38%
February 7, 2006	23,433	151,797	175,230	554,788	27%
March 14, 2006	2,939	18,297	21,236	65,515	28%
May 16, 2006	5,163	30,918	36,081	103,962	30%
September 19, 2006	69,407	292,900	362,307	955,132	31%
November 7, 2006	192,879	443,943	636,822	974,340	46%
February 6, 2007	21,390	112,076	133,466	433,121	26%
March 13, 2007	2,044	176,380	178,424	396,700	44%
May 15, 2007	2,367	20,670	23,037	77,209	27%
August 21, 2007	30,698	218,338	249,036	999,134	22%
November 6, 2007	111,818	354,549	466,367	994,798	36%
February 19, 2008	35,351	300,358	335,709	1,008,189	30%
March 11, 2008	5,000	49,676	54,676	187,241	27%
May 20, 2008		18,860	18,860	59,998	31%
August 19, 2008	59,057	301,132	360,189	1,041,892	29%
November 4, 2008	282,131	645,572	927,703	1,108,128	58%
February 3, 2009		250,480	250,480	1,117,869	22%
March 10, 2009		24,892	24,892	66,886	37%
August 18, 2009		344,787	344,787	1,090,964	32%
November 3, 2009		574,381	574,381	1,079,842	53%
February 9, 2010		387,287	387,287	1,029,039	38%
April 27, 2010		18,630	18,630	64,567	29%
August 17, 2010		406,428	406,428	1,074,731	38%
November 24, 2010		766,548	766,548	1,069,791	72%
February 8, 2011		70,764	70,764	184,469	38%
April 26, 2011		22,623	22,623	44,422	51%
August 16, 2011		338,278	338,278	1,094,533	31%
November 8, 2011		564,380	564,380	1,082,929	52%
February 14, 2012		59,258	59,258	188,407	31%
April 17, 2012		78,780	78,780	235,040	34%
August 7, 2012		432,061	432,061	1,110,063	39%
November 6, 2012		978,482	978,482	1,170,638	84%
February 12, 2013		134,126	134,126	414,028	32%
April 23, 2013		28,976	28,976	103,028	28%
June 25, 2013		1,453	1,453	3,000	48%
August 6, 2013		340,270	340,270	1,187,888	29%
November 5, 2013		551,712	551,712	1,175,879	47%
February 11, 2014		195,478	195,478	630,721	31%
April 22, 2014		445,224	445,224	1,174,773	38%
August 5, 2014		344,606	344,606	1,175,330	29%
November 4, 2014		631,046	631,046	1,181,076	53%
February 10, 2015		31,091	31,091	86,955	36%
April 28, 2015		293,397	293,397	1,185,271	25%
August 4, 2015		289,620	289,620	1,183,771	24%
November 3, 2015		467,625	467,625	1,193,706	39%
February 9, 2016		176,633	176,633	627,083	28%
April 24, 2016		119,314	119,314	375,199	32%
May 24, 2016		395,389	395,389	1,233,778	32%
August 2, 2016		448,263	448,263	1,240,245	36%
November 8, 2016		1,041,671	1,041,671	1,288,327	81%

**2008 and prior for polls are derived from ballots counted not credited*

Appendix D

Signature challenges 2010 - 2016

Election	Challenged and cured	Challenged and not cured	Total challenged	Total ballots returned	% challenged (total challenged / total ballots returned)	% cured (challenged and cured / total challenged)	% not cured (challenged and not cured / total challenged)	Total not cured (challenged and not cured / total ballots returned)
February 9, 2010	2162	2741	4903	395624	1.24%	44.10%	55.90%	0.69%
April 27, 2010	258	327	585	19795	2.96%	44.10%	55.90%	1.65%
August 17, 2010	8721	5667	14388	421157	3.42%	60.61%	39.39%	1.35%
November 24, 2010	10461	11192	21653	786461	2.75%	48.31%	51.69%	1.42%
February 8, 2011	1130	858	1988	72586	2.74%	56.84%	43.16%	1.18%
April 26, 2011	245	328	573	23195	2.47%	42.76%	57.24%	1.41%
August 16, 2011	5457	5675	11132	349556	3.18%	49.02%	50.98%	1.62%
November 8, 2011	9506	9180	18686	580846	3.22%	50.87%	49.13%	1.58%
February 14, 2012	1103	897	2000	60880	3.29%	55.15%	44.85%	1.47%
April 17, 2012	1086	765	1851	80443	2.30%	58.67%	41.33%	0.95%
August 7, 2012	4990	2464	7454	443523	1.68%	66.94%	33.06%	0.56%
November 6, 2012	13238	8925	22163	993908	2.23%	59.73%	40.27%	0.90%
February 12, 2013	1590	942	2532	136706	1.85%	62.80%	37.20%	0.69%
April 23, 2013	340	174	514	29480	1.74%	66.15%	33.85%	0.59%
June 25, 2013	21	13	34	1476	2.30%	61.76%	38.24%	0.88%
August 6, 2013	5187	2550	7737	347020	2.23%	67.04%	32.96%	0.73%
November 5, 2013	7619	4682	12301	562549	2.19%	61.94%	38.06%	0.83%
February 11, 2014	2670	1718	4388	199192	2.20%	60.85%	39.15%	0.86%
April 22, 2014	6050	4683	10733	454197	2.36%	56.37%	43.63%	1.03%
August 5, 2014	4806	2934	7740	351927	2.20%	62.09%	37.91%	0.83%
November 4, 2014	7668	6892	14560	644192	2.26%	52.66%	47.34%	1.07%
February 10, 2015	373	307	680	31755	2.14%	54.85%	45.15%	0.97%
April 28, 2015	2457	1401	3858	299172	1.29%	63.69%	36.31%	0.47%
August 4, 2015	1685	1519	3204	295181	1.09%	52.59%	47.41%	0.51%
November 3, 2015	2803	2108	4911	474363	1.04%	57.08%	42.92%	0.44%
February 9, 2016	874	852	1726	179706	0.96%	50.64%	49.36%	0.47%
April 24, 2016	517	477	994	121287	0.82%	52.01%	47.99%	0.39%
August 2, 2016	1592	1280	2872	456955	0.63%	55.43%	44.57%	0.28%
November 8, 2016	5413	8721	14134	1054564	1.34%	38.30%	61.70%	0.83%

Appendix E

King County Elections
Historical Election Cost Allocations

Sum of Total	Year										
Cost Category	**2006**	**2007**	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**
Administration	385,921.64	409,372.08	3,210,379.65	3,791,393.95	4,788,936.74	5,831,643.64	2,771,388.30	3,051,228.74	6,379,953.00	3,476,525.96	4,177,756.00
Advertising	66,474.87	76,543.70	77,180.24	34,884.62	30,850.60	183,169.47	35,903.42	348,854.78	284,522.94	293,634.30	164,028.48
Central Cost							3,338,668.94	2,919,685.67	1,690,887.77	1,265,294.80	1,720,615.85
Election Officials	1,413,289.04	1,399,064.56	1,818,580.14	0.00	0.00	0.00					
Election Support	3,584,666.70	4,210,759.46	3,564,587.90	2,429,001.87	2,279,572.51	1,639,376.64					
Elections Ops./Ballot Processing							1,807,310.26	744,445.91	750.00		
Extra Help	3,075,317.58	2,664,880.17	4,337,317.92	1,750,568.11	1,745,126.82	1,106,014.52					
Misc. Supplies and Services	41,153.43	35,832.27	65,064.84	15,539.96	25,300.94	46,070.29					
Polling Places	190,945.01	166,239.70	238,558.31	0.00	0.00	0.00					
Postage	648,968.87	813,655.39	1,074,575.49	1,545,977.98	1,408,081.61	1,073,937.66	281,309.83	350,586.51	527,279.74	444,008.11	600,325.02
Printing and Binding	1,822,127.26	2,290,257.12	2,246,968.99	2,175,848.84	1,930,667.70	1,036,904.39	2,141,998.33	2,130,565.36	2,714,159.30	1,601,188.36	2,759,973.58
Supplies, Repairs & Misc.							158,861.45	182,568.41	690,577.85	1,188,514.12	1,696,521.52
Transportation	59,942.13	45,363.68	71,814.95	15,033.54	6,328.92	6,823.12	8,407.18	3,785.10	13,887.55	22,480.70	54,545.55
Wages, Temporary Help, Benefits							2,466,275.31	4,562,023.61	1,644,397.08	1,179,404.46	3,727,118.77
Capital Cost Recovery							63,309.35	108,212.53	83,011.38	87,088.96	118,257.91
County Support							34,467.17	43,793.70	86,437.31	79,618.93	698,659.86
Overhead	222,592.73	67,133.41	158,125.86	178,134.80	338,308.80	171,474.23					
Grand Total	**11,511,399.26**	**12,179,101.54**	**16,863,154.29**	**11,936,383.66**	**12,553,174.64**	**11,095,413.96**	**13,107,899.53**	**14,445,750.31**	**14,115,863.92**	**9,637,758.70**	**15,717,802.54**

Remove building lease payments:	0	0	0	(591,000)	(1,430,000)	(2,430,000)	(1,430,000)	(2,430,000)	(1,430,000)	(2,430,000)	(1,430,000)
Comparative Adjusted Total:	**11,511,399**	**12,179,102**	**16,863,154**	**11,345,384**	**11,123,175**	**8,665,414**	**11,677,900**	**12,015,750**	**12,685,864**	**7,207,759**	**14,287,803**

Comments:

From 2008 to 2009 Elections consolidated from three facilities to one, resulting in increase to lease payments and facilities.
Polling sites and poll workers eliminated starting 2009.
Spike in temporary election workers in presidential years.
In 2012 the cost categories are revised to more closely reflect State of Wash. BARS Manual requirements.
2016 included a fifth election, the Presidential Primary, which increased total cost.