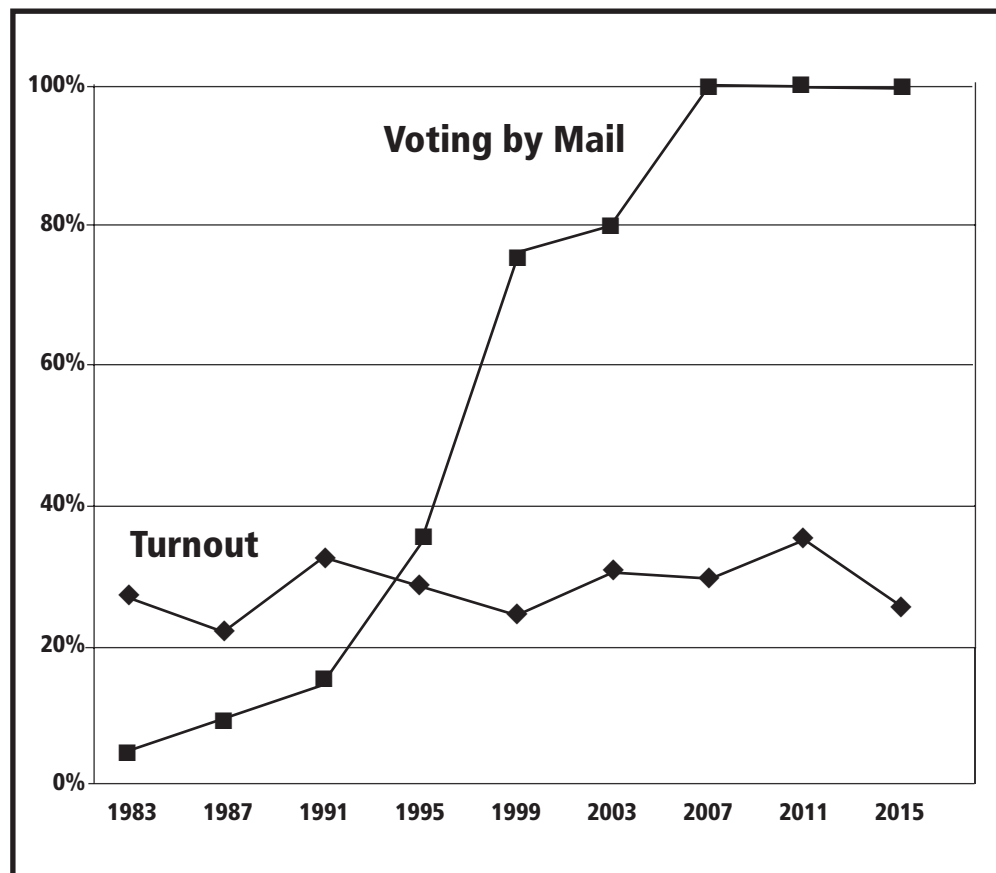


# Primary Election Results—2015

## Whatcom County Primary Elections Turnout and Voting by Mail Percentages 1983 – 2015



The Whatcom County Home Rule Charter creating the office of Whatcom County executive and a seven member County Council was approved by voters at the 1978 general election. A special primary to elect the executive and four council races was held on February 6, 1979, and a special general election on March 25, 1979. The three county commissioners were appointed to the other council positions. The first primary election ballot in which the Whatcom County Executive and councilmembers for position B appeared together was 1983. Whatcom County adopted voting-by-mail in 2005.

Primary Election	Registered Voters	Ballots Cast	Turnout Percent	Voting by Mail
1983	56,385	16,232	28.79%	5.96%
1987	57,993	12,450	21.47%	10.68%
1991	61,564	21,048	34.19%	16.41%
1995	86,533	25,594	29.58%	36.15%
1999	89,117	16,441	24.05%	76.65%
2003	69,320 <sup>1</sup>	21,799	31.45%	80.33%
2007	76,511 <sup>2</sup>	23,349	30.52%	100%
2011	118,678	44,260	37.30%	100%
2015	102,161 <sup>3</sup>	25,861	25.31%	100%

<sup>1/2/3</sup>These are the registered voters in precincts that had races on the primary ballot.

<sup>1</sup>The total number of registered voters in Whatcom County on 9/16/2003, was 94,247.

<sup>2</sup>The total number of registered voters in Whatcom County on 8/22/2007, was 103,328.

<sup>3</sup>The total number of registered voters in Whatcom County on 9/16/2015, was 128,613.

## Return Envelopes Challenged

Below are the reasons ballots were rejected and the number for the last five primary elections. The most common reason for rejection, by far, was an envelope with a late postmark. The statistics are from the Canvassing Board Reconciliation Report. The statistics represent the difference between envelopes received and ballots counted.

	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Envelopes returned	26,107	45,429	14,471	47,801	44,694
Cancelled	2	1	0	1	1
Contained no ballot	5	2	4	6	7
Deceased	0	3	0	4	1
Letter doesn't match envelope	5	21	0	0	0
Late postmark/deposit	155	435	87	429	313
No signature	20	28	17	29	33
No signature match	46	141	34	105	58
Power of Attorney	2	0	2	0	1
Second ballot received	4	2	0	0	2
Void	0	0	3	0	0
Wrong Voter Signature	7	8	1	2	10
Other	0	8	2	0	0
<b>Ballots Rejected</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>424</b>
Undeliverable	1,480	2,046	1,491	945	2,576
<b>Total Challenged</b>	<b>1,726</b>	<b>2,695</b>	<b>1,641</b>	<b>1,522</b>	<b>3,002</b>

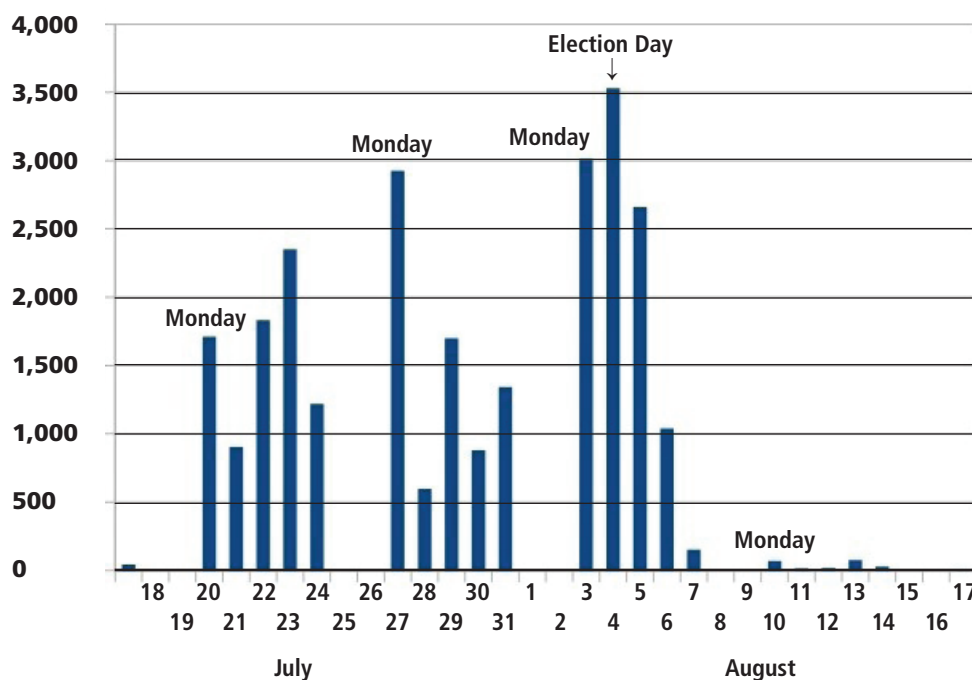
## State/Local Election Statistics

	Washington State	Whatcom County
<b>Primary</b>		
Total Registered	No	102,161 <sup>1</sup>
Ballots Cast	Statewide	25,861
<b>Turnout</b>	Primary	<b>25.31%</b>

<sup>1</sup>These were the number of registered voters in precincts that had races on the primary ballot. The total number of registered voters in Whatcom County on September 16, 2015, was 128,613.

## Primary Election Ballots Returned

On July 15, the Whatcom County auditor's office mailed 102,161 ballots to registered voters, 1,480 were undeliverable. Over two-thirds — 18,516 or 70.9 percent — of the ballots were returned before election day. Rejected ballots (246) accounted for less than 1 percent of the total returned ballots.



Primary Election	Ballots Returned	Percent of Total Returned
June 19	(Friday: Overseas Ballots Mailed)	
June 22	(Monday)	6.....0.02%
June 29	(Monday)	15.....0.06%
July 8	(Wednesday)	5.....0.02%
July 10	(Friday)	6.....0.02%
July 13	(Monday)	10.....0.04%
July 15	(Wednesday: Whatcom County Ballots Mailed)	
July 20	(Monday)	1,712.....6.56%
July 21	(Tuesday)	903.....3.34%
July 22	(Wednesday)	1,832.....7.92%
July 23	(Thursday)	2,352.....9.01%
July 24	(Friday)	1,218.....4.67%
July 27	(Monday)	2,926.....11.21%
July 28	(Tuesday)	598.....2.29%
July 29	(Wednesday)	1,700.....6.51%
July 30	(Thursday)	879.....3.37%
July 31	(Friday)	1,344.....5.15%
August 3	(Monday)	3,010.....11.53%
August 4	(Tuesday: Election Day)	3,530.....13.52%
August 5	(Wednesday)	2,661.....10.19%
August 6	(Thursday)	1,040.....3.98%
August 7	(Friday)	151.....0.58%
August 10	(Monday)	69.....0.26%
August 11	(Tuesday)	12.....0.05%
August 12	(Wednesday)	17.....0.07%
August 13	(Thursday)	75.....0.29%
August 14	(Friday)	27.....0.10%
August 17	(Monday)	7.....0.03%
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,105</b>	

## How Ballots Are Returned to the Auditor

Number Returned	
U.S. Postal Service	13,954
Courthouse drop box	7,196
Ferndale drop box	2,866
Blaine drop box	1,264
Sudden Valley drop box	602
Birch Bay drop box	469
Lynden drop box	459
WWU drop box	310
WCC drop box	273
Deming drop box	173
Email	15
Fax	4
Confidential	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,587</b>