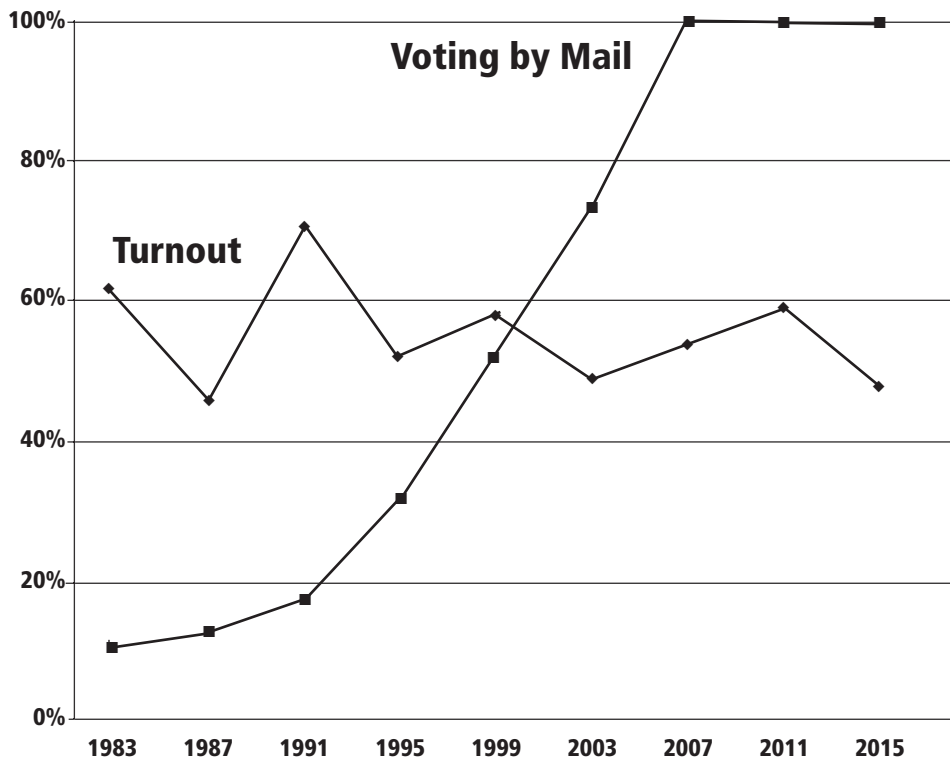


General Election Results—2015

Whatcom County General 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 general election ballot in which the Whatcom County executive and council members for position B appeared together was 1983. Beginning in 1985, the state Legislature allowed voters over the age of 65 and those with disabilities to receive all ballots by mail. In 1993, the Legislature expanded mail voting to all citizens. By 2002, five rural counties were conducting all elections by mail. Whatcom County adopted voting-by-mail in 2005. All of Washington's 39 counties now vote by mail.

General Election	Registered Voters	Ballots Cast	Turnout Percent	Voting by Mail
1983	58,098	35,969	61.9	10.9%
1987	58,966	26,577	45.1	12.4%
1991	63,527	44,697	70.4	18.2%
1995	88,678	45,511	51.3	33.3%
1999	90,987	53,038	58.3	52.7%
2003	94,753	45,786	48.3	73.0%
2007	102,458	55,059	53.7	100%
2011	117,162	69,147	59.0	100%
2015	129,345	61,136	47.3	100%
Mean			55.0	

How Envelopes Are Returned to the Auditor

	Number Returned	Percentage of Total Returned
Bellingham drop boxes		
Courthouse	16,170	78.24%
Haggen Sehome Village	2,268	10.97%
WWU Bookstone	1,609	7.79%
Whatcom Community College	619	3.00%
Total	20,666	32.72%
Lynden Library drop box	6,385	10.11%
Ferndale City Hall drop box	4,933	7.81%
Blaine Library drop box	2,043	3.23%
Everson drop box (Whatcom Education Credit Union)	2,000	3.17%
Sudden Valley drop box (Gate One)	1,105	1.75%
Birch Bay drop box (fire and rescue station)	1,100	1.74%
Deming Library drop box	995	1.58%
Meridian drop box (Laurel Grange)	629	1.00%
Sumas drop box (behind post office)	458	0.73%
Kendall drop box (North Fork Library)	439	0.69%
Drop box total	40,753	64.51%
U.S. Postal Service	22,353*	35.39%
Email	56	0.09%
Fax	7	0.01%
Total envelopes returned	63,169	

*includes 1,558 undeliverable ballots

Washington State Ballot Measures

Initiative 1366 (Concerns state taxes and fees)

	Washington State	Whatcom County
Yes	760,518 51.52% ✓	29,933 51.07%
No	715,684 48.50%	28,674 48.93%

Initiative 1401 (Trafficking of animal species threatened with extinction)

	Washington State	Whatcom County
Yes	1,043,773 70.29% ✓	37,864 64.27%
No	441,170 29.71%	21,051 35.73%

Advisory Vote No. 10

(The Legislature imposed oil spill response and administration taxes)

	Washington State	Whatcom County
Repeal	699,275 48.68%	28,618 50.93%
Maintain	737,273 51.32% ✓	27,570 49.07%

Advisory Vote No. 11

(The Legislature imposed a marijuana excise tax on medical marijuana)

	Washington State	Whatcom County
Repeal	599,324 41.27%	27,531 48.49%
Maintain	852,735 58.73% ✓	29,241 51.51%

Advisory Vote No. 12

(The Legislature imposed additional taxes on motor vehicles and special fuels)

	Washington State	Whatcom County
Repeal	928,324 64.37% ✓	35,216 62.40%
Maintain	513,742 35.63%	21,219 37.60%

Advisory Vote 13

(The Legislature excluded some software manufacturers from a tax exemption)

	Washington State	Whatcom County
Repeal	903,222 63.41% ✓	35,830 64.40%
Maintain	521,096 36.59%	19,805 35.60%

Return Envelopes Challenged

Below are the reasons ballots were rejected and the number for the last five general elections. The most common reason for rejection, by far, was an envelope with a late postmark. The statistics are from the Canvassing Board Reconciliation Reports. The statistics represent the difference between envelopes received and ballots counted. Of the 63,169 envelopes returned in 2015, 61,631 were counted and 495 were rejected.

	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Envelopes returned	63,169*	79,286	70,409	105,345	69,619
Cancelled	8	5	3	31	1
Confidentials	0	0	1	0	1
Electronic	4	8	0	0	0
Contained no ballot	4	6	6	12	4
Deceased	2	3	2	5	1
ID required	6	9	3	11	2
Late postmark	234	293	327	145	316
Letter doesn't match envelope	30	28	0	0	0
No signature	26	55	55	61	37
No signature match	146	263	315	420	115
Other	2	2	0	9	0
Power of Attorney	3	1	2	2	3
Second ballot received	10	21	1	7	2
Void	0	0	4	0	0
Wrong Voter Signature	20	10	4	6	3
Ballots Rejected	495	704	723	709	485
Undeliverable	1,558	2,493	1,901	1,064	1,291
Total Challenged	2,053	3,197	2,624	1,773	1,776

*includes 1,558 undeliverable ballots



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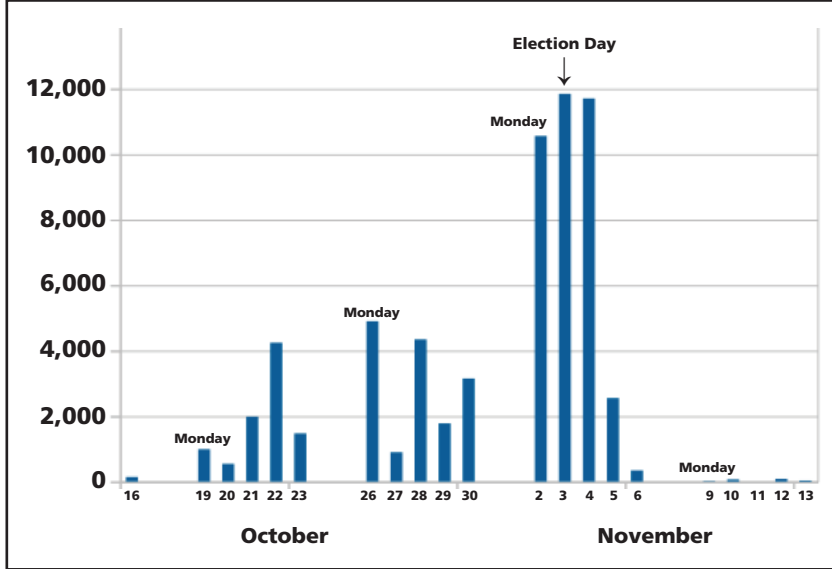
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General Election Results—2015

Daily Envelope Count

The Whatcom County auditor's office mailed 129,345 general election ballots to registered voters; 1,558 were undeliverable. A little over half — 34,981 or 56.78 percent — of the envelopes were returned before election day. Ballots rejected (495) accounted for less than 1 percent of the 61,136 total counted.



General Election	Envelopes Returned	Percent of Total Returned
September 18 (Friday: Military/Overseas Ballots Mailed)		
September 23 (Wednesday)	10	0.02%
September 25 (Friday)	4	0.01%
September 29 (Tuesday)	5	0.01%
October 1 (Thursday)	7	0.01%
October 2 (Friday)	6	0.01%
October 6 (Tuesday)	14	0.02%
October 8 (Thursday)	9	0.01%
October 9 (Friday)	12	0.02%
October 12 (Monday)	13	0.02%
October 13 (Tuesday)	9	0.01%
October 14 (Wednesday: Whatcom County Ballots Mailed)		
October 14 (Wednesday)	7	0.01%
October 15 (Thursday)	6	0.01%
October 16 (Friday)	38	0.06%
October 19 (Monday)	987	0.60%
October 20 (Tuesday)	542	0.88%
October 21 (Wednesday)	1,982	3.22%
October 22 (Thursday)	4,241	6.88%
October 23 (Friday)	1,470	2.39%
October 26 (Monday)	4,898	7.95%
October 27 (Tuesday)	894	1.45%
October 28 (Wednesday)	4,343	7.05%
October 29 (Thursday)	1,778	2.89%
October 30 (Friday)	3,148	5.11%
November 2 (Monday)	10,558	17.14%
November 3 (Tuesday: Election Day)	11,844	19.22%
November 4 (Wednesday)	11,702	18.99%
November 5 (Thursday)	2,549	4.14%
November 6 (Friday)	339	0.55%
November 9 (Monday)	15	0.02%
November 10 (Tuesday)	63	0.10%
November 11 (Wednesday: Veterans' Day – Courthouse closed)		
November 12 (Thursday)	83	0.13%
November 13 (Friday)	6	0.01%
November 16 (Monday)	11	0.02%
November 17 (Tuesday)	11	0.02%
November 18 (Wednesday)	1	0.00%
November 19 (Thursday)	1	0.00%
November 23 (Monday)	5	0.01%
Total	61,611*	

*This figure is total envelopes received; it includes ballots challenged.

State and County Turnout

Nine counties had a higher general election turnout than Whatcom County. The county with the highest turnout was Garfield at 60.6 percent or 936 ballots counted. Of the nine counties, Clallam had the largest number of ballots counted at 22,863. The nine counties had a total ballot count of 56,549 or 4,587 fewer than Whatcom County. The two counties in the state with the lowest turnout were Benton and Yakima at 32.7 percent.

	Washington State	Whatcom County
General		
Total Registered	3,974,952	129,345
Ballots Cast	1,528,216	61,136
Turnout	38.45%	47.27%
Primary		
Total Registered	3,356,735*	102,161**
Ballots Cast	817,876	25,861
Turnout	24.37%	25.31%

*Of the 39 counties in the state, five counties (Columbia, Ferry, Klickitat, Pend Oreille and Wahkiakum) didn't have primaries.

**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.

	Registered Voters	Ballots Cast	Percent Voting
Unincorporated Whatcom County			
57,139	27,465	48.07%	
Bellingham	50,613	23,109	45.66%
Blaine	3,158	1,446	45.79%
Everson	1,243	535	43.04%
Ferndale	7,067	3,354	47.46%
Lynden	8,624	4,605	53.40%
Nooksack	791	337	42.60%
Sumas	710	293	41.27%
Whatcom County	129,345	61,136	47.27%

Voting Drop-off Rate

The difference between column one and column two are under votes (not voting) and over votes (voted for both). The first column is the total number voting in the 2016 general election. The second column is the number voting on the ballot measure, Whatcom County or city of Bellingham positions. The third column is the second column subtracted from the first column and reflected as a percent.

Whatcom County	Total Voting	Voted On	Not Counted
Initiative 1401 (endangered species)	61,136	58,915	3.63%
Initiative 1366 (state taxes and fees)	61,136	58,607	4.14%
County Charter Amendment #1	61,136	58,429	4.43%
Proposition 2015-1 (sales tax increase for jail)	61,136	58,301	4.64%
Whatcom County Council, District 2	61,136	58,030	5.08%
County Charter Amendment #9	61,136	57,556	5.86%
County Charter Amendment #2	61,136	57,436	6.05%
County Charter Amendment #3	61,136	57,169	6.49%
County Charter Amendment #7	61,136	56,836	7.03%
Advisory Vote 11 (marijuana excise tax)	61,136	56,772	7.14%
County Charter Amendment #5	61,136	56,585	7.44%
County Charter Amendment #6	61,136	56,526	7.54%
Advisory Vote 12 (motor vehicle/fuels taxes)	61,136	56,435	7.69%
County Charter Amendment #10	61,136	56,347	7.83%
County Charter Amendment #4	61,136	56,338	7.85%
Advisory Vote 10 (oil spill taxes)	61,136	56,118	8.21%
Whatcom County Council, District 1	61,136	55,927	8.52%
Port of Bellingham, District 3	61,136	55,897	8.57%
Advisory Vote 13 (software tax exemption)	61,136	55,635	9.00%
County Charter Amendment #8	61,136	53,618	12.30%
Whatcom County Executive	61,136	53,308	12.80%
Whatcom County Sheriff*	61,136	43,716	28.49%
Whatcom County Auditor*	61,136	42,224	30.93%
Whatcom County Treasurer*	61,136	40,983	32.96%
Whatcom County Council, District 3*	61,136	40,644	33.52%
Whatcom County Assessor*	61,136	40,295	34.09%

City of Bellingham

Mayor*	23,109	16,463	28.76%
City Council, At-Large*	23,109	15,279	33.88%
City Council, Ward 1*	23,109	15,262	33.96%
City Council, Ward 5*	23,109	14,774	36.07%
City Council, Ward 3*	23,109	14,726	36.28%

*Unopposed

Compiled by
Bill McCallum

Daily Envelope
Count Chart
Marian Beddill

Primary Election
August 4, 2015

General Election
November 3, 2015

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General Election Results—2015

Whatcom County

Proposition No. 2015-1

Jail Facilities Sales and Use Tax

Yes	28,320	48.58%	Impose a sale and use tax of two tenths of one percent (20 cents for every \$100) for constructing and operating jail facilities.
No	29,981	51.42%✓	

Charter Amendments

Propositions 1 through 8 were placed on the ballot by the Charter Review Commission and the final two by the Whatcom County Council.

Yes	31,003	53.06%✓	Proposition 1: Method of Electing Council Members. General elections for County Council offices will change from county-wide to district-only, except for the at-large position.
No	27,426	46.94%	

Yes	29,636	51.60%✓	Proposition 2: Limiting Power of Council to Amend Charter. The County Council can not place Charter amendments on the ballot that have been approved by a 2/3 majority of the voters.
No	27,800	48.40%	

Yes	29,486	51.58%✓	Proposition 3: Limit Power of Council to Amend Charter's Election Provisions. To place a charter amendment to Sections 2.12 (nominations) or 2.13 (election county-wide) on the ballot by the County Council would require a 7-0 vote.
No	27,683	48.42%	

Yes	47,448	84.22%✓	Proposition 4: Word Limit for Ballot Questions. The ballot titles for initiatives and referendums will increase from a maximum of 20 words to 40 words.
No	8,890	15.78%	

Yes	28,766	50.84%✓	Proposition 5: Lowering Threshold for Initiative and Referendum Signatures. The number of signatures needed to place initiatives and referendums on the ballot will change from 15 percent of votes cast at the last general election to 8 percent of the votes cast at the last gubernatorial election.
No	27,819	49.16%	

Yes	34,643	61.29%✓	Proposition 6: Lowering the Number of Signatures Required for Citizens Initiatives to Amend Charter. The number of signatures required to place Charter amendments on the ballot will be reduced from 20 percent to 15 percent at the last gubernatorial election.
No	21,883	38.71%	

Yes	39,430	69.38%✓	Proposition 7: Term Limits for County Executive and Council Members. Councilmembers and the County Executive shall serve no more than three consecutive terms.
No	17,406	30.62%	

Yes	24,869	46.38%	Proposition 8: Altering Composition of Districting Commission. If this amendment had passed it would have allowed additional representation by political parties on the committee that redraws council district lines.
No	28,749	53.66%✓	

Yes	31,096	54.03%✓	Proposition 9: Number of Council District and At-Large Council Positions. The number of council districts will increase from three to five. Each district would have on council position plus two at-large positions for a total of seven members.
No	26,460	45.97%	

Yes	29,584	52.50%✓	Proposition 10: Amendments to the Charter Review Commission and the County Council. The number of votes required by the Charter Review Commission to place Charter amendments on the ballot goes from a majority to a supermajority.
No	26,763	47.50%	

Affordable Housing Council of Whatcom Co

Contributions

Total \$19,354

This committee is the building industry PAC. There were a total of 118 contributors; three were individuals and the rest businesses. None of the contributions were over \$100.

Expenditures

Total \$7,515

Clear Ballot Choices..... Charter Amendments Education \$ 3,000

Citizens for a Humane & Safe Jail Now

Contributions

Total \$9,757

Ryan Tyler..... Bellingham..... \$1,700

Ray/Phyllis Baribeau..... Bellingham..... \$1,500

Expenditures

Total \$9,758

Cascade Radio Group..... Radio Ads..... \$5,065

Clear Ballot Choices

Contributions

Total \$66,546

Pacific International Terminals (cash)..... Seattle..... \$45,545

Pacific International Terminals (In Kind)..... Seattle..... \$13,545

Whatcom County Affordable Housing Council..... Bellingham..... \$ 3,000

Expenditures

Total \$62,875

Revolvis Consulting..... Design Mailer/Live Calls..... \$33,084

Print NW..... Postage for mailer..... \$10,246

Pacific International Terminals (In Kind)..... Survey Research/Voter Data..... \$13,545

DOVE Whatcom Committee

Contributions

Total \$13,786

Common Threads Northwest..... Bellingham..... \$6,000

Whatcom County Republicans..... Bellingham..... \$3,300

Karl Uppiano (In Kind)..... Facebook Boosting..... \$2,750

Expenditures

Total \$17,484

Print and Copy..... Yard Signs..... \$5,668

We the Governed..... Two videos..... \$5,000

Karl Uppiano..... Loan Repayment..... \$3,400

Fair and Equal Whatcom

Contributions

Total \$77,290

Sierra Club..... San Francisco..... \$33,000

Washington Conservation Voters..... Seattle..... \$10,000

Lummi Commercial Company..... Bellingham..... \$10,000

Nooksack Indian Tribe..... Deming..... \$ 9,000

Stephen/Liann Sunquist..... Seattle..... \$ 4,000

Alexandra Loeb..... Seattle..... \$ 3,000

Expenditures

Total \$70,802

Cerillion N4 Partners..... Printing Mailer/Postage..... \$58,400

Chism Strategies..... Voter Contact..... \$ 6,967

RE Sources for Sustainable Communities

Contributions

Total \$86,297

RE Sources (In Kind)..... Bellingham..... \$71,672

Expenditures

Total \$86,297

RE Sources (Cash/In Kind)..... Staffing/Canvassing..... \$75,838

Left Field Organizing..... Canvassing..... \$9,803

Whatcom County Democrats

Contributions

Total \$96,898

Martin Nickerson..... Seattle..... \$10,000

Daylight Properties/Robert Hall..... Bellingham..... \$ 9,500

Lummi Indian Business Council..... Bellingham..... \$ 5,375

Expenditures

Total \$82,964

Gwen Groden..... Reimbursement/Coordinator..... \$18,154

Daylight Properties..... Campaign Office..... \$15,435

AMS..... Campaign Mailer..... \$14,094

Whatcom County Republican Party

Contributions

Total \$162,683

Pacific International Terminals (cash)..... Seattle..... \$29,000

Nichols Kaiser..... Bellingham..... \$11,389

Richard Donahue..... Bellingham..... \$ 5,000

Dusty Gulleson..... Bellingham..... \$ 5,000

Expenditures

Total \$149,325

Best Western/Lakeway Inn..... Fundraising Event..... \$16,381

Revolvis Consulting..... Surveys/Polls..... \$15,334

Cascade Radio..... Advertising..... \$10,420

Lithex NW..... Printing/Brochures..... \$ 6,544

General Election Results—2015

*Incumbent

All positions on this page are nonpartisan.

¹Not the final report.

²Has not filed the financial report due on December 10. Liabilities: \$1,000

³Pledged not to spend \$5,000 or more and not to receive single contributions above \$200.

⁴Liabilities: \$5,500

⁵This report is through October 10, the financial reports due on October 27 and December 10 has not been filed.

⁶Liabilities: \$947

⁷This report is through August 31, the financial report due on September 10 has not been filed.

⁸Liabilities: \$1,000

⁹This report is through August 31, the financial reports due on September 10, October 27 and December 10 have not been filed.

	General Election		Primary Election		Receipts	Expenditures	Surplus Deficit	
Port of Bellingham District 3								
	30,997	55.45%	Robert (Bobby) Briscoe	4,824	43.80%	\$44,980 ¹	\$43,717 ¹	\$1,263
	24,775	44.32%	Gary S. Jensen	4,202	38.15%	\$16,924 ¹	\$15,814 ¹	\$1,110 ²
			Lloyd Zimmerman	1,888	17.14%	Under \$5,001 ³		
	125	.22%	Write-In	100	0.91%			
Whatcom County Executive								
	37,319	70.01%	Jack Louws*			\$24,182 ¹	\$17,137 ¹	\$1,545 ⁴
	15,734	29.52%	Joy Gilfilen			\$ 5,916 ⁵	\$ 7,918 ⁵	(\$2,002) ⁵
	255	.48%	Write-In					
Whatcom County Council District 1 — Position B								
	30,753	54.99%	Todd Donovan	6,963	61.74%	\$75,558 ¹	\$76,968 ¹	(\$1,410)
	25,043	44.78%	Bruce Ayers	1,898	16.83%	\$23,110	\$23,110	0 ⁶
			Theresa Sygitowicz	1,213	10.76%	\$ 260 ⁷	\$ 6,637 ⁷	(\$6,377) ⁷
			Emily Weaver	1,159	10.28%	Under \$5,001 ³		
	131	.23%	Write-In	100	0.91%			
District 2 — Position B								
	29,392	50.65%	Satpal Sidhu*			\$75,044 ¹	\$73,049 ¹	\$1,994
	28,516	49.14%	Kathy Kershner			\$46,523 ¹	\$45,199 ¹	\$1,342 ⁸
	122	.21%	Write-In					
District 3 — Position B								
	39,852	98.05%	Barbara Brenner*			Under \$5,001 ³		
	792	1.95%	Write-In					
Whatcom County Assessor								
	39,860	98.92%	Keith Willnauer*			Under \$5,001 ³		
	435	1.08%	Write-In					
Whatcom County Auditor								
	41,865	99.15%	Debbie Adelstein*			Under \$5,001 ³		
	359	.85%	Write-In					
Whatcom County Sheriff								
	42,197	96.53%	Bill Elfo*			\$20,733 ⁹	\$3,450 ⁹	\$17,284 ⁹
	1,519	3.47%	Write-In					
Whatcom County Treasurer								
	40,579	99.01%	Steve Oliver*			\$1,011	\$1,011	0
	404	.99%	Write-In					
Mayor of Bellingham								
	15,859	96.33%	Kelli Linville*			\$11,776 ¹	\$10,440 ¹	\$1,336
	604	3.67%	Write-In					
Bellingham City Council At-Large								
	15,096	98.80%	Roxanne Murphy*			Under \$5,001 ³		
	183	1.20%	Write-In					
Ward 1								
	15,088	98.86%	April Barker			\$4,770 ¹	\$4,170 ¹	\$600
	174	1.14%	Write-In					
Ward 3								
	14,565	98.91%	Dan Hammill*			\$2,049 ¹	\$2,049 ¹	0
	161	1.09%	Write-In					
Ward 5								
	14,540	98.42%	Terry Bornemann*			Under \$5,001 ³		
	234	1.58%	Write-In					