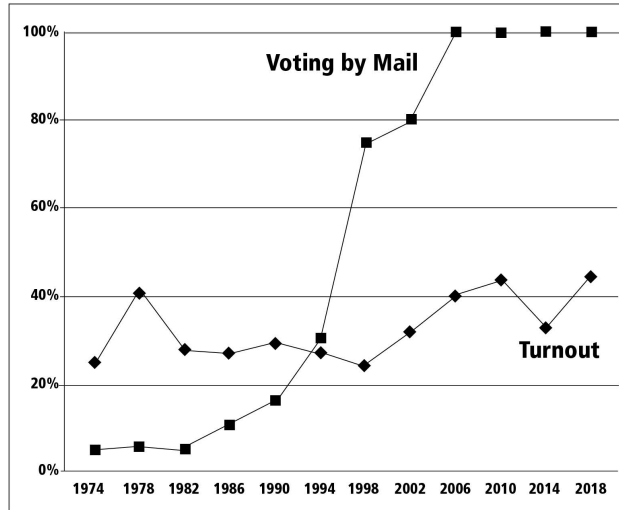


## Whatcom County Primary Elections Turnout and Voting by Mail Percentages 1974 – 2018



Starting in 1915, Washington voters were allowed to vote by mail if they were unable to be present at a polling site on Election Day. In 1974, the Washington Legislature allowed voters to request a ballot for the next election without stating a particular need. Beginning in 1985, voters over the age of 65 and those with disabilities were eligible to receive all future 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. The dates in the above chart and the following list are for mid term elections.

Primary Election	Registered Voters	Ballots Cast	Turnout Percent	Voting by Mail
1974.....	48,346.....	12,204.....	25.2%.....	4.5%
1978.....	50,553.....	20,780.....	41.1%.....	7.2%
1982.....	54,396.....	15,705.....	28.9%.....	6.2%
1986.....	59,580.....	16,203.....	27.2%.....	13.4%
1990.....	60,364.....	18,135.....	30.0%.....	18.9%
1994.....	84,292.....	23,540.....	27.9%.....	31.5%
1998.....	89,177.....	21,450.....	24.1%.....	76.6%
2002.....	90,104.....	29,367.....	32.6%.....	81.1%
2006.....	102,452.....	41,455.....	40.5%.....	100%
2010.....	114,312.....	50,015.....	43.8%.....	100%
2014.....	126,961.....	42,736.....	33.7%.....	100%
2018.....	139,813.....	62,717.....	44.9%.....	100%

### Voting Drop-Off Rate

The first column is the total number voting. The second column is the number voting on the candidate. The third column is the second column subtracted from the first column and reflected as a percent.

Whatcom County	Ballots Cast	Voted On*	Not Voting
42nd Legislative District, Senator.....	42,431.....	41,865.....	1.33%
U.S. Senator.....	62,707.....	61,638.....	1.72%
42nd Legislative District, Representative #1.....	42,431.....	41,679.....	1.77%
42nd Legislative District, Representative #2.....	42,431.....	41,617.....	1.92%
40th Legislative District, Representative #1.....	20,276.....	19,662.....	3.03%
1st Congressional District.....	31,675.....	30,334.....	4.23%
2nd Congressional District.....	31,032.....	29,150.....	6.06%
County Council At-Large, Position B.....	62,707.....	57,300.....	8.62%
Court of Appeals Judge, Division 1, District 3.....	62,707.....	54,731.....	12.72%
Whatcom County Prosecuting Attorney.....	62,707.....	54,126.....	13.68%
40th Legislative District, Representative #2**.....	20,276.....	14,771.....	27.15%

\*includes write-in votes

\*\*unopposed

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## State and County Turnout

	Washington State	Whatcom County
Primary		
Total Registered	4,299,309	138,813
Ballots Cast	1,753,545	62,717
Turnout	40.79%	44.86%

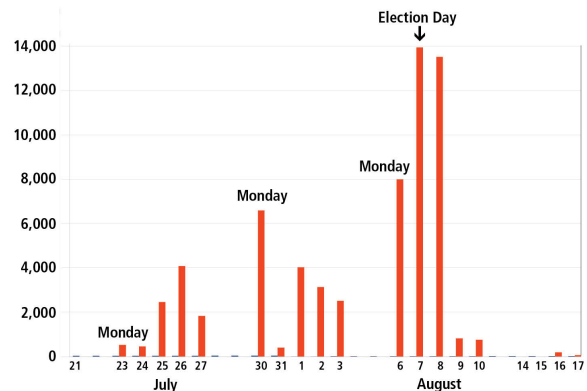
### Return Envelopes Challenged

Below are the reasons ballots were rejected and the number of rejections 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.

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Envelopes returned.....	63,426.....	32,963.....	49,585.....	26,107.....	45,429
Canceled.....	7.....	0.....	2.....	2.....	1
Contained no ballot.....	1.....	8.....	3.....	5.....	2
Deceased.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	3
Electronic.....	7.....	0.....	1.....	0.....	0
Letter doesn't match envelope.....	19.....	14.....	21.....	5.....	21
Late postmark/deposit.....	438.....	136.....	315.....	155.....	435
No signature.....	32.....	27.....	45.....	20.....	28
No signature match.....	180.....	86.....	104.....	46.....	141
Power of Attorney.....	1.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0
Second ballot received.....	21.....	3.....	7.....	4.....	1
Void.....	0.....	0.....	1.....	0.....	0
Wrong voter signature.....	3.....	7.....	6.....	7.....	8
Other.....	0.....	1.....	1.....	0.....	8
<b>Ballots Challenged.....</b>	<b>709.....</b>	<b>282.....</b>	<b>506.....</b>	<b>246.....</b>	<b>649</b>
Undeliverable.....	2,847.....	2,173.....	2,097.....	1,480.....	2,046
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>3,556.....</b>	<b>2,455.....</b>	<b>2,602.....</b>	<b>1,726.....</b>	<b>2,695</b>

### Envelope Return Rate

The Whatcom County auditor's office mailed 139,813 ballots to registered voters, 2,847 were undeliverable. A little over half — 34,068 or 53.8 percent — of the ballots were returned before election day. Last year, 69.5 percent of the primary ballots were returned before election day. Invalidated ballots (709) accounted for 1.1 percent of the total returned.



Primary Election	Envelopes Returned	Percent of Total Returned
June 22.....(Friday: Military/Overseas Ballots Mailed)		
July 18.....(Wednesday: Whatcom County Ballots Mailed)		
July 23.....(Monday).....	516.....	0.81%
July 24.....(Tuesday).....	452.....	0.71%
July 25.....(Wednesday).....	2,451.....	3.86%
July 26.....(Thursday).....	4,081.....	6.44%
July 27.....(Friday).....	1,826.....	2.88%
July 30.....(Monday).....	6,590.....	10.39%
July 31.....(Tuesday).....	393.....	0.62%
August 1.....(Wednesday).....	4,026.....	6.35%
August 2.....(Thursday).....	3,130.....	4.94%
August 3.....(Friday).....	2,611.....	4.12%
August 6.....(Monday).....	7,992.....	12.60%
August 7.....(Tuesday: Election Day).....	13,943.....	21.99%
August 8.....(Wednesday).....	13,517.....	21.31%
August 9.....(Thursday).....	811.....	1.28%
August 10.....(Friday).....	749.....	1.18%
August 14.....(Tuesday).....	185.....	0.29%
August 15.....(Wednesday).....	58.....	0.09%
August 16.....(Thursday).....	34.....	0.05%
August 17.....(Friday).....	23.....	0.04%
August 20.....(Monday).....	28.....	0.04%
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>64,416*</b>	

\*does not include two confidential ballots.