

## 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 was no signature match. 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
Cancelled	33	3	20	8	5
Electronic	0	2	30	4	8
Contained no ballot	9	8	6	4	6
Deceased	0	0	0	2	3
ID required	6	6	19	6	9
Late postmark	192	271	90	234	293
Letter doesn't match envelope	34	18	78	30	28
No signature	27	56	85	26	55
No signature match	218	170	443	146	263
Other	0	0	1	2	2
Provisional	14	1	0	0	0
Second ballot received	44	7	48	10	21
Wrong voter signature	1	13	13	20	10
<b>Ballots Rejected</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>704</b>
Undeliverable	1,472	1,794	1,276	1,558	2,493
<b>Total Challenged</b>	<b>2,050</b>	<b>2,349</b>	<b>2,110</b>	<b>2,053</b>	<b>3,197</b>

## How Envelopes Are Returned to the Auditor

Bellingham drop boxes	
Courthouse	20,521
Sehome Village (Haggen)	7,641
Western Washington University	3,745
Whatcom Community College	2,299
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,206</b>
Lynden drop box (library)	8,878
Ferndale drop box (city hall)	7,600
Blaine drop box (library)	3,240
Everson drop box (Whatcom Educational Credit Union)	2,544
Birch Bay drop box (fire and rescue station)	1,996
Sudden Valley drop box (security office turnaround)	1,717
Deming drop box (library)	1,288
Meridian drop box (Laurel Grange)	967
Kendall drop box (North Fork library)	864
Lummi Nation drop box (administration building)	742
Sumas drop box (behind post office)	651
Custer (elementary school)	572
Point Roberts (Marketplace grocery store)	387
Acme (elementary school)	186
<b>Drop box total</b>	<b>65,652</b>
<b>U.S. Postal Service</b>	<b>44,668*</b>
Email	506
Provisional	41
Confidential	20
Fax	13
<b>Total ballots/envelopes returned</b>	<b>110,900*</b>

\*does not include 1,472 undeliverable ballots.

### Drop Box Return Rate

	General	Primary	Drop Boxes
2018	59%*	55%*	18
2017	73%	67%	15
2016	77%	65%	15
2015	65%	49%	14
2014	53%	45%	9
2013	49%	35%	8
2012	41%	42%	8
2011	37%		8

\*Elections with prepaid return envelopes.

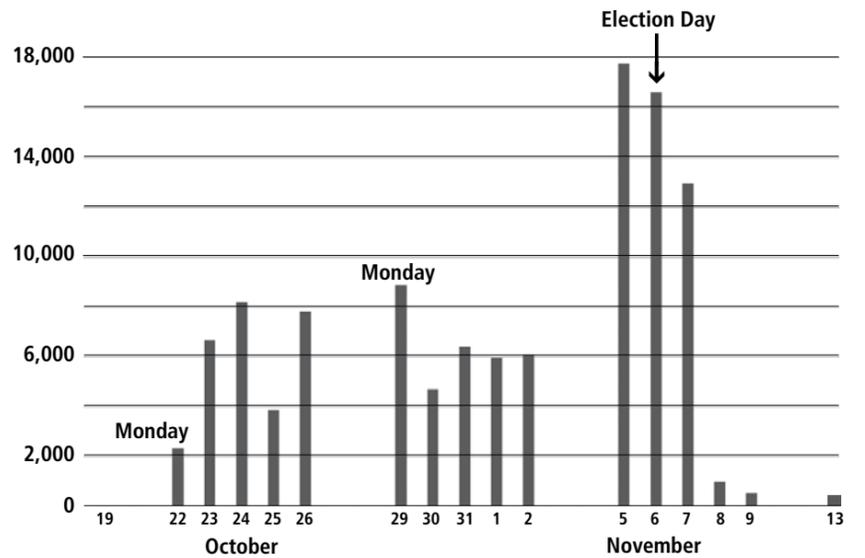
## State and County Turnout

Six counties in the state had a higher general election turnout than Whatcom County. They were San Juan at 83.83 percent, Columbia at 82.73 percent, Garfield at 83.28 percent, Jefferson at 83.12 percent, Wahkiakum at 80.36 percent and Lincoln at 79.00. Of the six counties, Jefferson had the largest number of ballots counted at 21,121 percent. The six counties had a total ballot count of 44,139 or 66,365 fewer than Whatcom County. The three counties in the state with the lowest turnout were Yakima at 61.78 percent, Asotin at 63.58 percent and Franklin at 64.33 percent.

	Washington State	Whatcom County
<b>General</b>		
Total Registered	4,362,454	143,265
Ballots Cast	3,127,735	110,504
<b>Turnout</b>	<b>71.70%</b>	<b>77.13%</b>
<b>Primary</b>		
Total Registered	4,299,309	138,813
Ballots Cast	1,753,545	62,717
<b>Turnout</b>	<b>40.79%</b>	<b>44.86%</b>

## Envelope Return Rate

The Whatcom County auditor's office mailed 143,265 ballots to registered voters, 1,472 were undeliverable. Almost third-quarters of the ballots — 78,675 or 71.5 percent — of the ballots were returned before election day. Last year, 53.8 percent of the primary ballots were returned before election day. Rejected ballots (578) accounted for one half of one percent of the total ballots returned.



Date	Envelopes Returned	Percent of Total Returned
September 21	(Friday: Military/Overseas Ballots Mailed)	
October 17	(Wednesday: Whatcom County Ballots Mailed)	
October 17	(Wednesday)	253
October 18	(Thursday)	17
October 19	(Friday)	27
October 22	(Monday)	2,336
October 23	(Tuesday)	6,669
October 24	(Wednesday)	8,179
October 25	(Thursday)	3,882
October 26	(Friday)	7,805
October 29	(Monday)	8,862
October 30	(Tuesday)	4,699
October 31	(Wednesday)	6,416
November 1	(Thursday)	5,963
November 2	(Friday)	6,095
November 5	(Monday)	17,742
November 6	(Tuesday: Election Day)	16,611
November 7	(Wednesday)	12,952
November 8	(Thursday)	1,005
November 9	(Friday)	535
November 12	(Monday: Courthouse closed for Veterans Day)	
November 13	(Tuesday)	497
November 14	(Wednesday)	49
November 15	(Thursday)	54
November 16	(Friday)	125
November 19	(Monday)	72
November 20	(Tuesday)	24
November 21	(Wednesday)	52
November 26	(Monday)	104
<b>Total</b>		<b>111,025*</b>

\*does not include 20 confidential ballots.