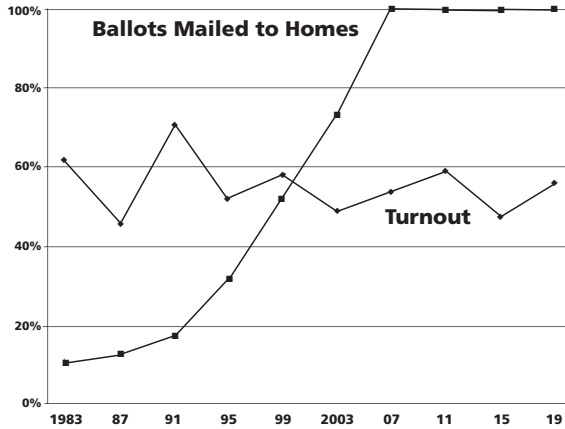


General Election Results—2019

Whatcom County General Election Turnout and Ballots Mailed to Homes 1983 – 2019



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 mayor of Bellingham appeared together was 1983.

Starting in 1915, Washington state voters were allowed to vote at home if they were unable to be present at a polling site on Election Day. In 1974, the Washington Legislature voted to allow voters to request a ballot be sent to their home 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 at their home. In 1993, the Legislature expanded voting at home to all citizens. By 2002, five rural counties were sending all ballots to homes. Whatcom County adopted home voting in 2005. All of Washington's 39 counties are currently mailing ballots to homes.

General Election	Registered Voters	Ballots Cast	Turnout Percent	Voting at Home
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%
2019	146,756	82,537	56.2	100%
Mean			55.2	

Return Envelopes Challenged

Below are the reasons ballots were rejected and the number of rejections for the last five general elections. The most common reason for rejection was late postmark. The statistics are from the Canvassing Board Reconciliation Report. The statistics represent the difference between envelopes received and ballots counted.

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Electronic	0	0	2	30	4
Late postmark	387	192	271	90	234
Missing signature	61	27	56	85	26
No signature match	229	218	170	443	146
Other	12	141	56	194	80
Ballots Rejected	689	578	555	842	490
Undeliverable	1,948	1,472	1,794	1,276	1,558
Total Challenged	2,637	2,050	2,349	2,110	2,053

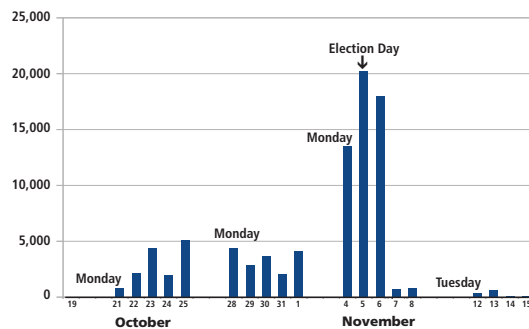
State and County Turnout

Of the 39 counties in Washington state, five counties had a higher general election turnout than Whatcom County. They were: Garfield at 63.73 percent, Columbia at 59.33 percent, Jefferson at 58.13 percent, San Juan at 57.91 and Lincoln at 56.80 percent. The five counties had a combined turnout of 12,804. The county with the lowest turnout was Yakima at 35.99 percent.

	Washington State	Whatcom County
General		
Total Registered	4,503,871	146,851
Ballots Cast	2,035,401	82,537
Turnout	45.19%	56.20%
Primary		
Total Registered	(No)	147,265
Ballots Cast	Statewide	58,184
Turnout	Primary)	39.51%

Daily Envelope Return Rate

The Whatcom County auditor's office mailed 146,851 ballots to registered voters—1,948 were undeliverable. Half of the ballots — 42,866 or 50.0 percent — were returned before election day. Last year, 71.5 percent of the ballots were returned before election day. Rejected ballots (689) accounted for 0.83 percent of the total ballots returned.



General Election	Envelopes Returned	Percent of Total Returned
September 20	(Friday: Military/Overseas Ballots Mailed)	
October 16	(Wednesday: Whatcom County Ballots Mailed)	
October 21	(Monday)	772 0.90%
October 22	(Tuesday)	2,175 2.54%
October 23	(Wednesday)	4,399 5.13%
October 24	(Thursday)	1,941 2.26%
October 25	(Friday)	5,107 5.96%
October 28	(Monday)	4,334 5.05%
October 29	(Tuesday)	2,851 3.32%
October 30	(Wednesday)	3,630 4.23%
October 31	(Thursday)	2,021 2.80%
November 1	(Friday)	4,116 4.80%
November 4	(Monday)	13,460 15.70%
November 5	(Tuesday: Election Day)	20,154 23.50%
November 6	(Wednesday)	17,932 20.91%
November 7	(Thursday)	723 0.84%
November 8	(Friday)	765 0.89%
November 11	(Monday: Courthouse closed for Veterans Day)	
November 12	(Tuesday)	325 0.38%
November 13	(Wednesday)	589 0.69%
November 14	(Thursday)	40 0.05%
November 15	(Friday)	56 0.07%
November 18	(Monday)	105 0.13%
November 19	(Tuesday)	63 0.08%
November 20	(Wednesday)	44 0.05%
November 21	(Thursday)	60 0.07%
November 22	(Friday)	26 0.03%
November 25	(Monday)	61 0.07%
Total		85,748