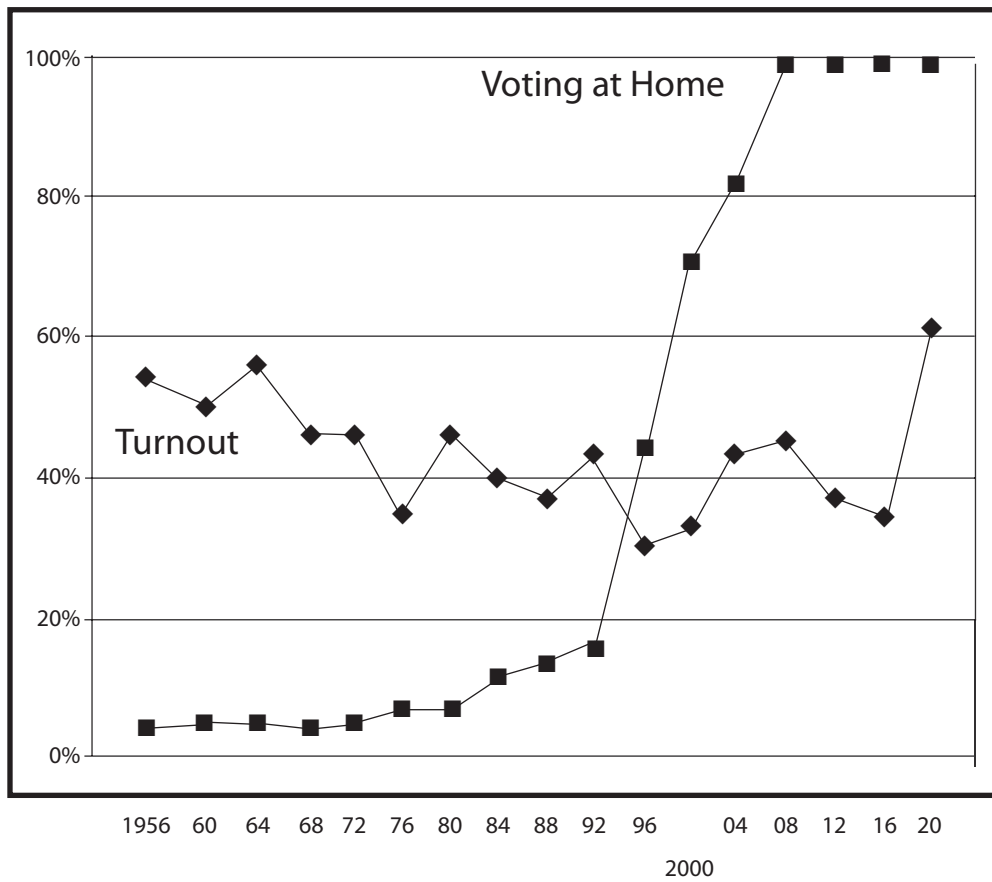


## Whatcom County Primary Elections Turnout and Voting at Home 1936 – 2020



The state Legislature voted in 1985 to voters over the age of 65 and those with disabilities to request all ballots be mailed to their home. In 1993, the Legislature voted to allow registered voters to request all ballots be mailed to their home. By 2002, five rural counties were conducting all elections by mail. Whatcom County adopted voting-by-home in 2005. All public elections in the state are conducted by mailing ballots to homes.

Primary Election	Registered Voters	Ballots Cast	Turnout Percent	Voting at Home
1936	28,808	18,925	65.7%	NA
1940	30,994	20,784	67.1%	NA
1944	26,987	12,323	45.7%	NA
1948	37,040	16,611	44.8%	NA
1952	37,017	21,665	46.9%	5.9%
1956	36,539	19,759	54.1%	4.1%
1960	36,781	18,530	50.4%	5.2%
1964	36,657	21,091	57.5%	5.8%
1968	37,496	17,362	46.3%	4.8%
1972	46,168	21,665	46.9%	5.9%
1976	51,820	18,383	35.5%	8.8%
1980	54,752	25,500	46.6%	7.8%
1984	62,214	25,196	40.5%	12.0%
1988	63,528	24,392	38.4%	14.0%
1992	72,582	31,687	43.7%	17.3%
1996	93,656	31,755	33.9%	45.0%
2000	95,652	34,794	36.4%	72.0%
2004	98,942	44,258	44.7%	83.8%
2008	107,538	50,167	46.7%	100%
2012	118,654	47,234	39.8%	100%
2016	132,362	49,088	37.1%	100%
2020	150,515	92,780	61.4%	100%
<b>Mean</b>			<b>47.4%</b>	

### 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.

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Envelopes returned	94,131	58,776	63,426	32,963	49,585
Canceled	0	0	7	0	2
Contained no ballot	2	5	1	8	3
Deceased	5	4	0	0	0
Electronic	0	0	7	0	1
Letter doesn't match envelope	0	0	19	14	21
Late postmark	655	356	438	136	315
No signature	156	41	32	27	45
No signature match	340	182	180	86	104
Power of Attorney	0	0	1	0	0
Second ballot received	185	0	21	3	7
Void	0	0	0	0	1
Wrong voter signature	0	2	3	7	6
Other	8	1	0	1	1
<b>Ballots Challenged</b>	<b>1,351</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>709</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>506</b>
Undeliverable	1,919	2,500	2,847	2,173	2,097
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,270</b>	<b>3,092</b>	<b>3,556</b>	<b>2,455</b>	<b>2,602</b>

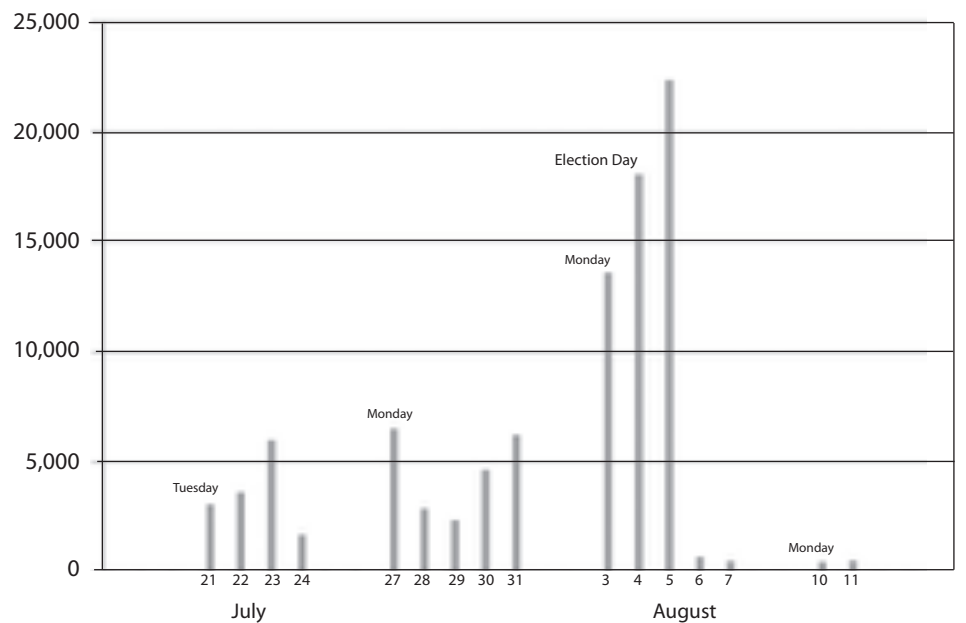
## State/Local Election Statistics

Nine counties in the state had a higher primary election turnout than Whatcom County. They were Ferry at 68.93 percent, San Juan at 68.61 percent, Garfield at 67.78 percent, Jefferson at 67.48 percent, Columbia at 65.35 percent, Lincoln at 64.25 percent, Wahkiakum at 63.88 percent, Island at 62.89 percent and Pacific at 61.69 percent. The four counties in the state with the lowest turnout were Yakima at 44.23 percent, Franklin at 48.78 percent, Spokane at 49.72 percent and Adams at 50.83 percent.

Primary	Washington State	Whatcom County
Total Registered	4,612,018	150,515
Ballots Cast	2,510,881	92,780
Turnout	54.44%	61.64%

### Daily Envelope Count

The Whatcom County auditor's office mailed 150,515 primary election ballots to registered voters; 1,919 were undeliverable. Of the 92,780 envelopes counted, a little over half — 50,301 or 54.22 percent — of the envelopes were returned before election day. Total rejected ballots: 1,351 or 1.4 percent of the 94,131 envelopes returned.



Primary Election	Envelopes Returned	Percent of Total Returned
June 19	(Friday: Military/Overseas Ballots Mailed)	
July 15	(Wednesday: Whatcom County Ballots Mailed)	
July 20	(Monday)	10 (0.01%)
July 21	(Tuesday)	3,047 (3.28%)
July 22	(Wednesday)	3,595 (3.88%)
July 23	(Thursday)	5,958 (6.42%)
July 24	(Friday)	1,658 (1.79%)
July 27	(Monday)	6,474 (6.98%)
July 28	(Tuesday)	2,846 (3.07%)
July 29	(Wednesday)	2,338 (2.52%)
July 30	(Thursday)	4,617 (4.98%)
July 31	(Friday)	6,198 (6.68%)
August 3	(Monday)	13,560 (14.62%)
August 4	(Tuesday: Election Day)	18,016 (19.42%)
August 5	(Wednesday)	22,293 (24.03%)
August 6	(Thursday)	666 (0.72%)
August 7	(Friday)	474 (0.52%)
August 10	(Monday)	436 (0.47%)
August 11	(Tuesday)	497 (0.54%)
August 12	(Wednesday)	24 (0.03%)
August 13	(Thursday)	27 (0.03%)
August 14	(Friday)	12 (0.01%)
August 17	(Monday)	9 (0.01%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>92,755*</b>	

\*This total does not include 25 confidential ballots.

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