

Primary Election Results—2023

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.

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Envelopes returned.....	58,433	75,699	54,234	94,131	58,776
Empty envelope	7	9	5	2	5
Late postmark	388	434	398	655	356
No signature	40	41	104	156	41
No signature match.....	212	283	147	340	182
Second ballot received.....	0	0	0	185	0
Other.....	0	0	0	8	13
Ballots Challenged.....	647	785	655	1,351	592
Undeliverable.....	2,007	1,968	1,957	1,919	2,500
Total	2,654	2,753	2,612	3,270	3,092

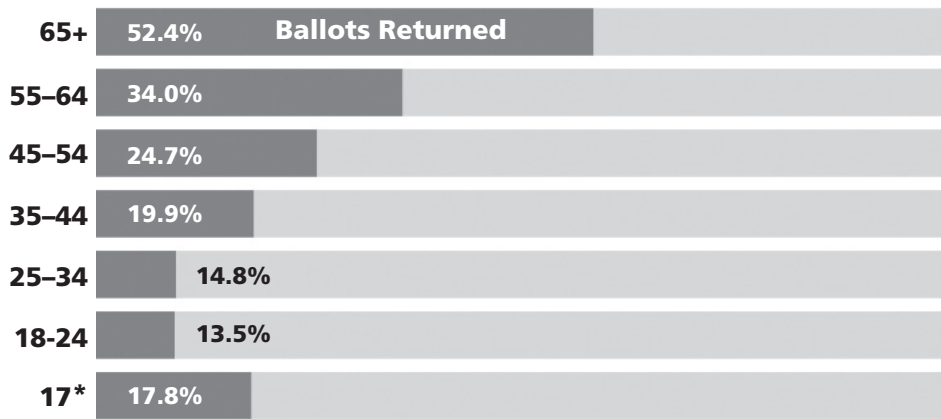
Voting Drop-Off Rate

The first column is the total number voting. The second column is the number voting on the candidate or ballot measure. 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
Whatcom County Executive	57,786	57,116	1.17%
City of Bellingham Mayor.....	23,367	22,985	1.66%
Whatcom County Council At-Large Position B	57,786	55,725	2.44%
Whatcom County Council District 4.....	12,611	12,295	2.57%
City of Bellingham Council At-Large.....	23,367	22,438	4.14%
City of Bellingham Council Ward 1	3,827	3,614	5.89%

Ballots Returned by Age Range

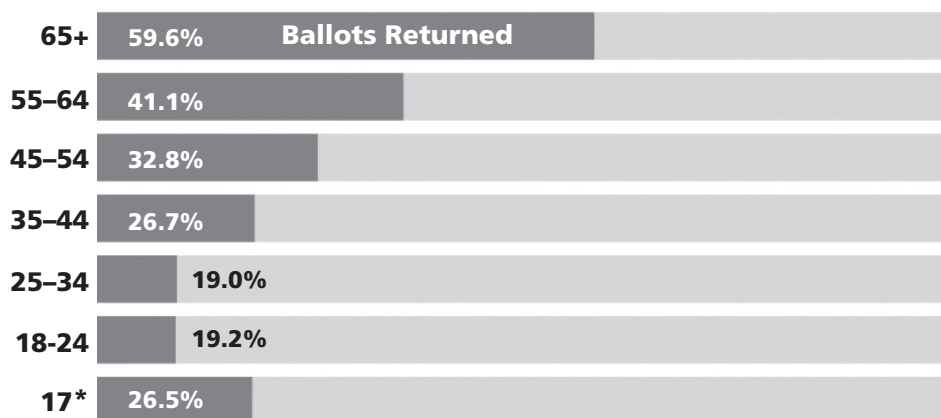
State of Washington



courtesy: state of Washington

*A 17-year-old who will be 18 by the November general election can vote in the August primary.

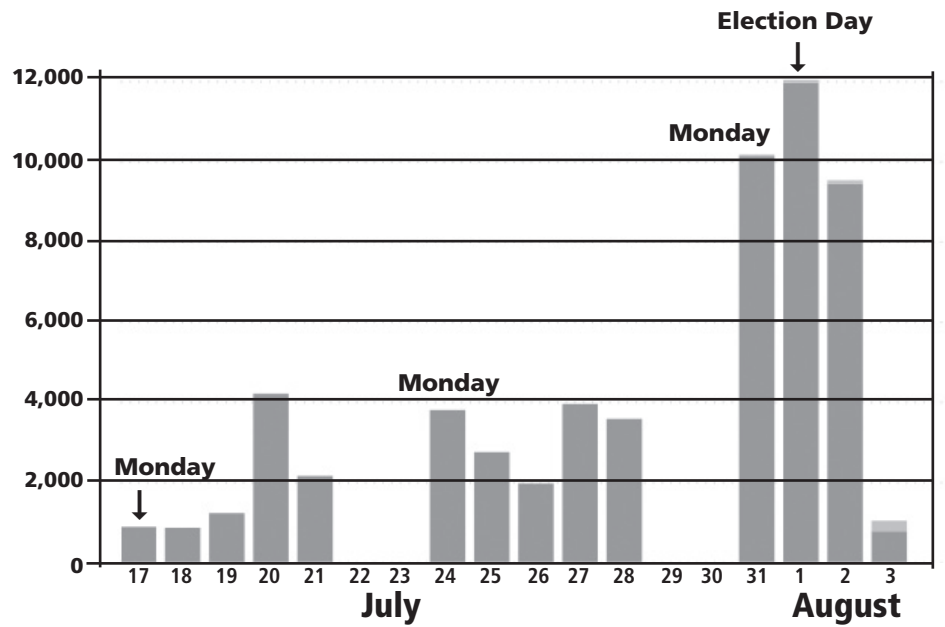
Whatcom County



courtesy: state of Washington

*A 17-year-old who will be 18 by the November general election can vote in the August primary.

Daily Envelope Returns



The Whatcom County auditor's office mailed 159,755 ballots to registered voters: 2,007 were undeliverable. Almost two-thirds of the ballots — 37,452 or 64.83 percent — were returned before election day. Envelopes challenged accounted 1.11 percent of returned ballots.

Primary Election	Ballots Returned	Percent of Total Returned
June 16.....(Friday: Military/Overseas Ballots Mailed)		
July 12..... (Wednesday: Whatcom County Ballots Mailed)		
July 13..... (Thursday)	27	0.05%
July 17..... (Monday)	878	1.52%
July 18..... (Tuesday)	855	1.48%
July 19..... (Wednesday)	1,220	2.11%
July 20..... (Thursday)	4,196	7.26%
July 21..... (Friday)	2,146	3.71%
July 24..... (Monday)	3,791	6.56%
July 25..... (Tuesday)	2,741	4.74%
July 26..... (Wednesday)	1,960	3.39%
July 27..... (Thursday)	3,938	6.80%
July 28..... (Friday)	3,569	6.18%
July 31..... (Monday)	10,131	17.54%
August 1..... (Tuesday: Election Day)	11,950	20.69%
August 2..... (Wednesday)	9,432	16.33%
August 3..... (Thursday)	770	1.33%
August 7..... (Monday)	88	0.15%
August 8..... (Tuesday)	64	0.11%
August 9..... (Wednesday)	6	0.01%
August 10..... (Thursday)	2	0.00%
August 14..... (Monday)	3	0.01%
Total	58,433	

State/Local Election Statistics

Of the 36 counties in the state with a primary, six had a higher election turnout than Whatcom County. They were Pacific at 51.27 percent, San Juan at 45.69 percent, Clallam at 38.24 percent, Okanogan at 37.81 percent, Benton at 37.51 and Klickitast at 36.85. The six counties had a total of 54,755 ballots cast. The five counties in the state with the lowest turnouts were Yakima at 19.27 percent, Clark at 19.39 percent, Grant at 20.60 percent, Pierce at 24.79 percent and Skagit at 24.92 percent.

	Washington State	Whatcom County
Primary		
Total Registered	(No	159,755
Ballots Cast*	Statewide	57,786
Turnout	Primary)*	36.17%

*The state has 39 counties. Three counties did not have a primary election: Columbia, Skamania and Wahkiakum.

How Envelopes Are Returned to the Auditor's Office

Bellingham Drop Boxes

Courthouse	9,970	25.83%
Sehome Village	4,014	10.40%
Barkley Village.....	3,388	8.78%
WCC.....	1,619	4.19%
WWU (Wade King)	407	1.05%
WWU (Red Square)	277	0.72%
Total.....	19,675	50.98%
Lynden (library)	5,743	14.88%
Ferndale (city hall).....	4,388	11.37%
Blaine (library)	1,918	4.97%
Birch Bay (fire and rescue station)	1,491	3.86%
Everson (educational credit union)	1,372	3.55%
Sudden Valley (security office turnaround)	987	2.56%
Meridian (Laurel Grange).....	746	1.93%
Deming (library)	631	1.63%
Kendall (North Fork library)	438	1.13%
Custer (elementary school)	378	0.98%
Sumas (post office)	323	0.84%
Acme (elementary school).....	162	0.42%
Point Roberts (Marketplace grocery store)	160	0.41%
Lummi Nation (administration building).....	138	0.36%
Drop box total	38,595	66.05%
U.S. Postal Service	19,733	33.77%
Email	105	0.18%
Confidential	22	0.0%
Fax	0	0.00%
Provisional.....	0	0.00%
Total envelopes returned	58,433*	

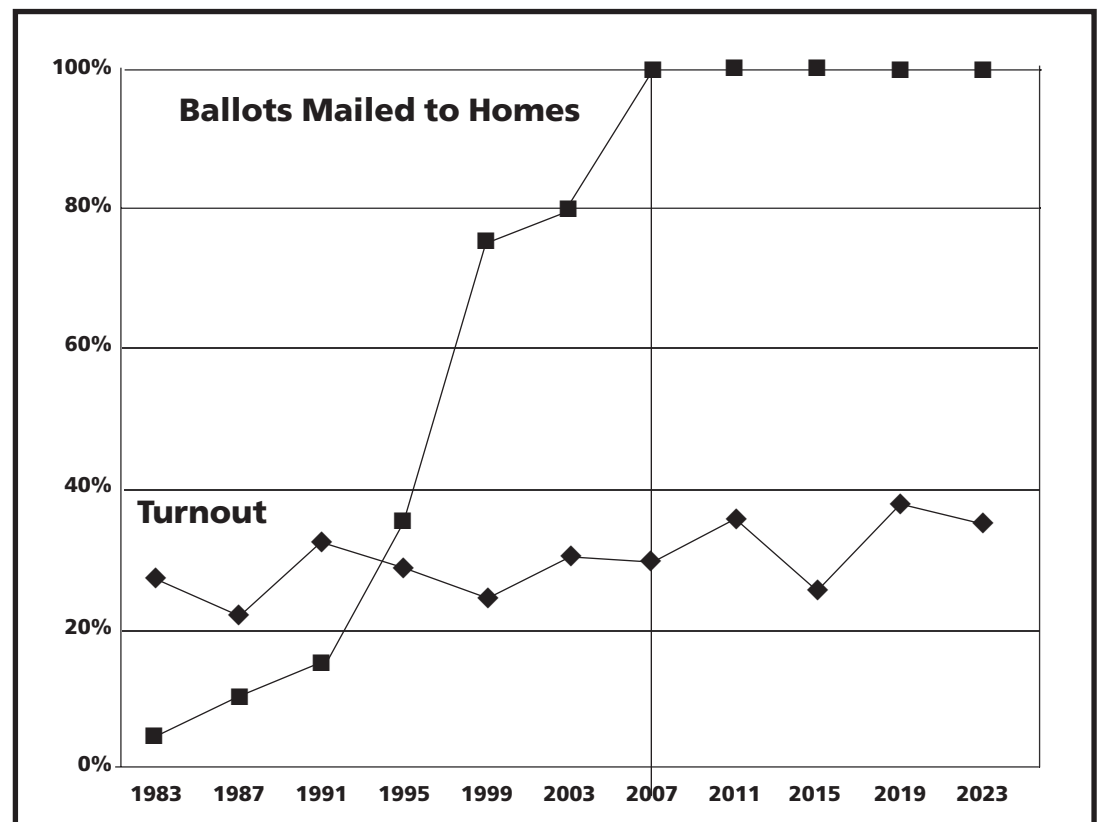
*This is the total number of envelopes returned: it includes the 647 ballots that were rejected but does not include the 2,007 undeliverable

Drop Box Return Rate

	General	Primary	Drop Boxes
2023		66%*	20
2022	70%*	69%*	20
2021	70%*	62%*	21
2020	80%*	65%*	22
2019	63%*	56%*	18
2018	59%*	55%*	18
2017	73%	66%	15
2016	78%	67%	15
2015	66%	52%	14
2014	55%	47%	9
2013	50%	39%	8
2012	41%	42%	8

*Elections with prepaid return envelopes.

Whatcom County Primary Elections Turnout and Ballots Mailed to Homes: Percentages 1983 - 2023



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 members was held on February 6, 1979, and a special general election was held on March 25, 1979. The three county commissioners were appointed to the other council positions. The first primary 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, registered voters over the age of 65 and those with disabilities were eligible to receive all future ballots at their home. Starting in 1993, all registered voters could request all ballots be sent to their home. By 2002, five rural counties were mailing all ballots to voters homes. Whatcom County starting mailing ballots to all voters in 2005. All of Washington's 39 counties are now mailing ballots to voters.

Primary Election	Registered Voters	Ballots Cast	Turnout Percent	Voting at Home
1983.....	56,385.....	16,232	28.79%.....	5.96%
1987.....	57,993.....	12,450	21.47%.....	10.68%
1991.....	61,564.....	21,048	34.19%.....	16.41%
1995.....	86,533.....	25,594	29.58%.....	36.15%
1999.....	89,117.....	16,441	24.05%.....	76.65%
2003	69,320 ¹	21,799	31.45%.....	80.33%
2007	76,511 ²	23,349	30.52%.....	100.0%
2011	118,678.....	44,260	37.30%.....	100.0%
2015	102,161 ³	25,861	25.31%.....	100.0%
2019	147,265	58,184	39.51%.....	100.0%
2023	159,755	57,786	36.17%.....	100.0%
Mean.....			30.76%	

^{1/2/3}These are the registered voters in precincts that had races on the primary ballot.

¹The total number of registered voters in Whatcom County on 9/16/2003 was 94,247.

²The total number of registered voters in Whatcom County on 8/22/2007 was 103,328.

³The total number of registered voters in Whatcom County on 9/16/2015 was 128,613.

Primary Election Results—2023

Compiled by

Bill McCallum from information on the Washington Secretary of State and Washington State Public Disclosure Commission websites, the Whatcom County Auditor's website and provided by Amy Grasher in the Whatcom County Auditor's office.

Primary Election

August 1, 2023

All positions on this page are nonpartisan.

*Incumbent

¹This figure is from the C4 financial summary through July 24, seven days before the primary.

²Pledged not to spend \$7,000 or more and not to receive aggregate contributions above \$500. Not required to file financial disclosure reports.

³This figure is from the C4 financial summary through June 30. As of October 8, he has not filed the C4 financial summaries that were due on July 24 and September 11.

Election Results			Receipts	Expenditures	Cash on Hand	Liabilities (loans/debts)
Whatcom County Executive						
19,890	34.82%	Satpal S. Sidhu*	\$85,037 ¹	\$37,298 ¹	\$47,739 ¹	\$33,043 ¹
15,829	27.71%	Dan Purdy	\$22,468 ¹	\$7,679 ¹	\$14,789 ¹	\$17,265 ¹
10,049	17.59%	Alicia Rule	\$18,790 ¹	\$6,458 ¹	\$12,332 ¹	\$12,598 ¹
7,966	13.95%	Barry Buchanan	\$7,653 ¹	\$5,367 ¹	\$2,286 ¹	\$10,532 ¹
1,820	3.19%	Misty Flowers	\$3,169 ¹	\$3,071 ¹	\$97 ¹	\$843 ¹
1,468	2.57%	Sukhwant Gill	\$18,994 ¹	\$14,471 ¹	\$4,523 ¹	\$9,373 ¹
94	0.16%	Write-In				
Whatcom County Council At-Large - Position B						
20,813	37.35%	Jon Scanlon	\$39,157 ¹	\$28,510 ¹	\$10,648 ¹	\$12,839 ¹
17,147	30.77%	Hannah Ordos	\$19,673 ¹	\$7,826 ¹	\$11,847 ¹	\$7,236 ¹
12,769	22.91%	Atul Deshmane	\$24,383 ¹	\$9,702 ¹	\$14,680 ¹	0 ¹
4,813	8.64%	Jerry Burns		Under \$7,000 ²		
183	0.33%	Write-In				
District 4						
5,669	46.11%	Mark Stremler	\$24,947 ¹	\$20,394 ¹	\$4,553 ¹	\$1,909 ¹
5,345	43.47%	Kathy Kershner*	\$66,345 ¹	\$28,781 ¹	\$37,564 ¹	0 ¹
1,252	10.18%	Katherine Orlowski		Under \$7,000 ²		
29	0.24%	Write-In				
Mayor of Bellingham						
8,440	36.72%	Seth Fleetwood*	\$25,374 ¹	\$17,741 ¹	\$7,633 ¹	\$20,512 ¹
5,813	25.29%	Kim Lund	\$56,310 ¹	\$16,565 ¹	\$39,745 ¹	0 ¹
3,639	15.83%	Mike McAuley	\$13,902 ¹	\$7,430 ¹	\$6,472 ¹	\$2,212 ¹
3,628	15.78%	Kristina Michele Martens	\$4,015 ¹	\$3,720 ¹	\$295 ¹	0 ¹
1,213	5.28%	Christopher J. McCoy	\$8,044 ³	\$6,940 ³	\$1,104 ³	0 ³
252	1.10%	Write-In				
Bellingham City Council At-Large						
7,622	33.97%	Jace Cotton	\$14,209 ¹	\$13,374 ¹	\$835 ¹	\$3,744 ¹
5,200	23.17%	Russ Whidbee	\$15,977 ¹	\$10,716 ¹	\$5,261 ¹	\$6,000 ¹
4,024	17.93%	Garrett O'Brien		Under \$7,000 ²		
2,785	12.41%	Paul Schissler	\$9,687 ¹	\$6,504 ¹	\$3,184 ¹	\$3,625 ¹
2,721	12.13%	Maya Morales	\$12,367 ¹	\$11,972 ¹	\$395 ¹	\$4,876 ¹
86	0.38%	Write-In				
Ward 1						
2,079	57.53%	Hannah Stone*	\$2,125 ¹	\$689 ¹	\$1,437 ¹	\$670 ¹
1,295	35.83%	Eamonn Collins	\$11,573 ¹	\$9,787 ¹	\$1,786 ¹	\$7,500 ¹
221	6.12%	Michi Marcher	\$1,300 ¹	\$1,001 ¹	\$299 ¹	\$670 ¹
19	0.53%	Write-In				