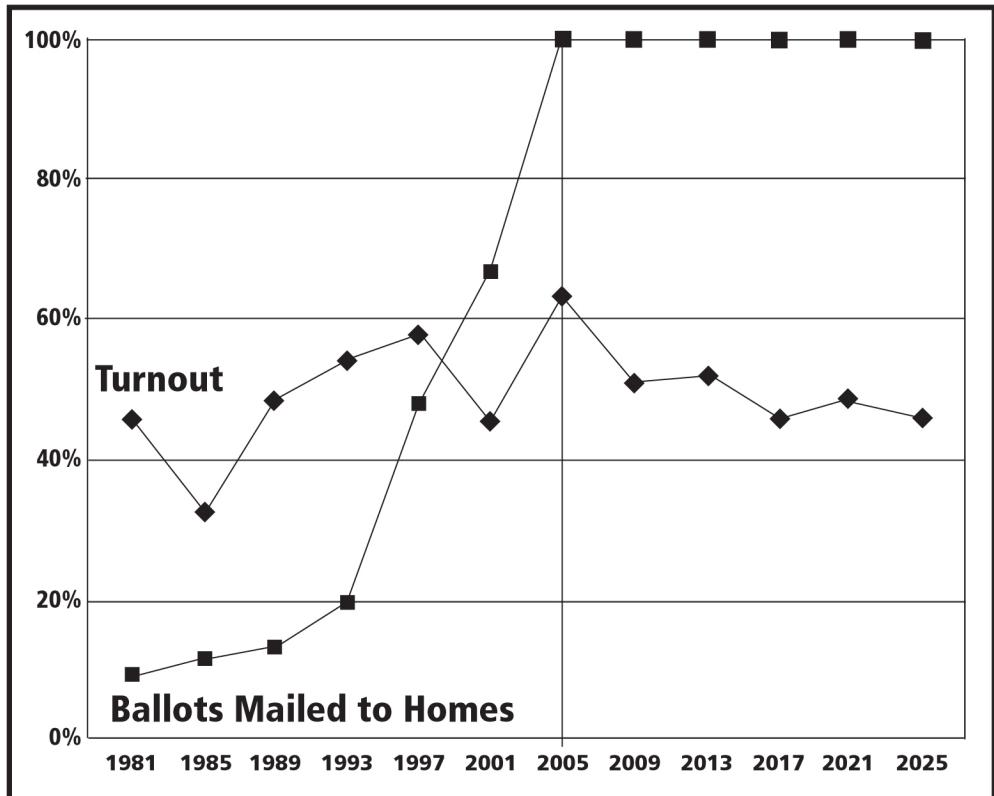


Turnout and Voting-at-Home Percentages 1981 – 2025



The at-large and position A for district 1, 2 and 3 first appeared on the 1981 ballot. At the 2015 general election, the number of districts increased from three to five and the number of at-large positions from one to two. General election voting changed from countywide to district-only except for the at-large positions.

Primary Election	Registered Voters	Ballots Cast	Turnout Percent	Voting at Home
1981	54,564	24,591	45.1	9.0%
1985	61,928	20,313	32.8	11.7%
1989	60,874	29,530	48.5	14.3%
1993	79,513	44,911	56.5	20.7%
1997	85,538	50,593	59.2	44.2%
2001	97,828	44,163	45.1	67.1%
2005	102,118	63,716	63.4	100%
2009	114,292	61,288	53.6	100%
2013	127,002	69,709	54.9	100%
2017	138,688	63,626	45.9	100%
2021	157,063	76,876	49.0	100%
2025	169,242	76,618	45.2	100%

Drop Box Return Rate

	General	Primary	Drop Boxes
2025	75%*	62%*	23
2024	77%*	73%*	23
2023	71%*	66%*	21
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.

Charter Amendments

All propositions were placed on the ballot by the Charter Review Commission.

Yes 26,560 37.23% ✓ **Proposition 1: Authorizing councilmembers to hire dedicated aides.** This measure would allow each councilmember to hire a dedicated legislative aide.

Yes 35,918 49.07% ✓ **Proposition 2: Establishing a Whatcom County office of the Ombuds.** The Ombuds would receive and investigate complaints and inquiries about county government.

Yes 62,001 85.33% ✓ **Proposition 3: Establishing performance audits.** This measure requires the County Council to establish a county performance auditing process to review, evaluate, and report on various aspects of county government.

Yes 67,059 92.15% ✓ **Proposition 4: Clarifying the power and duties of elected officials.** This measure clarifies the independence of the county elected offices and makes more consistent the terminology used to describe those offices.

Yes 56,628 79.15% ✓ **Proposition 5: Modifying the redistricting process.** This measure requires the districting committee to comply with state law on redistricting, and adjust timelines to align with the availability of census data.

Yes 33,995 46.78% ✓ **Proposition 6: Adjusting the calculation of signatures required for a referendum.** If passed, this measure would have required a proponent of a referendum to collect the signatures in an amount equal to 14 percent of the most recent county executive election.

Yes 43,647 60.59% ✓ **Proposition 7: Prohibiting county government from interfering with initiatives and charter amendments.** This measure will prohibit the County Council from acting to impede, alter, or prevent an initiative or charter amendment from being placed on the ballot.

Yes 67,706 93.39% ✓ **Proposition 8: Modifying the budget process.** This measure requires the County Executive to publish budget preparation instructions 180 days before the end of the budget cycle, requires departments and the executive to submit budget related information earlier in the budget cycle.

Yes 67,942 93.34% ✓ **Proposition 9: Adding accountability to financial reporting requirements.** This measure prohibits supplemental appropriations if the executive has not complied with mandatory financial reporting requirements.

Yes 58,991 84.08% ✓ **Proposition 10: Determining initial rules for the Charter Review Commission meetings.** The commissioner who received the greatest number of votes sets the procedural rules that will govern the first meeting of the commission until a permanent set of rules is adopted by the commission.

Yes 28,650 40.98% ✓ **Proposition 11: Adjusting the calculation of signatures required for a Charter amendment.** If passed, this measure would have required a proponent of a charter amendment to file an initiative bearing the signatures of registered voters equal to 20 percent of the most recent county executive election.

Yes 61,134 86.91% ✓ **Proposition 12: Requiring land supply and construction cost analysis.** This measure requires the executive to publish a credible analysis of how land supply and construction costs could be affected before the county amends any land use or construction section of the county code.