

General Election Results—2025

Bellingham

Proposition 2025-03 (Prohibiting Landlords from Interfering with Tenants Engaged in Protected Activities)

Yes.....	21,103	73.35%
No.....	7,666	26.65%

Blaine

Proposition 2025-07 (Reduction of City Limits)

Yes.....	1,310	64.12%
No.....	733	35.88%

Council Ward 1, Position 2

Jiggy Sorrell.....	1,059	51.96%
Eric Lewis*.....	977	47.94%
Write-In	2	0.10%

Council Ward 2, Position 4

Isaac Newland	1,257	.. 63.94%.....	197	50.90%
Ray Leone	707	.. 35.96%.....	145	37.47%
Steven Tojek.....			42	11.63%
Write-In	2 0.10%.....	3	0.57%

Council Ward 3, Position 6

Don Enos.....	1,201	61.12%
Sukhwant Gill	755	38.42%
Write-In	9	0.46%

Council At-Large, Position 7

Sarbie Bains.....	1,429	77.92%
Mike Hill	369	20.12%
Write-In	36	1.96%

Everson

Mayor

John Perry*.....	490	94.59%
Write-In	28	5.41%

Council Position 1

James Wilson.....	337	54.27%
Eric Oettel.....	283	45.57%
Write-In	1	0.16%

Council Position 2

Jennifer Lautenbach*.....	477	97.95%
Write-In	10	2.05%

Council Position 3*

Matthew Goering*.....	482	98.57%
Write-In	7	1.43%

Ferndale

Initiative 2025-01 (Restrictions on Rental Fees)

Yes.....	2,918	69.89%
No.....	1,257	30.11%

Council Position 5

Ryan O’Larey*.....	3,093	98.57%
Write-In	45	1.43%

Council Position 6

Robert J. Pinkley	2,217	.. 54.25%
Ian Harper	1,862	.. 45.56%
Write-In	8 0.20%

Council Position 7

Jon Mutchler*.....	2,327	58.1%
Steve Potvin.....	1,648	41.15%
Write-In	30	0.75%

State/Local Election Statistics

	Washington State	Whatcom County
General		
Total Registered	5,100,871	169,242
Ballots Cast	2,001,425	76,618
Turnout	39.24%	45.27%
Primary		
Total Registered	(No	138,607
Ballots Cast	Statewide	43,640
Turnout	Primary)	31.48%

Lynden

Mayor

Scott Korthuis*	3,956	96.3%
Write-In	152	3.7%

Council Position 5

Nick H. Laninga*.....	3,585	97.84%
Write-In	79	2.16%

Council Position 6

Kyle Strengholt*	3,613	98.15%
Write-In	68	1.85%

Council Position 7

Mark H. Wohlrab*.....	3,291	96.51%
Write-In	119	3.49%

Nooksack

Mayor

Kevin W. Hester*	119	3.49%
Write-In	14	4.31%

Council Position 1

Steve Neyens*.....	297	97.70%
Write-In	7	2.30%

Council Position 2

Randy Relethford*	282	98.60%
Write-In	4	1.40%

Council Position 3

Elizabeth Bahzad	281	97.57%
Write-In	7	2.43%

Sumas

Mayor

Bruce Bosch*	329	98.21%
Write-In	6	1.79%

Council Position 1

Todd Daniels*.....	297	99.00%
Write-In	3	1.00%

Council Position 2

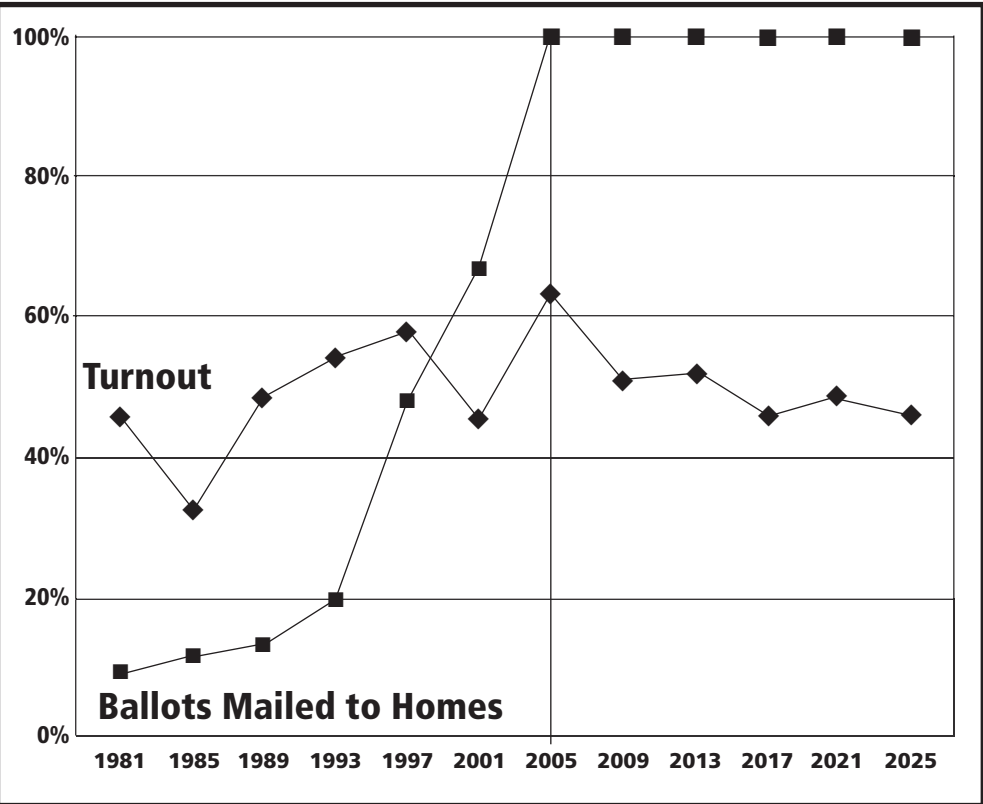
Richard D. Postma*	230	61.99%.....	114	40.71%
Brett Egbert.....	139	37.47%.....	95	33.93%
David Daniels			71	25.36%
Write-In	2	0.54%		

Council Position 4

Joshua J. Clawson*.....	300	99.01
Write-In	3	0.99%

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 postions from one to two. General election voting changed from countywide to district-only except for the at-large postions.

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.
No	44,773	62.77% ✓	
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.
No	37,276	50.93% ✓	
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.
No	10,657	14.67%	
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.
No	5,710	7.85%	
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.
No	14,913	20.85%	
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.
No	38,668	53.22% ✓	
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.
No	28,385	39.41%	
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.
No	4,793	6.61%	
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.
No	4,845	6.66%	
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.
No	11,169	15.92%	
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.
No	41,263	59.02% ✓	
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.
No	9,207	13.09%	

How Envelopes Are Returned to the Auditor

Bellingham drop boxes		
Courthouse (parking lot)	11,359	14.69%
Barkley (3055 Woburn).....	7,168.....	9.27%
Sehome Village.....	6,217	8.04%
Whatcom Community College.....	2,818.....	3.64%
Courthouse (rotunda/lobby)	2,066.....	2.67%
WWU — Red Square.....	867	1.12%
WWU — Wade King.....	635.....	0.82%
WWU — HUB.....	178.....	0.23%
Total	31,308.....	40.49%
Lynden drop box (library)		
Lynden drop box (library)	7,904.....	10.22%
Ferndale drop box (city hall)	5,927	7.67%
Blaine drop box (library).....	2,542.....	3.29%
Birch Bay drop box (fire and rescue station)	2,081.....	2.69%
Everson drop box (Educational Credit Union).....	2,079.....	2.69%
Sudden Valley drop box (Gate 1).....	1,694.....	2.19%
Deming drop box (library)	907	1.17%
Meridian drop box (Laurel Grange)	897.....	1.16%
Kendall drop box (North Fork library).....	640.....	0.83%
Sumas drop box (behind post office)	591.....	0.76%
Custer drop box (elementary school)	566.....	0.73%
Lummi Nation drop box (administration building).....	316.....	0.41%
Point Roberts drop box (Marketplace grocery store).....	265.....	0.34%
Maple Falls drop box (post office).....	239.....	0.31%
Acme drop box (elementary school).....	166.....	0.21%
*Drop box total	58,122	75.17%
U.S. Postal Service	18,922	24.47%
Email.....	271.....	0.35%
**Confidential (Address Confidentiality Program)	29	
Fax.....	3.....	0.00%
Total ballots returned	77,318	
*Drop box percentages are based on this total.		
**Not included in total ballots returned.		

Voting Drop-Off Rate

The first column is the total number voting in the general election. The second column is the number voting on ballot measures, legislative or judicial positions. The third column is the second column subtracted from the first column and reflected as a percent.

	Total Voting	Voted On	Not Voting
Whatcom County			
Prop. 2 (Establish an ombuds).....	76,618.....	73,194	4.47%
Prop. 9 (Financial reporting accountability) ...	76,618.....	72,787	5.01%
Prop. 4 (Elected officials duties).....	76,618.....	72,769	5.03%
County Council, District 3	15,815.....	15,002	5.15%
Prop. 3 (Performance audits)	76,618.....	72,658	5.17%
Prop. 6 (Referendum signatures required).....	76,618.....	72,663	5.17%
Prop. 8 (Modifing budget process)	76,618.....	72,499	5.38%
Prop. 7 (Prohibing government interference)....	76,618.....	72,032	5.99%
County Council, At-Large-Position A	76,618.....	71,673	6.46%
Prop. 5 (Modifing redistricting process)	76,618.....	71,541	6.63%
Prop. 1 (Hire council aides).....	76,618.....	71,333	6.90%
Port of Bellingham, District 2	76,618.....	70,625	7.83%
Prop. 12 (Land supply analysis).....	76,618.....	70,341	8.20%
Prop. 10 (Initial charter rules)	76,618.....	70,160	8.43%
County Council, District 2	16,100.....	14,700	8.70%
Prop. 11 (Charter admendment signatures)....	76,618.....	69,913	8.76%
Prop 2025-04 (Expand port commission)	76,618.....	69,775	8.94%
State Senate Joint Resolution 8201	76,618.....	68,862	10.13%
County Council, District 1*.....	14,667.....	11,250	23.29%
Port of Bellingham, District 1*	76,618.....	51,424	32.89%
*Unopposed			

City of Bellingham

Initiative 2025-03	31,011.....	28,769	7.23%
City Council, District 6	31,011.....	28,040	9.59%
City Council, District 4	31,011.....	27,592	11.03%
City Council, District 2	31,011.....	27,469	11.43%
City Council, At-Large*	31,011.....	22,757	26.62%
Municipal Court Judge*	31,011.....	21,499	30.68%
*Unopposed			

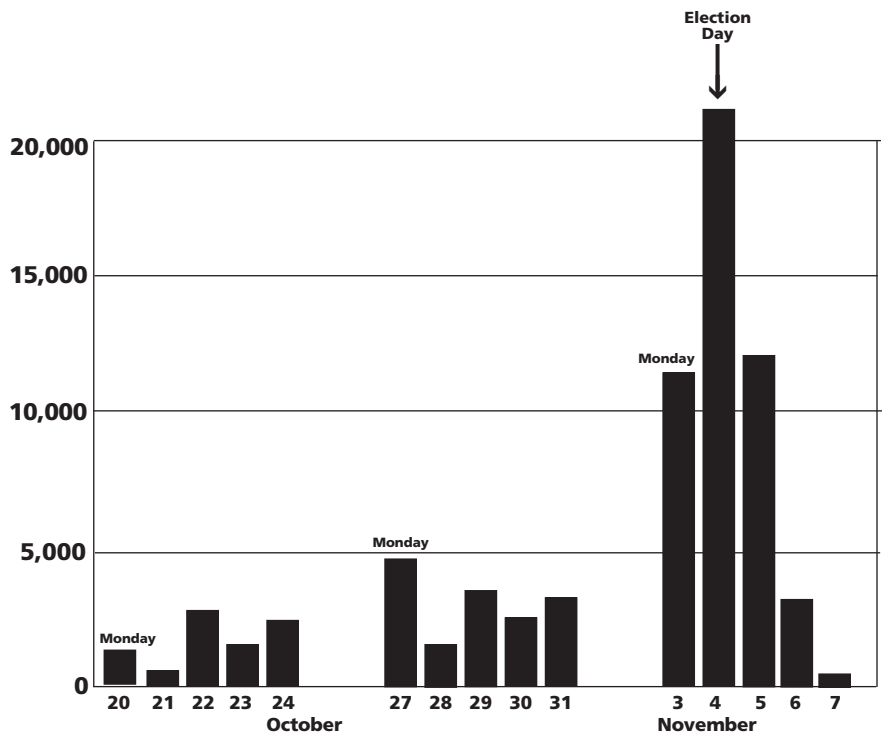
Washington State Ballot Measure

SJR 8201 (Allow money in Washington’s long-term care fund to be invested as authorized by law)				
	Washington State		Whatcom County	
Approved	1,105,304	57.82%✓	42,185	61.26%
Rejected	806,299	42.18%	26,677	38.74%

Whatcom County Ballot Measure

Proposition 2025-04 (Increase the number of port commissioners from three to five and create five commissioner districts. The two new commissioners will be elected in the November 2026, general election.)				
Yes.....	45,464	65.16% ✓		
No.....	24,311	34.84%		

Daily Envelope Returns



The Whatcom County auditor’s office mailed 169,242 ballots to registered voters; 2,110 were undeliverable. Approximately one-third of the ballots — 25,555 or 32.9 percent — were returned before election week. Envelopes challenged accounted for less than one percent of ballots returned.

	Envelopes Returned	Percent of Total Returned
September 19	(Friday: Military/Overseas Ballots Mailed)	
October 15.....	(Wednesday: Whatcom County Ballots Mailed)	
October 15.....	(Wednesday)	86..... 0.11%
October 16.....	(Thursday)	4..... 0.01%
October 17.....	(Friday)	19..... 0.02%
October 20.....	(Monday)	1,386..... 1.79%
October 21.....	(Tuesday)	586..... 0.76%
October 22.....	(Wednesday)	2,984..... 3.85%
October 23.....	(Thursday)	1,595..... 2.06%
October 24.....	(Friday)	2,534..... 3.27%
October 27.....	(Monday)	4,896..... 6.31%
October 28.....	(Tuesday)	1,665..... 2.15%
October 29.....	(Wednesday)	3,759..... 4.85%
October 30.....	(Thursday)	2,616..... 3.37%
October 31.....	(Friday)	3,425..... 4.42%
November 3	(Monday)	12,247..... 15.79%
November 4	(Tuesday: Election Day) ...	22,307..... 28.57%
November 5	(Wednesday)	12,741..... 16.42%
November 6	(Thursday)	3,342..... 4.31%
November 7	(Friday)	138..... 0.18%
November 11	(Tuesday: Courthouse closed for Veterans’ Day)	
November 12	(Wednesday)	161..... 0.21%
November 13	(Thursday)	25..... 0.03%
November 14	(Friday)	9..... 0.01%
November 17	(Monday).....	1..... 0.00%
November 18	(Tuesday)	13..... 0.02%
November 24	(Monday).....	1..... 0.00%
Total	77,574	

General Election Results—2025

Compiled by
Bill McCallum from information on the Washington Secretary of State and the state Public Disclosure Commission websites. Also, he compiled information from the Whatcom County Auditor’s website, with thanks to Rebecca Rouse in the Whacom County Auditor’s office for additional information.

Primary Election
August 5, 2025

General Election
November 4, 2025

Only positions with three or more candidates appear on the primary ballot.

All of the financial information on this page was obtained from the C4 form, and a summary of receipts and expenditures filed with the Public Disclosure Commission. For candidates defeated in the primary, the final C4 report was due on October 10. For candidates in the general election, the C4 report through November 30 was due on December 10.

All positions on this page are nonpartisan.

*Incumbent

¹The candidate checked the mini reporting option on the C1, the candidate registration form. Pledged not to spend more over \$7,000 and not to receive single contributions above \$200 — not required to file disclosure reports.

²This figure is through November 30.

³This figure is through December 9.

⁴This figure is through August 26.

⁵This figure is through August 31.

General Election			Primary Election	Receipts	Expenses	Cash on Hand	Liabilities (loans and debts)
Port of Bellingham District 1							
50,480	98.16%	Michael A. Shepard*		6,041 ³	6,041 ³	0 ³	0 ³
944	1.84%	Write-In					

District 2								
36,028	51.01%	Carly James	5,787	35.97%	\$26,105 ²	\$26,084 ²	\$19.56 ²	0 ²
34,464	48.80%	Ken Bell*	9,486	58.96%	\$25,184 ²	\$23,825 ²	\$1,359 ²	\$2,500 ²
		Kaylin A. Bosley	749	4.66%	\$60.00	\$60.00	0	0
133	0.19%	Write-In	66	0.41%				

Whatcom County Council At-Large — Position A							
45,223	63.10%	Barry A. Buchanan*		\$22,764 ²	\$19,029 ²	\$3,734 ²	\$1,750 ²
26,277	36.66%	Misty Flowers		\$17,964 ²	\$16,173 ²	\$1,793 ²	0 ²
173	0.24%	Write-In					

District 1

11,114	98.79%	Kaylee Galloway*				\$18,415 ²	\$5,661 ²	\$12,754 ²	0 ²
136	1.21%	Write-In							

District 2								
10,452	71.10%	Elizabeth Boyle	5,475	54.23%	\$43,374 ²	\$43,238 ²	\$136 ²	0 ²
4,180	28.44%	Maya Morales	2,449	24.26%	\$25,076 ²	\$24,729 ²	\$347 ²	\$19,352 ²
		Mike Cullum	2,126	21.06%	\$13,738 ⁴	\$13,738 ⁴	0 ⁴	0 ⁴
68	0.46%	Write-In	46	0.46%				

District 3									
8,513	56.75%	Jessica Rienstra	5,569	49.61%	\$59,886 ²	\$58,453 ²	\$1,433 ²	\$4,250	
6,462	43.07%	Kyle Christensen	2,555	22.76%	\$56,817 ²	\$56,107 ²	\$710 ²	0 ²	
		Tyler Byrd*	2,299	20.48%	\$30,203 ²	\$22,864 ²	\$7,437 ²	0 ²	
		Daniel Probst	768	6.84%	\$2,840 ⁵	\$2,792 ⁵	\$47.61 ⁵	0 ⁵	
27	0.18%	Write-In	35	0.31%					

Bellingham Municipal Court Judge								
21,217	98.69%	Debra Lev*				under \$7,001 ¹		
282	1.31%	Write-In						

Bellingham City Council At-Large									
22,379	98.34%	Jace Cotton*				\$923 ²	\$718 ²	\$205 ²	0 ²
378	1.66%	Write-In							

Ward 2							
17,572	63.97%	Hollie Huthman*		\$27,448 ²	\$27,448 ²	0 ²	0 ²
9,796	35.66%	Leah Wainman		\$28,086 ²	\$27,577 ²	\$509 ²	\$6,754 ²
101	0.37%	Write-In					

Ward 4							
17,327	62.80%	Skip Williams*		\$31,651 ²	\$31,394 ²	\$257 ²	\$5,000 ²
10,166	36.84%	Kerri Burnside		\$25,718 ²	\$25,718 ²	0 ²	0 ²
99	0.36%	Write-In					

Ward 6							
16,351	58.31%	Michael W. Lilliquist*		\$30,329 ²	\$28,571 ²	\$1,758 ²	0 ²
11,575	41.28%	Andrew Reding		\$23,680 ²	\$22,628 ²	\$1,052 ²	\$1,500 ²
114	0.41%	Write-In					

General Election Results—2025

Return Envelopes Challenged

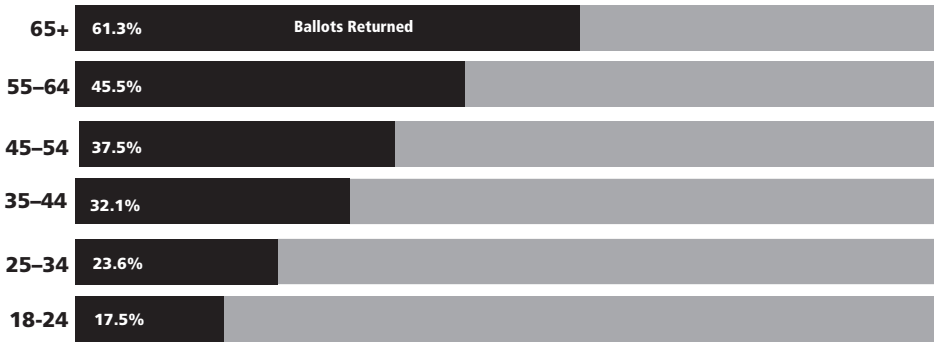
Below are the reasons ballots were rejected and the number of rejections for the last five general elections. The most common reason for rejection, by far, a late postmark. The statistics are from the Canvassing Board Reconciliation Report. The statistics represent the difference between envelopes received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

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Empty envelope.....	4	77	8	17	9
ID required	0	9	1	2	1
Late postmark/deposit	455	155	430	246	365
No signature on envelope	65	204	79	57	64
No signature match	175	770	385	247	271
Other	0	10	0	0	0
Envelopes Challenged.....	699	1,225	903	569	710
Undeliverable	2,110	1,735	1,752	1,431	1,968
Total Challenged.....	2,809	2,960	2,655	2,000	2,678

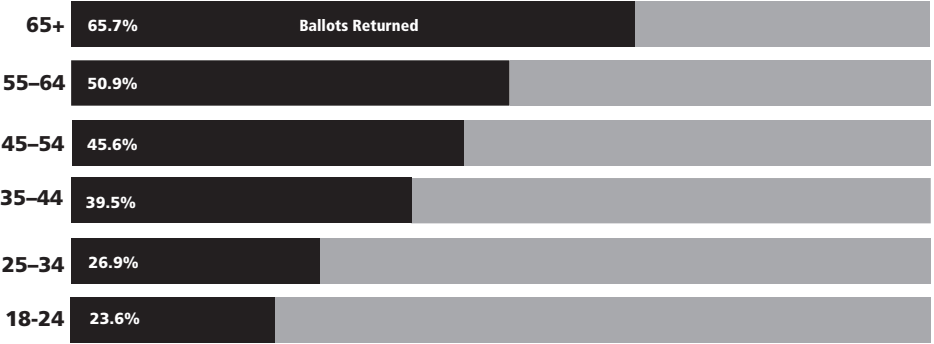
City/County/Port Turnout

	Registered Voters	Ballots Cast	Percent Voting
Whatcom County	169,242	76,618	45.27%
Port Of Bellingham	169,242	76,618	45.27%
Bellingham.....	65,000	31,011	47.71%
Blaine.....	4,967	2,171	43.71%
Everson	1,862	745	40.01%
Ferndale	11,080	4,422	39.91%
Lynden	11,878	6,076	51.15%
Nooksack	1,139	426	37.40%
Sumas	1,103	396	35.81%

State of Washington Ballots Returned by Age Range



Whatcom County Ballots Returned by Age Range



Whatcom County Democratic Central Committee

P.O. Box 3095, Bellingham WA 98225; 360-647-7661 — whatcomofcdems@gmail.com — Treasurer: Ethan Sayler 360-647-7661

Party Committee

Starting Balance: \$31,598 Contributions: \$98,420 Total Raised: \$130.017 Expenditures: \$97,450 Liabilities: \$0.00 Surplus: \$31,180

Contributions by individual (Contributions above \$999)

Martinus Nickerson (Bellingham-cash) \$10,000; Sheila Nickerson (Bellingham-cash) \$5,000; Alex Remel Surplus Funds (Bellingham-cash) \$4,000; Sandra Clover Dixon (Bellingham-cash) \$2,000; Pandora Lerner (Bellingham-cash) \$1,250; Sara Mostad (Bellingham-cash) \$1,240; William Budmats (Bellingham-cash) \$1,210; Thomas Brakke (Bellingham-cash) \$1,160; Kevin Stray (Bellingham-cash) \$1,150; Sidhu Satpal (Lynden-cash) \$1,110; Elizabeth Boyle (Bellingham-cash) \$1,090; and David Porter (Bellingham-cash) \$1,000.

Contributions by catagory

Individual: \$92,961 — 94.5 percent; Other: \$4,559 — 4.6 percent; Business: \$900 — 0.9 percent;.

Whatcom County Republican Party

424 W. Bakerview Road, Ste 105-2078, Bellingham, WA 98226; 360-734-5212 — info@whatcomgop.com — Treasurer: John Parks 360-734-5212

Party Committee

Starting Balance: \$16,842 Contributions: \$81,495 Total Raised: \$98,337 Expenditures: \$88,490 Liabilities: \$0.00 Surplus: \$8,017

Contributions by individual (Contributions above \$1,000)

Charlie Crabtree (Bellingham-cash) \$3,605; Pacific Growers (Blaine-cash) \$2,500; Dave Van Wingerden (Blaine-cash) \$2,307; Bettelou Erickson (Ferndale-cash) \$3,735; Mills Electric (Bellingham-cash) \$2,000; Tom Bajema (Bellingham-cash) \$2,190; Joe Elenbaas (Bellingham-cash) \$2,100; Scholton’s Equipment (Lynden-in-kind) \$1,800; Nancy Button (Bellingham-in-kind) \$1,683; Ben Elenbaas (Ferndale-cash) \$1,630; Leslie Parks (Bellingham-cash) \$1,475; Small Contributions (cash) \$1,412; Charles Reinhart (Ferndale-cash) \$1,400; Jason Reimer (Blaine-in-kind) \$1,365; and Maria Miller (Bellingham-cash) \$1,009.

Contributions by catagory

Individual: \$58,713 — 72.0 percent; Business: \$11,151 — 13.7 percent; Other: \$6,998 — 8.6 percent; Lost-cost fundraiser: \$4,633 — 5.7 percent.