

# Clallam County Voter Research Project

## Spring 2022 Canvassing Report

*The Clallam County Voter Research Project was formed via The Washington Voter Research Project in the fall of 2021 by a group of volunteers in Washington State who share a common interest in election integrity. Our goal is to help to clean the voter rolls and ensure that our votes are not just counted, but also that they are not cancelled by fraud, error, or other discrepancies. Voting integrity is a worthy goal for all people who care about our fundamental right to vote.*

### Executive Summary

From October 2021 to March 2022, a team of volunteers conducted door-to-door canvassing in Clallam County, Washington to assess voter registration accuracy. Our team canvassed 331 addresses, at which there were 865 registered voters. We recorded 300 anomalies (about a 91 % anomaly rate per household).

Volunteer canvassers gathered feedback from residents from most of the addresses and wrote up affidavits when anomalies were found. Within this sampling, the Clallam County Voter Research Project identified voter registrations that were inaccurate, invalid, or fraudulent.

### General Findings:

- There is a documented need for improvement in the maintenance of the voter registration database, and a request for a thorough review and update of the voter rolls in Clallam County.
- We found an average of 91% of addresses canvassed had a voter anomaly.
- 35 % of the total registered voters were anomalies.
- 30 % of the anomalies were for the total registered voters who no longer live at their registered address.

## Project Scope

The purpose of this canvassing project was to assess the accuracy of the voter rolls in Clallam County, and to identify voter anomalies.

For the purpose of this report, the term “anomaly” refers to a finding that a voter had moved out of their registered address as listed on the voter roll prior to October 1<sup>st</sup> 2020, deceased voters, vacant lots, non-existent addresses, etc.

It is important to note that a voter anomaly represents a problem that may need to be addressed, and warrants further investigation so corrective action can be initiated to ensure that our elections are conducted accurately and fairly.

## Approach

Using a list of voter addresses provided by the Washington Voter Research Project, volunteer canvassers visited each address and interviewed the occupants. We introduced ourselves to the occupants as volunteer canvassers and explained the reason for the visit; to help clean voter rolls and to confirm the accuracy of the voter registration data.

Canvassers asked if occupants had any issues with their November 2020 ballot, showed the occupant the list of voters registered at that address and asked if those listed as registered voters still lived there. Canvassers did not ask questions regarding the occupant’s voting preferences or candidates of choice, nor did they ask questions about citizenship.

When an occupant identified a registered voter who no longer resided at the address, canvassers asked additional questions to try to determine when the non-resident voter moved out. Where anomalies were found, canvassers recorded each occupant’s responses in an affidavit prepared and signed by the canvasser(s). A total of 193 affidavits were created during this project.

## Other Findings:

- 12 registered voters are on record as living at addresses that do not exist.
- Dozens of registered voters were unknown by the current resident(s)
- At east 7 registered voters never lived at the registered address
- 5 registered voters are listed at addresses that are vacant lots
- 3 registered voters are deceased.

**Note:** Although attempts were made to canvass addresses that are rehabilitation and/or memory care facilities, the facilities would not permit gathering of information from the residents, so voter registration accuracy cannot be confirmed.

## Resident Responses

The following are actual quotes from some of the occupants that were interviewed. They are widely representative of the types of comments that were received and captured in affidavits.

- *“He moved out 3 years ago.”*
- *“He has not lived here for 15 years.”*
- *“He moved to Hawaii 2 years ago.”*
- *“The location is a vacant lot.”*
- *“The address does not exist.”*
- *“He was moved into a memory care facility in August 2021.”*
- *“She never lived here.”*
- *“If he ever lived here, it wasn’t after 2019.”*
- *“He is the landlord but he lives in Alaska.”*
- *“There is no such address. This location is a new subdivision”*
- *“He moved out in May 2019.”*
- *“She lived here prior to 2020.”*
- *“He moved to New Mexico in August 2020.”*

## Conclusion

Based on these findings and the percentage of issues found in the canvassing sample, maintenance of the voter rolls must be reviewed and updated regularly to prevent the continuation and causation of the issues identified above.

## Request for Action

The Clallam County Voter Research Project presents this information in the interests of transparency and goodwill. We invite the Clallam County Auditor’s Office to review our findings by contacting us to request the source data for this report.

## We encourage the Auditor’s office to

1. Investigate the voter discrepancies identified in the data.
2. Update the registration of voters whose information is incorrect.

3. Conduct a thorough assessment of the voter registration list maintenance procedures and frequency of activities and identify action items to improve the timeliness of changes to the voter registration database.
4. Make available to the public the actions taken to maintain accurate voter registration data and the results from the maintenance efforts, per request.

The Clallam County Voter Research Project volunteers plan to keep assisting the auditor in cleaning the voter rolls, will continue scrutinizing the maintenance of the voter registration database to identify additional discrepancies, in the hope that the Clallam County Auditor's Office will increase their maintenance activities to improve the accuracy of the voter rolls.

Working in collaboration will ensure that the voter registration database is kept accurate and up to date, and that only lawful votes are counted.

Respectfully,

Clallam County Voter Research Project