

Jefferson County Voter Research Project

Canvassing Report: Spring 2022

Background:

According to a December 10, 2021, Rasmussen Reports poll of US National Likely Voters¹:

- 56% say cheating was likely in the 2020 elections
- 60% say preventing cheating is more important than making it easier to vote
- 75% say requiring Photo ID to vote is a reasonable measure to protect the integrity of elections
- 90% think it is Important to prevent cheating in elections, including 83% who say it is Very Important

The Washington Voter Research Project was formed in the summer of 2021 by a group of volunteers in Washington State who share a common interest in election integrity and ensuring that our votes count. Our goal is to ensure that our votes are not just “counted,” but also to ensure that they are not “cancelled” by fraud, incompetence, or other problems which can often occur in any complex, government run, bureaucratic system. Voting integrity is a worthy goal for all people who care about our fundamental right to vote.

Executive Summary

Over the past several months, a small team of volunteers conducted door to door canvassing of approximately 127 addresses in Jefferson County, WA. We spoke with the occupants of these addresses. We obtained information on 451 voters and identified a total of voters 199 who have moved but were still registered to vote at their previous address. We identified 58 voters who moved out more than 30 days before the November 2020 election, and yet still cast a vote in that election from their previous address. We identified an additional 35 voters who moved out more than 30 days before the August 2021 primary, and still voted in that election from their previous address. We also identified 5 voters who had died but were still registered to vote.

¹ <https://twitter.com/RasmussenPoll/status/1469354742828740617>

Scope

The purpose of this canvassing project is to assess the accuracy of the voter rolls in Thurston County, and to identify voter anomalies. Oxford English Dictionary defines an anomaly as “something that deviates from what is standard, normal, or expected.” A voter anomaly is a voter registration that appears to deviate from the legal and statutory requirements to be a qualified elector under Washington law and to vote in Washington elections.

In this report, we will use the term “voter anomaly” to refer to:

- A voter who cast a vote from an address where they do not reside
- A voter who received multiple ballots for the same person
- A voter who is registered to vote at a non-residential, vacant, or nonexistent address.

It is important to note that a voter anomaly represents potential fraud, waste, abuse, or error. We cannot assume that every anomaly is fraudulent. Each anomaly warrants further investigation and inquiry. We do not intend to be accusatory. We are bringing these anomalies to light so that they can be further investigated, and corrective action can be initiated as needed to ensure that our elections are being conducted lawfully.

Approach

We identified addresses with a high likelihood of voter anomalies using publicly available information. Our volunteers then knocked on the doors of those addresses and interviewed the occupants. First, we generated a list of possible voter anomalies. We obtained the June 2021 and August 2021 voter registration databases from the Washington Secretary of State. We cross checked the databases against other data sources to identify addresses where, for example, voters may have moved but are still registered at their previous address. We then assembled a small team of volunteers who went door to door. Our volunteers would knock on the door, introduce themselves to the occupant, and explain the reason for the visit. We asked if they had any problems with their November 2020 ballot. We would show the occupant the list of voters registered at that address and ask if those registered voters still lived there. We did not ask anyone which candidate they voted for, and we did not ask any questions about citizenship.

When the occupant identified a registered voter who no longer resided at that address, we asked additional questions to try to determine how long ago the nonresident voter moved out. Our volunteers recorded that information in a signed affidavit. We collected a total of 173 affidavits in this project.

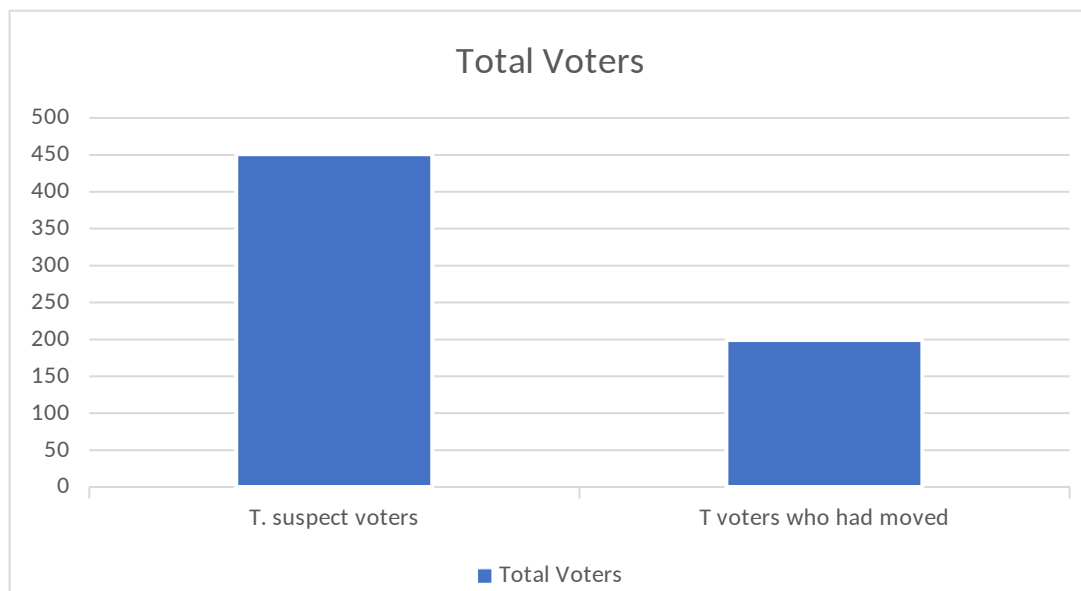
The move date for these voters is the most recent of either:

- The date that the occupant with personal knowledge of the voter indicated that the voter moved out. For example, if the occupant said, “He moved out in June 2019”, we recorded a move date of 6/30/2019. Or,
- The date that the current occupant moved in. For example, if the occupant said, “I moved in August 2017 and they haven’t been here since I moved in”, we recorded the move date as 8/31/2017.

The move date used in this analysis is likely understated, especially if the occupant we spoke to had no personal knowledge of the missing voter.

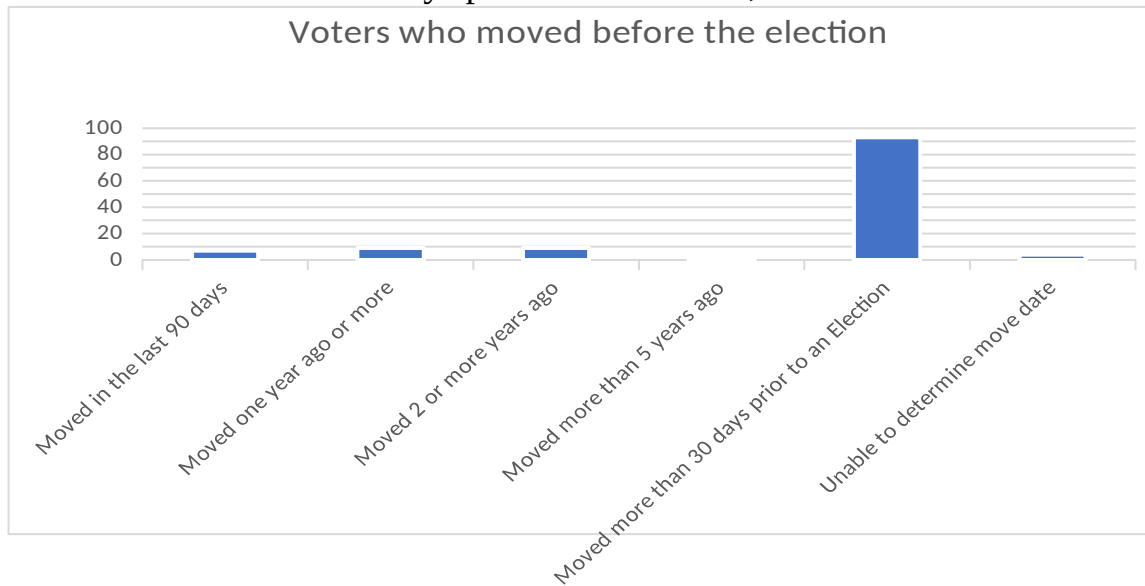
Findings

199 voters (44%) out of 451 suspect voters had moved but were still registered at their previous address.



Of the 199 voters that had moved, 7 had moved in the past 90 days; 9 of them had moved one year ago or more; 9 had moved two or more years ago, but were still registered to that address; 3 voters had moved more than five years ago. We were unable to estimate a move date for 4 voters. 93 voters (21%) had not lived at that

address for more than 30 days prior to an election, and still voted in that election.



Article VI, Section 1 of the Constitution of the State Washington requires a qualified voter to establish residency at least 30 days prior to an election. RCW 29A.04.151 further defines a residence as “a person's permanent address where he or she physically resides and maintains his or her abode.”

Voters who move more than 30 days prior to an election, but still vote in that election without updating their residence address, are voter anomalies. We found 199 voter anomalies who had moved or otherwise had not resided at that address more than 30 days prior to voting in an election. We identified 58 voters who changed residence more than 30 days before the November 3, 2020 election and still voted in that election from that address. We found an additional 35 voters who moved more than 30 days before the August 2, 2021 primary and still voted in that primary from that address.

For the sake of simplicity, we are assuming that the voter anomalies actually lived at that address in the past. For some of these, it could be the case that the voter never lived there at all. Several occupants that we spoke to recognized the name of the voter anomaly as someone that they knew and said, “he (she) has never lived here.” Some of these voter anomalies may indeed be lawful voters. The federal UOCAVA act gives U.S. citizens who live overseas the right to vote by absentee ballot. RCW 29A.04.151 gives four exceptions to the residency requirement:

- (1) While employed in the civil or military service of the state or of the United States;
- (2) While engaged in the navigation of the waters of this state or the United States or the high seas;
- (3) While a student at any institution of learning;
- (4) While confined in any public prison.

Pictures of Addresses that are questionable:



The above picture is located at 5812 Beaver Valley Rd, Chimacum WA. Two voters are registered at this address. Both voted in the 2020 election. There is no Septic on the property and the neighbor said there is occasional RV usage of the property.

We found 5 voters who had died but were still listed in the voter registration database. Four of those voters died in 2021, one died in 2019.

Selected Quotes from affidavits.

“Two of the four listed do not live here but we still receive junk mail for them.”

Owner of Rental: “The couple moved out in August of 2020 to Sequim”

“Two of my children listed here no longer live here. One lives in Bellingham, the other lives in Cape George.

“Only one of the four listed lives here. One has moved to Georgia, the other two live in the area”

“My son no longer lives here. He moved to Olympia in August 2020.”

Conclusion

We present this information in the interests of transparency and goodwill. We invite the Jefferson County Auditor’s Office to contact us to request our source data for this report, and to aid further investigation. We encourage the Auditor’s office to:

1. Investigate, on an individual basis, the voter anomalies identified in the data
2. Update the registration of voters whose registration information is incorrect
3. Conduct a thorough assessment of their voter registration list maintenance procedures and frequency of activities, and identify action items to improve the timeliness of changes to the voter registration database, and
4. Report back to the public on the results of these efforts on a regular basis

Our volunteers plan to continue scrutinizing the maintenance of the voter registration database in Thurston County, and we hope that the Thurston County Auditor’s Office is willing to engage in a collaborative effort to ensure that the voter registration database is kept accurate and up to date, and that only lawful votes are counted.