

Voter Anomaly Canvassing Final Report

Background

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 legal votes count. The goal is to ensure that legal votes are not just “counted,” but also to ensure that votes are not “cancelled” by fraud, incompetence or other problems. The Mason County Voter Research Project is one of a number of county specific efforts of the Washington Voter Research Project.

Voting integrity is essential for the effective exercise of our power as citizens in a free society with our vote and crucial for maintaining voter confidence in our elections.

Executive Summary

From August 2021 through February 2022, a small team of non-partisan volunteer citizens under the Mason County Voter Research Project canvassed 544 addresses in Mason County, Washington. Volunteers either spoke to residents at 411 of these addresses, or confirmed that there was not a residence at the address. Some of the addresses were commercial mailboxes or United States Post Office Boxes. Through canvassing activity, the team collected information and confirmed 239 voter anomalies (a 54.2% confirmed anomaly rate), including the 110 voters who have moved but were still registered to vote at their previous address.

Purpose

The purpose of this canvassing project is to assess the accuracy of the voter rolls in Mason County, to confirm suspect voter anomalies, and to help the County Auditor clean the voter rolls with information on confirmed voter anomalies. Suspect voter anomalies are identified by cross-checking voter roll data with various databases, including the United State Postal Service Change of Address database, the Social Security database, and others.

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, the term “voter anomaly” is used 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.
- A voter who was deceased, but a vote was cast for the voter.

It is important to note that a voter anomaly represents *potential* fraud, waste, abuse, or error. The canvassing team does not assume or assert that every anomaly is fraudulent. Each anomaly warrants

further investigation and inquiry in order to make a determination of the cause(s) for the anomaly. Non-partisan canvassers have no intention to make any accusations and are merely bringing confirmed anomalies to light with formal affidavits so that the proper authorities can conduct further investigation and initiate the appropriate corrective action to ensure that our elections are being conducted lawfully. It is also important to note that the people of Mason County know the results of the Mason County Voter Research Project. The election system and elections belong to the people.

Approach

Members of the Washington Voter Research Project technical team identified addresses with a high likelihood of voter anomalies using publicly available information compared with the June 2021 and August 2021 voter registrations databases from the Washington Secretary of State.

Small teams of non-partisan citizen volunteers were trained in proper canvassing and interview methods in order to avoid any discussion that could be interpreted as partisan or as an inquiry as to how people voted as this type of information is of no interest to the Washington Voter Research Project. There were also no questions asked regarding the citizenship of any resident.

Specifically, canvassers are trained to politely knock on doors, introduce themselves as volunteers of the Mason County Voter Research Project to the occupant(s) and explain the reason for the visit. Typical questions were aimed at understanding if the occupants had any problems with their November 2020 ballot. Oftentimes, canvassers would share with the occupant the list of voters registered at that address and ask if the registered voters listed lived at the address and voted from the address, and then faithfully document responses, comments, and information provided by the occupants interviewed. In cases where an occupant identified a registered voter who no longer resided at that address, follow-up questions were asked in an attempt determine when the non-resident voter moved. For any confirmed voter anomalies, canvassers recorded information pertaining to the anomaly in a signed affidavit. Canvassing activities occurred from August 2021 through February 2022, with some telephone follow-up activity with voters in May 2022.

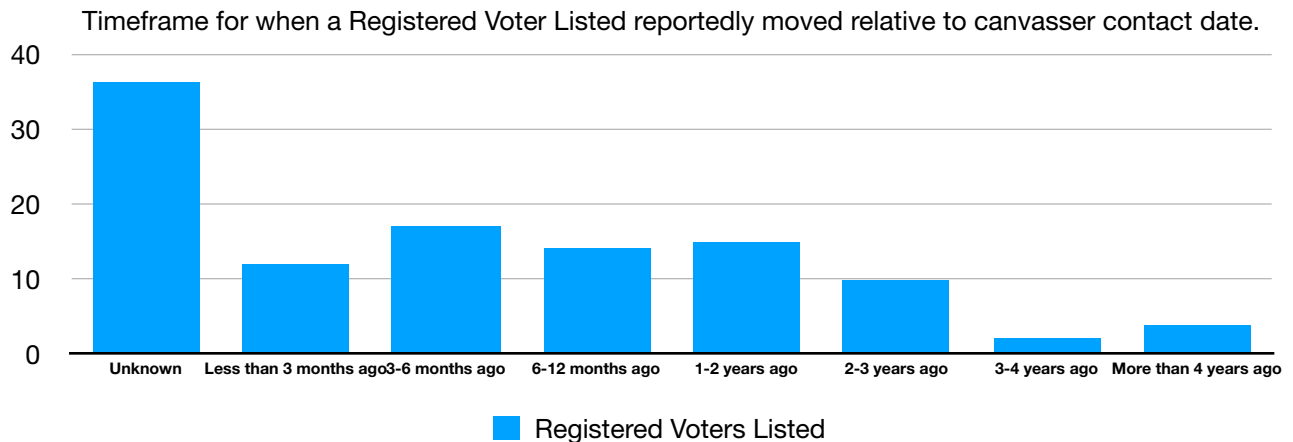
To be clear, the Mason County Voter Research project is not challenging voter registrations of registered listed voters associated with confirmed voter anomalies, but is asserting that the circumstances associated with confirmed voter anomalies should be further investigated by the proper authorities to determine if the votes are valid, or the result of a mistake or a fraudulent act and take the appropriate corrective action.

Washington State law allows for considerable flexibility for voter registrations. This flexibility also unfortunately exposes the potential for errors and the potential for fraud. According to RCW 29A.08.140, Voter registration deadlines *“(2)(a) In order to change a residence address for voting in any primary, special election, or general election, a person who is already registered to vote in Washington may update his or her registration by: (i) Submitting and address change using a registration application or making notification via any non-in-person method that is received by the election officials no later than eight days before the day of the primary, special election, or general election; or (ii) appearing in person, at a county auditor’s office, the division of elections if in a separate city from the county auditor’s office, a voting center, or other location designated by the county auditor, no later than 8:00 p.m. on the day of the primary, special election, or general election to be in effect for that primary, special election, or general election. (b) A registered voter who fails to update his or her residential address by this deadline*

may vote according to his or her previous registration address.” Furthermore, according to RCW 29A.08.112, Voters without traditional residential addresses, “(1) No person registering to vote who meets all the qualifications of a registered voter in the state of Washington, shall be disqualified because he or she lacks a traditional residential address. A voter who lacks a traditional residence will be registered and assigned to a precinct based on the location provided. (2) For the purposes of this section, a voter who resides in a shelter, park, motor home, marina, unmarked home, or other identifiable location that the voter deems to be his or her residence lacks a traditional address. A voter who registers under this section must provide a valid mailing address, and must still meet the required in Article VI, section 1 of the state Constitution that he or she live in the area for at least thirty days before the election. (5) A person who has a traditional residential address and does not reside on an Indian reservation or on Indian lands must use that address for voter registration purposes.”

Findings

The team confirmed 231 anomalies (58%) and collected a total of 441 affidavits in this project. Most of the anomalies included 110 voters who had changed address but were still registered at their previous address. The chart below shows the reported time frames for when the voters moved relative to the date of contact by non-partisan volunteer canvassers.



Timeframes for when Registered Voters Listed Moved

	Registered Voters Listed
Unknown	36
Less than 3 months ago	12
3-6 months ago	17
6-12 months ago	14
1-2 years ago	15
2-3 years ago	10
3-4 years ago	2
More than 4 years ago	4

In addition to the anomalies associated with voter relocations, canvassers identified and confirmed other types of voter anomalies:

- 11 votes cast from vacant lots.
- 64 of the voters at addresses canvassed were completely unknown by the current owner / occupants.
- 1 voter who was deceased in June 2019, but was still registered to vote and voted in the 2020 General Election.
- 1 non-citizen who had been registered to vote and did not realize it.
- 1 voter who is incapable of voting and under the care of legal guardians. Unbeknownst to the voter's legal guardian, someone voted for this voter in the 2020 General Election. The legal guardian of this voter had previously requested the Mason County Auditor's Office remove the name of the voter from the voter rolls. The guardian was told by an employee at the Mason County Auditor's Office that it takes 2 years to remove a voter from the voter rolls.
- 1 voter who regularly receives vote by mail ballots issued for both their legal name and a professional alias, despite multiple notifications to the Mason County Auditor's Office that ballots should not be issued for the alias.
- 1 voter who was registered to vote under 2 different names with unique Voter ID numbers at the same address. According to the Secretary of State's records, ballots were cast in the 2020 General Election for both names.
- 1 voter who neither received a ballot for the 2020 General Election, nor voted in that election, however, according to the Secretary of State's records someone cast a ballot in this voter's name.
- 36 voters who's voter registration address is a United States Post Office Box, or Commercial Mail Box. Of these voters, one is a known resident of Kitsap County.
- 3 voters that did not move, however a new street number for the residence had been assigned and the Voter Registration Database had not been updated to eliminate the obsolete address. According to the Secretary of State's records, votes were cast from the obsolete addresses.

Examples of Other Confirmed Voter Anomalies

Votes Cast from Vacant Lots

110 Coulter Creek Road S, Belfair



This is vacant land with no evidence of anyone living on the lot. 4 voters are registered at this address who voted in the 2020 General Election.

51 E Coulter Creek Road S, Belfair



Vacant land where there are no driveways present between 41 and 215 E Coulter Creek Road. 2 voters are registered at this address who voted in the 2020 General Election.

Votes Cast from Commercial Mail Boxes

Bear Creek Store, Belfair



12 voters cast votes in the 2020 General Election from this address using commercial mailboxes as their residential address.

Votes Cast from United States Post Office Boxes

Belfair Post Office

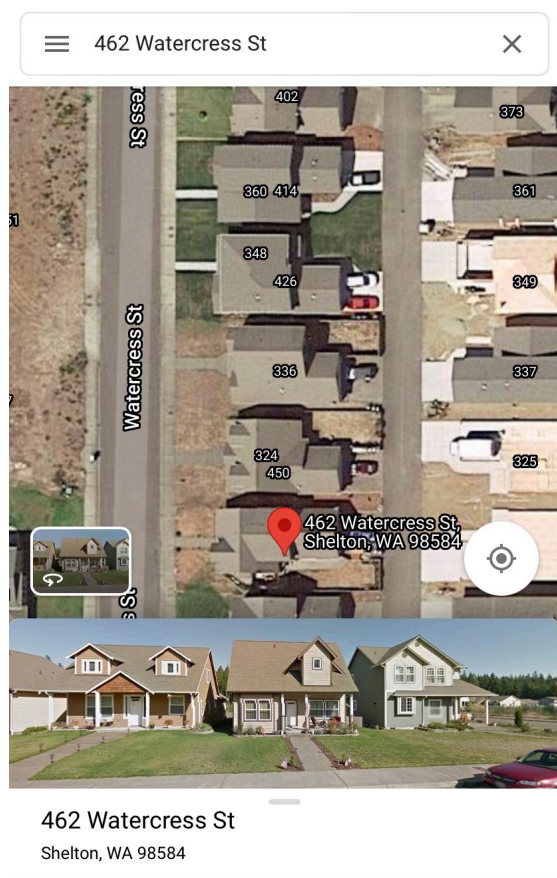
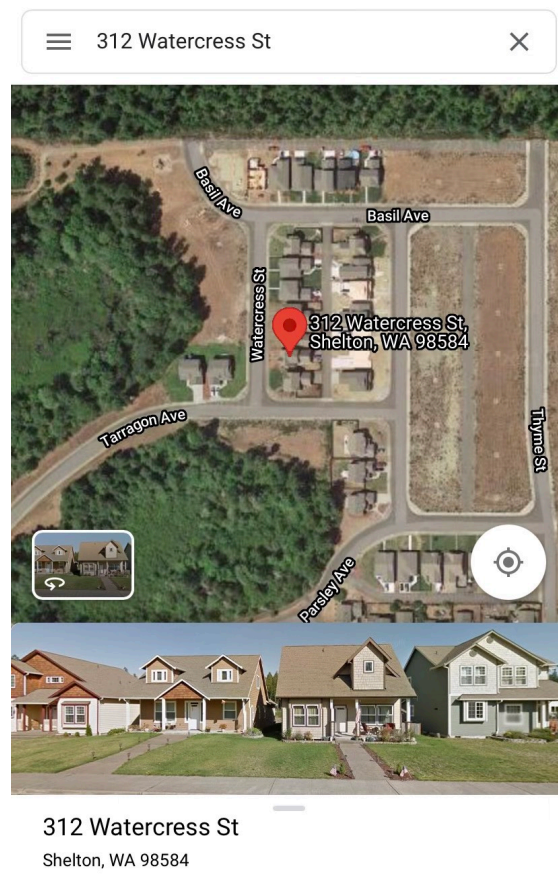


8 voters cast votes from this address in the 2020 General Election using Post Office boxes as their residential address.

Votes Cast from Obsolete Address

312 Watercress Street & 462 Watercress Street, Shelton

The address for this physical residence changed over time to accommodate expanded growth of the residential development. The current occupant had a physical ballot for the current address issued for an upcoming election and was completely unaware of any ballot issued for the prior, obsolete address used to cast a vote for one of the residents at the address in the 2020 General Election. The canvassing team found other examples of this phenomenon. The Google Maps images for both the current and obsolete addresses are shown below. The image for 462 Watercress Street shows dual house numbers.



Selected Quotes from Canvassing Interviews

In the course of conducting the canvassing interviews, the team documented some interesting and insightful quotes for some of the occupants interviewed. The following are actual quotes and are representative of the types of comments that we received and captured in affidavits.

“I am now a registered voter in Arizona (moved in 9/2020) and continue to receive mail-in ballots from Washington State despite two attempts to get my name removed from The Washington State voter roles.”

“These two (registered voters listed) were tenants that were evicted over a year ago for having a kangaroo.”

“This was my son’s girlfriend and is not registered to vote at this address.”

“We have lived here for 1 ½ years and have never heard of the two other people.”

“My ex-wife moved from this address in about 2015.”

“She moved to Montana two years ago.”

“He has never lived here.”

(I have) “no idea who he is”.

“She hasn’t lived here since we moved in (2017)”.

“She moved out 1 year ago (March 2020) before COVID.”

“There’s no apartment 74. They (the registered voters listed) moved to Texas over a year and half ago when COVID first hit. I remember this one because I returned the ballots to the Belfair Postmaster and he sent them back again to the (commercial mail) box. So I sent them back again and the postman still brought it back. I then took everything back and turned it in. I reported the Postmaster.”

“That’s weird!”, from a respondent who moved to Texas in October 2018 when told that someone voted for him in the 2020 General Election from his prior Washington address.

Lastly, while not a direct quote, one canvasser reported that a resident clearly stated “There’s no voter fraud, not proof of voter fraud, there’s no possibility of voter fraud in Washington and unauthorized volunteers are not fooling him. If someone’s using his address falsely, he doesn’t want to know.”

Conclusion

Confirmed anomalies from the Mason County Voter Research Project provide evidence that whatever the means employed by the Secretary of State and / or the Mason County Auditor to keep voter rolls current and accurate, those means are insufficient, leaving vulnerabilities in our election system for votes to be cast for voters who are or may not be eligible. This is not acceptable. One illegal vote disenfranchises every legal voter. Members of the project would like to see the Mason County Auditor

use this type of readily available database information to generate their own list of potential voter anomalies, investigate them, and take steps to initiate the appropriate corrective action.

Postscript

In the 2021 Election in Mason County, there were 2 races with margins of victory so small, that it resulted in an automatic recount. During the time between the reporting of the original results and the results from the recount, non-partisan volunteers from the Mason County Voter Research Project canvassed potential voter anomalies from the 2021 Election. In both races, the number of confirmed anomalies exceeded the margin of victory. When the Mason County Auditor and the Canvassing Board were presented with this information in the December 2, 2021, Canvassing Board meeting, the Mason County Auditor stated that he lacks “both the legal authority and staffing to investigate your identified ‘anomalies’”.

Interestingly enough, when copies of the Canvassing Board meeting minutes and meeting video were obtained through a Public Records Request, the meeting minutes made no mention of the attendance by the Mason County Republican Party’s Election Integrity Committee Chair, or of the concerns he raised regarding certification of the election re-counts given the number of confirmed voter anomalies. The video recording of the Canvassing Board meeting contained no audio track that would provide a record of the verbal discussion of the concerns raised.

Respectfully,

The Mason County Voter Research Project Team