

ISLAND COUNTY ELECTION INTEGRITY CANVASSING REPORT

JULY 2022

BACKGROUND:

The Washington Voter Election Integrity group was formed in 2021 by a group of nonpartisan volunteers who wanted to preserve election integrity and voter confidence in our elections. Island County is one of the counties that canvassed specific homes to ensure the accuracy of the voter database. The canvassing started in the summer of 2021 and continued through the summer of 2022.

Island County volunteers tried to contact 1001 individual voters listed in the voter database at the time. These voters were listed on walk books along with names, addresses, ages of voters, and their voting history for the 2020 general election. At the door, the only questions asked of the occupant, were: 1. Do you recognize the list of names shown for this address? 2. If yes, did the voters on the list vote in the November 2020 election? 3. If no, did the voter ever live at the address; or when did they move? The volunteers did not ask what the occupant's party affiliation was or any other personal information.

For the purpose of this report "anomalies" are defined as:

- Voters who cast a vote from an address where they do not reside.
- Voters who received multiple ballots.
- Voters who are registered to vote at a non-residential, vacant, or non-existent address.

- Voters who were deceased, but a vote was cast in their name.
- Voters who submitted a completed ballot, but the vote was not counted.

RESULTS:

As of summer 2022, 485 individuals had moved since the November 2020 election. Fifty-eight individuals listed on the walk lists moved prior to the November 2020 election.

Fifty individuals have a second address on the voter database or own the home but vote from a different address or state.

Fifty-three individuals could not be contacted due to locked gates, refusal to answer, or no one home at the time of canvassing.

Four houses were vacant or unoccupied.

One address listed was a vacant lot.

One individual was too young to vote in 2020 but was listed on the database.

Five persons were considered to have been deceased, but this has not been verified through the Island County coroner's office.

SOME QUOTES FROM CANVASSING INTERVIEWS:

"I have lived here for over three years, and I do not recognize the list of names at my apartment. I did not vote in the November 2020 election."

"This is my son's friend, and he does not live here."

"I registered to vote at the department of motor vehicles but never received a ballot at my address."

"I was deployed at the time of the November 2020 election but never received a ballot." This statement came from two individuals in the military.

CONVERSATION WITH THE AUDITOR:

Military personnel, military families, and military contractors and their families can continue to vote in Island County if the address on record was the primary address when they registered to vote.

Primary-only voters are aged 17 and can vote in the primary election if they are turning eighteen by the time of the November election. The legislature is trying to pass a law to allow sixteen-year-olds to vote the same way.

Second addresses are found for individuals on the database because those individuals are "snowbirds."

Homeless individuals who are registered in Island County are allowed to vote from a post office, or commercial building, etc.

"Ballot harvesting" is legal in the state of Washington; however, the auditor does not recommend it.

CONCLUSION:

Eighty-two affidavits were completed for anomalous addresses and over 150 affidavits were created for individuals listed on the walk book. Ninety-two anomalies were found during the canvassing of 946 individuals. Forty six percent of individuals canvassed had moved. This is not surprising due to the large military presence in Island County. The majority had moved out of state, but a few moved to a different address in the county.

In conclusion, Island County needs to update its voter rolls at this time and to establish a more accurate system to maintain voter rolls.

Respectfully,

Peggy Sashy, Island County EIC