

Kitsap County Voter Research Project

Canvassing Report Period Fall 2021 to Spring 2022

July 22, 2022

BACKGROUND

The Washington Voter Research Project (WVRP) was formed in the summer of 2021 by a group of non-partisan volunteers in Washington State who share a common interest in election integrity, desiring to ensure that our votes count and that only legal votes are counted. The goal is to improve the accuracy and integrity of our voter rolls in the state and in each county. Furthermore, the intent of WVRP is to ensure that all legal votes are not just “counted,” but also that they are not “cancelled” by fraud, incompetence, illegal votes, or other problems which can often occur in any complex, government run, bureaucratic system. We wish to improve the integrity of the voter rolls of our state and county by removing names from the voting list that are required to be removed by law, as those people are no longer legal voters in the state or county. Voting integrity is a worthy goal for all people who care about our fundamental right to vote.

The WVRP Organization compiled a list of citizens from various counties in Washington State whose voting status raised questions. These names were provided to county WVRP groups who were charged with verifying this information. Verification was done by actually canvassing those voters’ residences, door to door.

SCOPE

The purpose of this WVRP canvassing project is to assess the accuracy of the voter rolls in Kitsap County, determine if the county is actively removing illegal voters from the voter rolls, to identify voter anomalies, and to present the anomalies to the county auditor for investigation and removal from the Kitsap County voter rolls.

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 performed as needed. It is important to ensure that our voter rolls are correct and that elections are being conducted lawfully.

APPROACH

The WVRP Organization identified voters and addresses with a high likelihood of being voter anomalies using publicly available information. The organizers obtained lists of voters from the state and county voter rolls, permanent address changes from other data bases, and other sources of data on citizens of

Washington State. The composite list consisted of people who were recorded as having voted in the 2020 elections but who were also on record as having moved before then. After the next off-year election, the list was expanded to include other voters who were on the voter rolls but who were also on record as having moved. Voters were only included on the list if they moved out of the state or country. If they moved within the county, they were not included on the potential anomalies list.

Canvassing

In the fall of 2021 and spring of 2022, a team of WVRP volunteers conducted door to door canvassing of approximately 2,433 potential voter anomalies in Kitsap County Washington, using the WVRP provided canvassing lists. The WVRP volunteers were trained how to appropriately canvass and complete affidavits for each voter anomaly and verify the accuracy of the data.

Our county assembled teams of non-partisan volunteers who went door to door to verify the potential anomalies. Our volunteers introduced themselves to the occupant and explained the reason for the visit. Volunteers asked them if they knew the person registered at the address who voted in the Nov 2020 election and asked if they had encountered any problems with their November 2020 ballot. If the target voter did not reside there, we asked if the occupant knew when the voter moved. We also asked the occupant about the other registered voters listed at that address and if those registered voters still lived there. We did not ask anyone about party affiliation or which candidates he or she 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 our anomaly data base and on affidavits. The Kitsap County WVRP team then generated a list of anomalies from this data base.

Our team found 911 voter anomalies in which people had moved out of the county, died, or were illegal to vote in Kitsap County but were still registered to vote at their previous address in Kitsap County. Many of these were recorded as having voted in the Nov 2020 election. The status of the anomalies needs to be examined. If they are not valid voters, their names need to be removed from the Kitsap County voter rolls by the Kitsap County Auditor. We also obtained a list of voters authorized to vote in the August 2022 primary election as well as a list of voters already removed from the voter list by the county for the August 2022 primary. This reduced the list of anomalies to 131 voters.

Please note, the actual number of existing anomalies is difficult to determine. There were names on the suspect voters list which we could not verify for various reasons such as no one being at home. Also, new names are continuously being added. Under recent state automatic voter registration laws, it is even more critical to accurately validate the legal status of the voters.

FINDINGS

It is acknowledged that Kitsap County has removed 4,111 names from the active county voter registration list since 3 Nov 2021 and is actively investigating suspect voters per the WAC 434-250-70 and associated requirements. It is understood that 2,475 ballots were undeliverable in the Nov 2021 election according to the US Post Office, and those names have been deleted from the active voter rolls

after the election per WAC requirements. It is also understood that the 4,562 voters who had their ballots forwarded to a NEW address were investigated, and their voter information was reported to the County Canvassing Board on Nov 22, 2021. Those names were investigated by the County Auditor's Office and required deletions to date are included in the 4,111 names removed from the county voter rolls per discussion with the county auditor. It is obvious that the Kitsap County Auditor's Office is aggressively investigating suspect voters and is active in deleting unauthorized voters. We thank the Auditor's Office for this diligent work.

The WVRP Team has reviewed all the above data, voter lists, and voter deletion lists and still finds anomalies that need investigation. The WVRP has identified the names of 131 suspect voters (anomalies) in Kitsap County, and we suggest that these be investigated by the Kitsap County Auditor's Office for removal from the county active voter list.

This list of 131 voter anomalies is hereby presented to the Kitsap County Auditor for review. It is requested that the review be completed before the 1 Nov 2022 election, if possible. We would also appreciate notification of the results of the review. Notification can be made to the co-chairs of the Kitsap County WVRP Joyce Fiess (Joyce_kf@yahoo.com) and Chuck DeCosta (rondochuck@gmail.com).

Joyce Fiess and Chuck DeCosta

WVRP - Kitsap Chapter

Phone number 360-830-3559