

Kittitas Voter Research Project

Canvassing Report: Fall 2021 and Spring 2022

September 24, 2022

Background

According to a December 10, 2021 Rasmussen Reports poll of US National Likely Voters^[1]:

- 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, including 73% of Black voters
- 90% think it is Important to prevent cheating in elections, including 83% who say it is Very Important
- ^[1] https://twitter.com/Rasmussen_Poll/status/1469354742828740617

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.

Kittitas County Executive Summary

In both the fall of 2021 and spring of 2022, a small team of 8 volunteers conducted door to door canvassing of approximately 173 addresses in Kittitas County, WA, with a total of 415 registered voters noted at those 173 addresses.

We spoke to the occupants of 99 of the addresses, which was 57% of the total homes we knocked. The remaining 74 residences were not home at the time of our visit.

Of those 99 addresses we spoke to, we obtained information on 227 of the registered voters which = 54%.

We wrote Affidavits for 78 of the addresses. Which = 78% of addresses did have voter anomalies.

Below are our findings:

99 of the homes we knocked on answered and supplied information.

We obtained verbal information on 227 of the 415 registered voters = 54%.

9 homes appeared vacant or had real estate For Sale signs in the yard.

1 address was a business, Berkshire Hathaway real estate, with 1 person registered to vote from that address.

74 of the homes had no answer, although 9 of them did have a name on the mailbox that matched with the registered voter's name.

3 addresses appeared to have been converted to a duplex, although the address listed was for a single-family home.

3 registered voters had passed away, per the current resident or tenant.

123 registered voters had moved away, which = 54% of the 227 voters we obtained information on.

45 of the 123 that moved; had moved more than 1 year prior to our visit, per the current resident.

Scope

The purpose of this canvassing project is to assess the accuracy of the voter rolls in Kittitas 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. The volunteers obtained the addresses from the WA Voter Research Project. The walk-book was determined by cross checking 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 78 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

123 registered voters had moved away, which was 54% of the 227 voters we obtained information on.

45 of the 123 that moved; had moved more than 1 year prior to our visit, per the current resident, which was 36%. This means these voters had not lived at this address for more than 30 days prior to the 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.

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.” Many of the current residences said ‘I have never heard of this person before’.

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.*

For example, for a couple of voter anomalies came from being notified that they were active military stationed overseas and still used the address to receive mail. These could meet the residency exception under subsection (1) above.

Business address listed as a Voter’s Residence:

1 registered voter at 400 W 5th Ave, Ellensburg, WA

This property appears to be a business, the name on the door said Berkshire Hathaway Real Estate. It’s primarily a mixed-use district, with both apartment/multi-family units as well as businesses.

400 W 5Th Ave, Ellensburg, WA 98926



Selected Quotes (note: many people stated that the prior owner was still registered at their address, this was the most common statement)

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

“We (new owners) bought this house in June 2018. We didn’t buy it from the name you are showing me, but we get his mail sometimes from North Carolina. But we do get our voting ballots here”

“I bought this house in Jan 2021 the names you’re showing me are not the prior owners. Maybe they were the even-prior owners?”

“Those people moved to North Carolina in 2019”

“That name used to live here, but I have no idea who those are people are”

“I’ve own the home for a couple years, but have no idea who that other person registered at my address is”

“1 of the people on this list moved to Las Vegas in 2016, and the other moved to Hawaii in June 2020”

“We bought in Sept 2020 and do get our ballots here, but those other 3 names are not familiar to me, we don’t get their mail here either”

“That was my son’s girlfriend, I’m still getting her ballots here, but she moved out a couple years ago and I don’t know where she moved”

“That’s odd, the only registered voter at my house is my daughter, yet I own the home and my name is not showing?”

“They moved to Tennessee some time ago”

“They sold me the house 1.5 years ago, and they moved away”

“This house was a rental for many years before we bought it, we do get mail for some of those names you’re showing me. The prior owners still use this address as they are touring the county in their RV”