



# Community Outreach Plan: Signature Verification

The Whatcom County Auditor's Office, Election Division, details the current practices and pilot projects related to signature verification as an outreach topic.

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2024  
COMMUNITY  
OUTREACH  
PLAN

## SECTION 1:

### INTRODUCTION

In June 2024, Revised Code of Washington (RCW) requirements were updated to require that election offices produce a document detailing how they inform the public about signature verification requirements. Whatcom County Elections will update this document annually.

The following document outlines the Whatcom County Auditor's Office's current and ongoing practices, as well as several pilot projects occurring this year related to outreach about signature verification.

To read more about the community outreach plan, see [Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill \(ESSB\) 5890](#), Section 5 for more details.

### OVERVIEW OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS PROCESS

Citizens may register to vote in Washington State on a paper registration form, online at [VoteWA.gov](#), or at a state agency. For a registration to be complete, a signature is required. That signature is added to the voter's record in the statewide registration database, VoteWA. Each voter is given a unique voter identification number when they register, and their signature is a unique identifier used in vote-by-mail elections to verify identity.

VoteWA generates a ballot for all eligible voters for each election. The contest(s) and/or question(s) on the ballot are based on the voter's precinct, which is determined by their residential address. Along with the ballot, a postage-paid ballot return envelope which the voter must sign is included. The ballot return envelope has a unique ballot identification number printed on it. If a voter is issued an additional ballot (replacement or reissued), the new ballot will be generated with its own unique ballot identification number.

After the voter receives their ballot packet, they vote the ballot and place it inside the secrecy sleeve, which goes inside the ballot return envelope. They then sign the ballot return envelope and return it to Whatcom County Auditor's Office, Election Division either by;

- depositing it in an Official Ballot Drop Box (by 8:00 pm on election day), OR
- mail (postmarked by election day)

## SIGNATURE VERIFICATION PROCESS

On the ballot return envelope, there is a signature line that a voter must complete. The signature on the return envelope must match the signature(s) on file in VoteWA for the return envelope to be accepted and counted.

Upon initial receipt, return envelopes are processed through an envelope sorter. The sorter takes a picture of the return envelope, including the signature, unique ballot ID, and date. Following this, trained Auditor's Office staff work to compare the signature on the return envelope against the voter's signature on file in VoteWA. All staff verifying signatures are trained and attend annual training with the Washington State Patrol provided by the Office of the Secretary of State. If staff does not see similarities in the signatures, or the signature is missing on the return envelope, the return envelope is rejected.

Every signature is reviewed with the presumption that the signature on the ballot return envelope is the voter's signature. A team of two employees must reach a consensus on whether a signature is rejected.

Signatures that are rejected must undergo a second review, which is done by experienced staff. During the signature review audit, trained Auditor's Office staff review all signature(s) on file in VoteWA, as well as a review of other voters in the household. Once our second level review staff determine that the return envelope should remain rejected, they begin the notification process. Signatures that remain rejected are reviewed by the Election Supervisor or Chief Deputy Auditor before being sent to the Canvassing Board for rejection.

All rejected return envelopes are kept in secure storage and remain unopened;

- If the signature on the return envelope does not match the signature on file for the voter, the envelope will only be opened when/if a cure form is returned that matches the signature on the return envelope.
- If the signature is missing on the return envelope, the envelope will be opened when/if a cure form is returned that matches the signature(s) in their voter registration record.
- *If the ballot is not returned on time, it will be rejected. There is no opportunity for the voter to cure a ballot that is returned late.*

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## SIGNATURE CURING PROCESS

In Whatcom County, ensuring every eligible vote is counted is of utmost importance. When a signature discrepancy is identified, staff take steps to inform the voter and provide them with

an opportunity to correct the issue. To facilitate this, voters are asked to provide a phone number and email address on their return envelope. If the voter provides a new phone or email, election staff will use that additional information to contact them.

**Step 1: Notification of Discrepancy:** The Whatcom County Election Division staff prints and mails a signature cure form as soon as a signature is rejected. Multiple communication channels are utilized to ensure that the voter is aware of the issue as quickly as possible. This includes:

**Phone Calls:** Staff make direct phone calls to voters whose signatures have been rejected. If the voter does not answer, a voicemail is left detailing the steps needed to cure their return envelope. Calls typically begin after election week.

**Emails:** For voters who have provided an email address, an email notification is sent outlining the discrepancy and instructions for curing their return envelope.

**Mail:** A physical letter along with a cure form is mailed within 24 hours of a rejection, explaining the discrepancy and the necessary steps to resolve it.

**Text Messaging:** If the voter has signed up to receive text messages, they will be alerted that their ballot has been rejected, as the case may be, or accepted.

**Step 2: Mailing Cure Forms:** Every voter with a rejected signature receives a cure form (Appendix 2, page 11). This form is essential for the voter to update or confirm their signature. The cure form includes:

- A line for the voter to sign on.
- Clear instructions on how to fill out the form.
- A postage-paid return envelope.

**Step 3: Receipt and Verification of Cure Forms:** When the cure forms are received by the Auditor's Office on time;

- If the signature on the ballot return envelope does not match the signature on file for the voter, the envelope will only be opened when/if a cure form is returned that matches the signature on the ballot return envelope.
- If the signature is missing on the ballot return envelope, the envelope will be opened when/if a cure form is returned that matches the signature in their voter registration record.

**Step 4: Processing and Deadlines:** Cure forms must be received by 4:30 pm on the day before the certification of an election.

## SECTION TWO:

### CURRENT OUTREACH PRACTICES

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#### **CURE FORMS AND SIGNATURE UPDATE REQUEST FORMS**

Whatcom County Elections maintains two essential forms for voter interaction during election cycles: the cure form and the signature update request form (refer to Appendices 2 and 3).

These forms are available in physical form at our office and digitally on our website. Whatcom County Elections encourages proactive engagement from voters, allowing them the option to update their signature voluntarily at any point.

Staff review voter signatures on an ongoing basis as voter maintenance best practice. As part of our routine database maintenance, staff identify voters with older signatures. As these signatures are identified a signature update notice is sent, requesting the voter provide an updated signature. The addition of more signatures, particularly recent ones, enhances the accuracy and integrity of the voter database.

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#### **CONTACTING VOTERS**

As part of our ongoing commitment to enhancing the signature cure process and ensuring the integrity of the voting process, Whatcom County Elections currently has the following communication with voters who have rejected signatures.

- 1) After election week, staff take action by personally calling voters of a signature rejection and follow a guiding script (Appendix 4, page 13). If a new phone number is provided on the return envelope, staff use that number to contact the voter. This proactive approach promptly informs voters about the rejection, makes them aware of the cure letter, and provides a more personalized interaction. During these calls, staff relay the reasons for the rejection and the ways a voter can cure their return envelope by using the online or email cure options if a voter does not want to wait for the letter.
- 2) After election week, staff take additional action by emailing voters of a signature rejection.

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#### **REDESIGNED CURE ENVELOPES & BALLOT RETURN ENVELOPES**

Previously, the overall branding and design of our envelopes lacked cohesion. The outgoing cure envelopes were a standard letterhead white. They did not grab recipients' attention, and failed to convey the importance of its contents.

To make election material look cohesive, Whatcom County Elections initiated a redesign effort. The new envelopes were crafted to match the branding of our new ballot return envelopes. By incorporating consistent branding elements such as colors, fonts, and imagery, the redesigned envelopes now serve as recognizable symbols of election-related communication.

The overarching objective of this initiative was twofold: to enhance the clarity and impact of signature cure letters and to foster greater engagement and responsiveness among voters. By presenting a cohesive and visually appealing package, the redesigned envelopes effectively convey to recipients that the enclosed correspondence is directly linked to the ongoing election and merits their attention. See Appendices 6 and 7 (page 13) for examples.

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## FOCUS ON IN-PERSON REGISTRANTS

When citizens register or update in-person at our office, we take the opportunity to tell the voter two things (as time allows);

1. Their ballot will come in the mail before each election, and
2. The signature they provided will be used to compare signatures on their ballot return envelopes in future elections. We also provide an opportunity to add another signature. Samples of a ballot packet are shown to voters (as time allows), to add a visual of the return envelope signature declaration.

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## VOTER PAMPHLET INFORMATION

Whatcom County Elections has been producing a Local Voters' Pamphlet (LVP) for every election since 2005. The LVP includes election information and is mailed to every household in Whatcom County for every election.

The snips to the right are included to emphasize the importance of signatures.

### Why is your signature important?

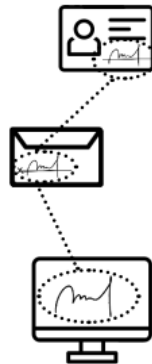
#### Your signature is needed to make sure your ballot gets counted.

The signature on your return envelope is compared to the signature on your voter registration record. Trained election officials are responsible for verifying each and every signature.

If your signature is missing or does not match your voter registration record, you will be contacted by mail before results are certified. Elections staff may call or email if you provided this information.

If you registered to vote online or through Department of Licensing, the signature from your driver's license, permit, or state ID will be on your voter registration record.

Voters can track and check their ballot status at [www.VoteWA.gov](http://www.VoteWA.gov).



Did you know that your signature is a part of your voter registration? Trained Auditor's Office staff compares the signature on the ballot return envelope to the signature in the voter's registration record. This is how we verify that the ballot return envelope is coming from the voter.

Your

Signature

Matters

We can have more than one signature for you in your voter registration. Update or provide additional signatures by completing a form at [www.whatcomcounty.us/3946/Update-Voter-Registration-Signature](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/3946/Update-Voter-Registration-Signature) or call our office at (360) 778-5102

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## TOURS OF THE ELECTION CENTER

The Election Center, where ballots are processed, is always open for observation during an election. In July, the Auditor dedicates a week where members of the public can sign-up to attend a 40-minute tour reviewing steps to ballot processing. Time is spent going over how signatures are verified, reviewing how we accept signatures, and also detailing how signatures are rejected. Addressing the rejected ballot cure process is also included. Participants appreciate and often can't believe we look at every single signature! We will continue providing tours, and educating election observers during each election on the importance of signature verification when processing ballots.

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## INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE

On the Election Division website, there is signature information available in different places;

[Home](#) • [Your Government](#) • [Departments](#) • [Auditor](#) • [Elections](#) • [Election Laws & Security](#) • [Vote with Confidence](#)

### Vote with Confidence

[Before an Election](#)   [During an Election](#)   [After an Election](#)

#### Paper Ballots

In Washington we vote on paper ballots. That way we can view and confirm our choices before sealing and signing our ballots. Paper also allows our local elections officials to audit the results of an election after the votes are counted. Paper ballots can be audited and recounted as many times as necessary. They are a durable, tamper-evident hard copy of a voter's choices.

#### VoteWA

You can check the status of your ballot in VoteWA, Washington's statewide voter registration database. When your ballot arrives at the elections office, the barcode on the outer envelope is scanned. This updates your voter record in VoteWA and your ballot status now says "Received". This system prevents anyone from casting more than one ballot.

#### Signature Checking

When you vote, you sign an oath swearing your eligibility to vote. Your signature is compared to the signature in your voter registration file to confirm your identity and eligibility. If your signature is missing or doesn't seem to match, your ballot is "challenged" and you are notified. You'll then have an opportunity to update your signature on file to make sure your vote is counted.

[Click here to learn more about challenged ballots.](#)

[Home](#) • [Your Government](#) • [Departments](#) • [Auditor](#) • [Elections](#) • [Voter Resources](#) • [Update Voter Registration Signature](#)

### Update Voter Registration Signature

#### How to Update your Voter Registration Signature

Over time, your signature may change. Have you changed your name? Have you had physical changes that have altered how you sign? Have you changed the way you sign your name since registering for the first time? If you answered yes, you should update your signature on your voter registration.

#### Why should I update my signature?

Keeping your signature up-to-date is important. Each time you submit a ballot or sign a petition, we compare those signatures to your voter registration. We can only count your ballot or petition signature if we can find a match to what we have on file.

#### How can I update my signature?

1. Fill out a [Signature Update Form](#)
2. Email completed form to [elections@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:elections@co.whatcom.wa.us)

-OR-

**Mail to:**

Whatcom County Elections  
311 Grand Avenue, Suite 103  
Bellingham, WA 98225

[Home](#) • [Your Government](#) • [Departments](#) • [Auditor](#) • [Elections](#) • [Frequently Asked Questions](#) • [Signatures FAQ](#)

### Signatures FAQ

- [Why do I have to sign the ballot return envelope?](#)
- [What do I do if I got a letter that my signature on my ballot didn't match or the envelope was unsigned?](#)
- [How are ballots determined to have signature issues?](#)
- [Someone showed up at my house with a form to correct my signature, do they work for the Auditor's Office?](#)
- [Does Whatcom County Elections contact voters with a signature challenge issue?](#)
- [Is my ballot going to be counted if my signature was challenged?](#)
- [Once I've fixed my signature issue, how can I make sure my ballot was counted?](#)

## 2024 OUTREACH PROJECTS

Whatcom County Elections has a couple outreach projects for 2024, some of which have been or will be implemented within the calendar year. These are:

### **1. Signature Update Form**

Our office has a standard form for signature updating that will be the primary handout volunteers will give to voters (Appendix 3, page 12)

### **2. Social Media**

Content created by Whatcom County Elections is posted on the Whatcom County Government Facebook page around election season specifically related to educating voters about the signature verification process.

### **3. Create a handout detailing the *Importance of Your Signature***

The Election Division will create and distribute the handouts to The League of Women Voters (Whatcom County), Western Washington University students, and other local organizations and community members that want to conduct a registration drive. The handout will also be distributed to local jurisdictions, media contacts, libraries, and available at the county courthouse.

### **4. End of project report**

Upon completion of the canvassing and data gathering, a report about the project will be written.

**WAC 434-261-053****Ballot declaration signature cure process.**

(1) If a ballot declaration signature is not accepted following secondary review, the voter used a mark or signature stamp but did not include witnesses, or if the ballot declaration was not signed, the ballot cannot be counted until the voter cures their signature. The voter identified on the ballot return envelope must be notified as soon as practicable, but no later than three business days following receipt, of the procedure for curing their signature by:

(a) A notice letter package sent by first class mail with a signature update form or a missing signature form. The forms must include the ballot declaration required by WAC [434-230-015](#). The notice letter package must also include a prepaid envelope in which to return a completed signature update or missing signature form. The notice letter must:

(i) Be in substantially the same form as the sample notice letter created by the secretary of state; and

(ii) Be available in all languages required by the Department of Justice.

(b) Phone (if the voter has provided a phone number);

(c) Text message (if the voter has opted into text message notifications); and

(d) Email (if the voter has provided an email address).

(2) The voter may cure their ballot signature no later than the close of business the day before the election is certified.

(3) A voter may cure a missing signature by:

(a) Returning a signed missing signature form. The signature on the form must be compared to the voter's signature in the voter registration record using the process described in WAC [434-261-052](#); or

(b) Appearing in person and signing the ballot declaration. The signature on the ballot declaration must be compared to the voter's signature in the voter registration record using the process described in WAC [434-261-052](#).

(4) A voter using a mark may cure a failure to have two witnesses attest to the ballot declaration signature by returning a missing signature form. The form must contain the voter's mark and the signatures of two witnesses.

(5) A voter may cure a nonmatching signature by either:

(a) Returning a signature update form or appearing in person and signing a new registration form.

(i) The signature on the form must be compared to the signature on the ballot declaration using the process described in WAC [434-261-052](#);

(ii) The signature on the form is saved as a new signature in the voter registration record for the current and future elections; or

(b) Providing valid secondary identity verification. The county auditor must verify the secondary identification is for the voter who signed the ballot declaration. Secondary identification may be:

(i) The last four digits of the voter's Social Security number or the voter's full driver's license number or state identity card number;

(ii) Photo identification, valid enrollment card of a federally recognized Indian tribe in Washington state, copy of a current utility bill or current bank statement, copy of a current government check, copy of a current paycheck, or a government document, other than a voter registration card, that shows both the name and address of the voter; or

(iii) A multifactor authentication code, from a system approved by the secretary of state, the county auditor sent to the voter's phone number or email address that has previously been provided by the voter.

If a voter successfully provides secondary identity verification and confirms, orally or in writing, that the voter in fact returned the ballot, the ballot must be accepted unless two persons who have received signature verification training under WAC [434-261-051](#)(7) conclude beyond a reasonable doubt that a person other than the voter signed the ballot declaration. This conclusion may be based on evidence including, but not limited to, other ballots in the same election bearing the same signature.

(6) If the registered voter asserts that the signature on the ballot declaration is not the voter's signature prior to 8:00 p.m. on election day, the voter may vote a provisional ballot.

(7) If the voter does not successfully cure their signature by close of business the day before certification of the election, the ballot must be sent to the canvassing board.

(8) A record must be kept of the process used to cure return envelopes with missing and mismatched signatures. The record must contain the date on which each voter was contacted, the notice was mailed, and the date on which each voter subsequently submitted a signature to cure the missing or mismatched signature.

[Statutory Authority: RCW [29A.04.611](#). WSR 24-07-018, § 434-261-053, filed 3/8/24, effective 5/4/24.]

# Signature Update Form

Please complete and return this form to update your signature on file with Whatcom County.

### Instructions

Fill out the form using a black or blue pen.

Select one of the options below to return the completed form.

### Return this form:

**Option 1: By email -**  
elections@co.whatcom.wa.us

**Option 2: By fax -**  
(360) 778-5101

**Option 3: By mail -**  
Whatcom County Auditor  
Election Division  
PO Box 369  
Bellingham, WA 98227-0369

**Option 4: In person -**  
Whatcom County Auditor  
Election Division  
311 Grand Avenue, Suite 103  
Bellingham, WA 98225

### Voter Information *(please print clearly)*

Last Name First Middle

Date of Birth Voter Registration Number (if known)

Address Yes No

Email (optional) Phone number (optional) Sign up for text alerts about your ballot status

### Ballot Declaration

I do solemnly swear or affirm under penalty of perjury that I am:

- A United States citizen;
- A Washington State resident that meets the requirements for voting mandated by state law;
- At least 18 years old on election day, or 17 years old at the primary and 18 years old by the day of the November general election;
- Voting only once in this election and not voting in any other United States jurisdiction;
- Not serving a sentence of total confinement under the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections for a Washington felony conviction or currently incarcerated for a federal or out-of-state felony conviction;
- Not disqualified from voting due to a court order; and
- Aware it is illegal to forge a signature or cast another person's ballot and that attempting to vote when not qualified, attempting to vote more than once, or falsely signing this declaration is a felony punishable by a maximum imprisonment of five years, a maximum fine of \$10,000, or both.

### Registration Declaration

I declare that the facts on this voter registration form are true. I am a citizen of the United States, I am a Washington State resident, and I am at least sixteen years old. I am not disqualified from voting due to a court order, and I am not currently serving a sentence of total confinement under the jurisdiction of the department of corrections for a Washington felony conviction, and I am not currently incarcerated for a federal or out-of-state felony conviction.

### Sign and Date *(provide more than one signature if necessary)*

Signature of Voter (Power of Attorney is not acceptable)

Signature of Voter (Optional)

Signature of Voter (Optional)

Date

## Notice - Unsigned

**!** The signature on your ballot return envelope was missing.

### Take action for your ballot to be counted!

We want to make sure we count your vote. We received your ballot and determined that there was no signature provided. Please complete and return this form so your vote can be counted;

#### Instructions:

- Fill out this form and sign at the bottom

#### Return this form:

Option 1: By email -  
elections@co.whatcom.wa.us

Option 2: By fax -  
(360) 778-5101

Option 3: By mail -  
Whatcom County Auditor  
Election Division  
PO Box 369  
Bellingham, WA 98227-0369

Option 4: In person -  
Whatcom County Auditor  
Election Division  
311 Grand Avenue, Suite 103  
Bellingham, WA 98225

#### Deadlines:

For your vote to count, return this form to  
Whatcom County Elections by:

- 9 days after a February or April Election;
- 13 days after a Primary; or,
- 20 days after a General Election.

#### Voter Information (please print clearly)

Last Name First Middle

Date of Birth Voter Registration Number (if known)

Address

	Yes	No
Email (optional)	Phone number (optional)	Sign up for text alerts about your ballot status

#### Ballot Declaration

I do solemnly swear or affirm under penalty of perjury that I am:

- A United States citizen;
- A Washington State resident that meets the requirements for voting mandated by state law;
- At least 18 years old on election day, or 17 years old at the primary and 18 years old by the day of the November general election;
- Voting only once in this election and not voting in any other United States jurisdiction;
- Not serving a sentence of total confinement under the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections for a Washington felony conviction or currently incarcerated for a federal or out-of-state felony conviction;
- Not disqualified from voting due to a court order; and
- Aware it is illegal to forge a signature or cast another person's ballot and that attempting to vote when not qualified, attempting to vote more than once, or falsely signing this declaration is a felony punishable by a maximum imprisonment of five years, a maximum fine of \$10,000, or both.

#### Registration Declaration

I declare that the facts on this voter registration form are true. I am a citizen of the United States, I am a Washington State resident, and I am at least sixteen years old. I am not disqualified from voting due to a court order, and I am not currently serving a sentence of total confinement under the jurisdiction of the department of corrections for a Washington felony conviction, and I am not currently incarcerated for a federal or out-of-state felony conviction.

#### Sign and Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Voter (Power of Attorney is not acceptable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

#### Optional: If you cannot sign

Make a mark above in the presence of 2 witnesses. The witnesses should then sign below.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Witness 1 Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Witness 2 Date

## Notice - Signature Does Not Match

**i** The signature on your ballot return envelope does not match the signature in your voter registration file.

### Take action for your ballot to be counted!

We are unable to count your ballot because the signature on the return envelope does not match the signature in your voter registration record. For your ballot to be counted;

#### Instructions:

- Sign this form in the same way you signed your return envelope. This updated signature will be used to check return envelopes we receive from you in the future.

Or;

- Provide a secondary identity verification

#### Return this form:

Option 1: By email -  
elections@co.whatcom.wa.us

Option 2: By fax -  
(360) 778-5101

Option 3: By mail -  
Whatcom County Auditor  
Election Division  
PO Box 369  
Bellingham, WA 98227-0369

Option 4: In person -  
Whatcom County Auditor  
Election Division  
311 Grand Avenue, Suite 103  
Bellingham, WA 98225

#### Deadlines:

For your vote to count, return this form to  
Whatcom County Elections by:

- 9 days after a February or April Election;
- 13 days after a Primary; or,
- 20 days after a General Election.

### Voter information (please print clearly)

Last Name		First	Middle
Date of Birth		Voter Registration Number (if known)	
Address			
Email (optional)		Phone number (optional)	Yes No Sign up for text alerts about your ballot status

### Ballot Declaration

I do solemnly swear or affirm under penalty of perjury that I am:

- A United States citizen;
- A Washington State resident that meets the requirements for voting mandated by state law;
- At least 18 years old on election day, or 17 years old at the primary and 18 years old by the day of the November general election;
- Voting only once in this election and not voting in any other United States jurisdiction;
- Not serving a sentence of total confinement under the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections for a Washington felony conviction or currently incarcerated for a federal or out-of-state felony conviction;
- Not disqualified from voting due to a court order; and
- Aware it is illegal to forge a signature or cast another person's ballot and that attempting to vote when not qualified, attempting to vote more than once, or falsely signing this declaration is a felony punishable by a maximum imprisonment of five years, a maximum fine of \$10,000, or both.

### Registration Declaration

I declare that the facts on this voter registration form are true. I am a citizen of the United States, I am a Washington State resident, and I am at least sixteen years old. I am not disqualified from voting due to a court order, and I am not currently serving a sentence of total confinement under the jurisdiction of the department of corrections for a Washington felony conviction, and I am not currently incarcerated for a federal or out-of-state felony conviction.

**REQUIRED: Complete option 1 or 2 below for your ballot to be counted**

### 1. Sign and Date

_____		Date
Signature of Voter (Power of Attorney is not acceptable)		
Optional: If you cannot sign, make a mark above in the presence of 2 witnesses. The witnesses should then sign below.		
_____	_____	
Signature of Witness 1	Signature of Witness 2	

### 2. Secondary Identity Verification:

You may provide your Washington State driver license number, Washington State identification card number, the last four digits of your Social Security number, or a photocopy of alternate ID: valid photo identification; a valid enrollment card of a federally recognized tribe in Washington; a current utility bill; a current bank statement; a current government check; a current paycheck; or a government document, other than a voter registration card, that shows both your name and address.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(or attach a photocopy of alternate ID)

## APPENDIX 5. PHONE CALL SCRIPT

### UNSIGNED SCRIPT

Hello, this is \_\_\_\_\_ from Whatcom County Auditor's Office. This call is for \_\_\_\_\_.

This is a follow-up call about the letter we mailed regarding your ballot for the \_\_\_\_\_ Election. Please sign and return that letter to our office by \_\_\_\_\_ (due date)\_\_\_\_\_. If you have not received this letter **OR** have any questions please call us at 360-778-5102.

Thanks!

### SIGNATURE DOES NOT MATCH SCRIPT

Hello, this is \_\_\_\_\_ from Whatcom County Auditor's Office. This call is for \_\_\_\_\_.

This is a follow-up call regarding your ballot for the \_\_\_\_\_ Election. Please sign and return that letter to our office by \_\_\_\_\_ (due date)\_\_\_\_\_. If you have not received this letter **OR** have any questions please call us at 360-778-5102.

Thanks!

## APPENDIX 6. EMAIL NOTICE

### UNSIGNED EMAIL

We received your ballot for the \_\_\_\_\_ Election, but your signature was missing from the return envelope. We mailed a cure letter to you. Please sign and return that letter to our office by \_\_\_\_\_ (due date)\_\_\_\_\_ for your ballot to be accepted and counted. If you have not received this letter **OR** have any questions please contact us.

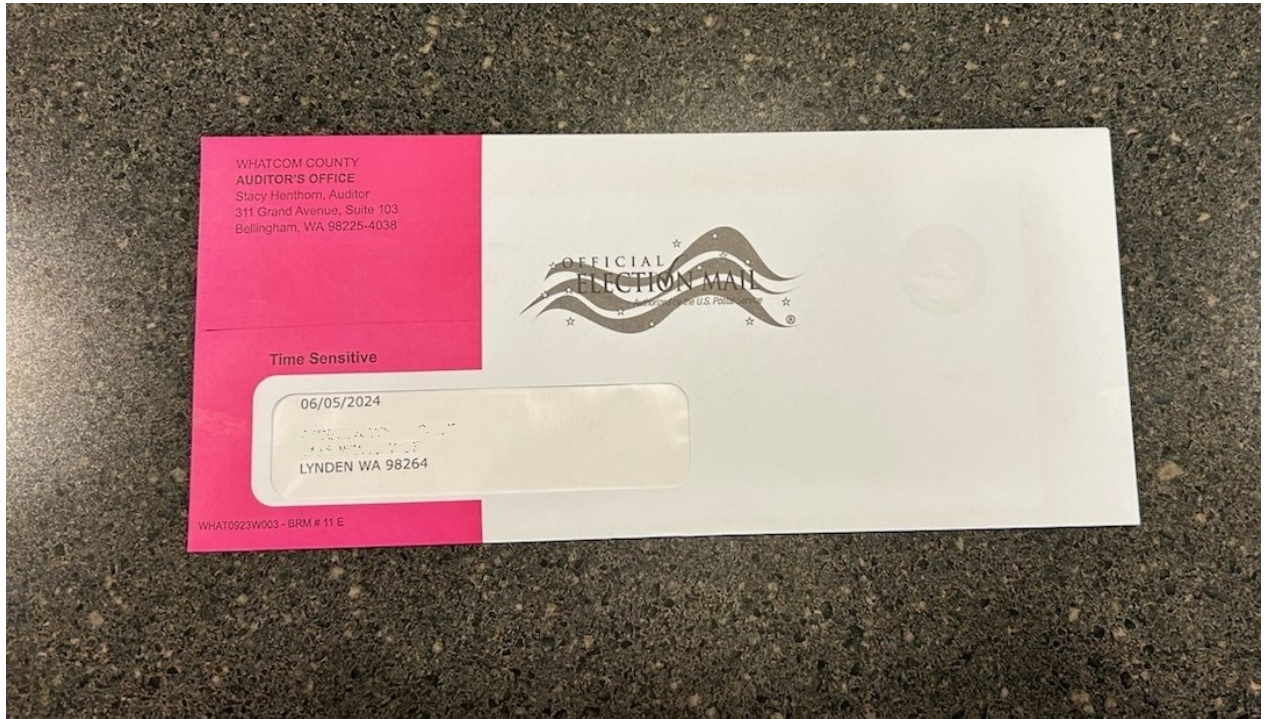
Whatcom County Auditor's Office - **Election Division**  
360-778-5102 | [elections@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:elections@co.whatcom.wa.us)  
311 Grand Avenue, Suite 103, Bellingham WA 98225

### SIGNATURE DOES NOT MATCH EMAIL

We received your ballot for the \_\_\_\_\_ Election, but the signature on the return envelope didn't match the signature(s) we have on file for you. We mailed a cure letter to you. Please sign and return that letter to our office by \_\_\_\_\_ (due date)\_\_\_\_\_ for your ballot to be accepted and counted. If you have not received this letter **OR** have any questions please contact us.

Whatcom County Auditor's Office - **Election Division**  
360-778-5102 | [elections@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:elections@co.whatcom.wa.us)  
311 Grand Avenue, Suite 103, Bellingham WA 98225

APPENDIX 7. NEW DESIGN FOR MAILING ENVELOPES (FOR CURE LETTERS)



APPENDIX 8. NEW DESIGN FOR RETURN ENVELOPES

**Read the Declaration**

I do solemnly swear or affirm under penalty of perjury that I am:

- A United States citizen;
- A Washington state resident that meets the requirements for voting mandated by state law;
- At least 18 years old on election day, or 17 years old at the primary and 18 years old by the day of the November general election;
- Voting only once in this election and not voting in any other United States jurisdiction;
- Not serving a sentence of total confinement under the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections for a Washington felony conviction or currently incarcerated for a federal or out-of-state felony conviction;
- Not disqualified from voting due to a court order; and
- Aware it is illegal to forge a signature or cast another person's ballot and that attempting to vote when not qualified, attempting to vote more than once, or falsely signing this declaration is a felony punishable by a maximum imprisonment of five years, a maximum fine of \$10,000, or both.

**To be counted, return your ballot in:**

- an official ballot drop box by 8:00 pm Election Day
- the mail, postmarked by Election Day

**Sign and date below (required)**

Your signature must match what's on your voter registration record for your ballot to be counted.

X \_\_\_\_\_ today's date / /

\_\_\_\_\_ email or phone number (optional, in case there is an issue with your signature)

If you are not able to sign, make a mark in the signature area above. Have your mark witnessed and signed by two people. *Power of Attorney may not sign for voter.*

\_\_\_\_\_ witness 1 signature above      \_\_\_\_\_ witness 2 signature above