

Protecting Secrecy for Precinct Results

Rules for 'Masking' precincts for possible secrecy problems in precinct results.

For each race, calculate whether a precinct should be 'masked'.

- 1) If there is only one precinct in the race, report it. (This applies to all PCOs).
- 2) If there is only one candidate in the race, report it.
- 3) If more than one precinct and candidate, by race, if the Rules below are met, mask (hide) the results and replace with *. Label the precincts with (*) and add footnote: “* Precincts were consolidated to protect voter privacy.”

RULES:

Apply rule to each race separately.

If more than 2 candidates get at least 1 vote: report results.

If only 2 candidates get results, but each get at least 2 votes: report results.

Otherwise mask.

RCW 29A.04.611

Rules by secretary of state.

... In addition to the rule-making authority granted otherwise by this section, the secretary of state shall make rules governing the following provisions:

- (11) Procedures to ensure the secrecy of a voter's ballot when a small number of ballots are counted at the polls or at a counting center;
- (39) The aggregation of precinct results if reporting the results of a single precinct could jeopardize the secrecy of a person's ballot;

RCW 29A.60.230

Abstract by election officer — Transmittal to secretary of state.

(3) If absentee ballot results are not incorporated into votes cast at the polls, the county auditor or other election official may aggregate results from more than one precinct if the auditor, pursuant to rules adopted by the secretary of state, finds that reporting a single precinct's absentee ballot results would jeopardize the secrecy of a person's ballot. To the extent practicable, precincts for which absentee results are aggregated must be contiguous.

WAC 434-262-020

Preliminary abstract of votes.

Following the election and prior to the official canvass, the county auditor shall prepare a preliminary abstract of votes, listing the number of registered voters and votes cast. Provisional ballot results must be combined with precinct results.

- (1) The preliminary abstract of votes must list separately for each precinct:
 - (a) Votes cast by absentee or mail ballot and votes cast at the polls;
 - (b) Votes cast for and against measures;
 - (c) Votes cast for candidates; and
 - (d) Overvotes and undervotes.
- (2) Pursuant to RCW 29A.60.230, the county auditor may aggregate results or take other necessary steps to maintain the secrecy of ballots.