



Washington Secretary of State

CLEARINGHOUSE

ELECTIONS NOTICE

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VOTER REGISTRATION NUMBERS IN ELECTION

The number of active registered voters is reported for each election to many sources, before, during and after an election.

Although registration ends 15 days before an election, new registrations take time to process, and there may be corrections to voter registration numbers up until Election Day.

In the past, counties have been asked to update their voting systems with the most current active registered voters at the official Logic and Accuracy (L&A) test, and to keep these numbers intact until certification.

L&A tests are now conducted earlier, sometimes up to a month before an election. As a result, voter registration totals may change between the L&A test and Election Day. Additionally, some counties are updating voter registration numbers after Election Day and some are not.

To be consistent throughout the state and to report consistent numbers in all reports (online election results, voting system reports, media releases) counties are now asked to update the number of active registered voters only once, on or just before Election Day, in the voting system reporting software and not again. Counties are requested to consistently report this number through certification day.

Because there is still inconsistency between counties, the Secretary of State is requesting the voter registration totals stay the same on reports from Election Day through certification and are not changed, even though minor changes occur. In most cases, any changes to the voter registration totals between Election Day and certification

are small and do not significantly affect turnout.

A possible exception is a significant change in the number which would greatly affect turnout percentages. For instance, if voter turnout exceeds 100%, or a significant error is discovered, the numbers should be updated. In any case, a record is maintained of any voter registration changes during that period of time.

If it is necessary to update voter registration numbers, it should be noted on the reconciliation report, and new numbers, reported by precinct, should be updated in the voting system reporting software before the final report. If this cannot be accomplished, then the changes in the active registered voters by precinct should be noted on the reconciliation report.

- 1) Each county should determine the current number of registered voters on or just before Election Day.
 - Updated voter registration totals by precinct should be entered into the voting system. This number will appear on all results reports from Election Day through certification.
 - The total number of registered voters should also be entered into WEI. (Only the total is entered into WEI, not the precinct breakout.)
 - From Election Day until certification, this number should not change on results reports or WEI.

- From Election Day until certification, this Election Day number is the number released to the media.
- 2) At the time the election is certified, the county will determine if there have been significant changes in the number of active registered voters during the canvassing process. If changes have not significantly affected turnout, no change will be made in the original number of registered voters entered on Election Day. If the numbers are updated, it will be reported in the reconciliation report.

If it is determined that the Active Registered Voters for the election should be changed on certification day:

- The county should update the WEI with this new number.
- The county should update its voting system by precinct so the final results report has the updated number of active registered voters.
- For counties that are not able to update these precinct numbers in the voting system, the updated numbers should be noted on the final results report that is sent to OSOS at certification time, including a breakout of the final active registered voters by precinct.

For more information, please call Patty Murphy at (360) 902-4188.