



Special Review Report

TO: Pierce County Canvassing Board

FROM: Sheryl Moss, Reviewer
Elections Certification and Training Program Manager
Office of the Secretary of State

RE: Special Election Review – Legislative District 25, Pos. 2 Recount

DATE: January 10, 2011

Pursuant to Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 29A.04.570, the Office of the Secretary of State Elections Certification and Training Program conducted a special review of Pierce County's post-election procedures for the November 2010 General Election. The closeness of the race for Legislative District 25, Position 2, requires a mandatory hand recount.

The review consisted of an interview with Julie Anderson, Pierce County Auditor; Lori Augino, Chief Deputy; Mike Rooney, Elections Manager; Mary Johnson-Hall, Elections Supervisor; and examination of supporting documents.

The reviewer met with Ms. Anderson and her staff on November 15, 2010. The rules, addressing manual recounts as prescribed by Washington Administrative Code Chapter 434-264, were discussed and Mr. Rooney discussed an informational PowerPoint presentation demonstrating their recount procedures. Additionally, the processes used in the 2010 General Election regarding accountability and reconciliation of ballots, manual inspection of ballots, and ballot security were examined.

The following documents specific to the 2010 General Election were provided: certification and recount procedures in the Pierce County Canvassing Board Manual, notifications required by RCW 29A.64.030; recount rules for observers and visitors, office procedures used by Pierce County Elections/Voting Division, a Poll Worker Flip Chart, ballot duplication documents, security documents, ballot reconciliation forms, and DRE audit procedures.

Based on the information provided, ballot security was maintained throughout the entire election by the utilization of sealed rolling cover cabinets and containers, limited access to the facility through a security system, and cameras placed throughout the facility. All ballot processing rooms were secured with key

cards. Procedures require unsecured ballots to be accompanied by two election staff members. The same security measures were applied to duplicating ballots and post tabulation storage.

Pierce County Elections is a well run organization with exceptional staff and leadership. The staff is knowledgeable and dedicated to preserving the integrity of elections. In all cases, the security requirements were met or exceeded. The reviewer did not find any recommendations or suggestions to make in this report.

This report does not contain any recommendations, so the county is not required to provide a written response.