



Washington
Secretary of State
SAM REED

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October 22, 2008

Pierce County Canvassing Board
c/o The Honorable Pat McCarthy, County Auditor
2401 S. 35th St
Tacoma, WA 98409-7498

Dear Canvassing Board Members:

In accordance with RCW 29A.04.570, the State Election Certification and Training Program conducted a comprehensive review of election procedures in Pierce County during the 2007 Primary Election.

The RCW also requires a follow-up visit prior to the next Primary or General Election to verify the County Auditor's Office has taken the steps necessary to correct the changes recommended in the review report.

The reviewer visited the Pierce County Elections Department on October 13, 2008 and found that the Pierce County Elections Department has changed its procedures to comply with the recommendations in the review report.

The elections department staff provided a sample copy of their questionnaire to cities, towns and districts which is sent to obtain information necessary for candidate filing. They have correctly added the request for the districts to verify salary information. The staff has also updated the confirmation notice to include the required warning to voters. The confirmation notice is now sent to any address where they could reasonably expect the voter to receive mail.

The elections department has relocated to a facility equipped with state-of-the art security technology. Ballot security is no longer an issue. The elections department continues to provide very good training for its poll workers. The reference manual used at the poll sites has been updated to include all aspects of issuing provisional ballots and correct closing procedures are emphasized.

If a voter's signature is not on file and cannot be found, the procedures for signature verification now include steps to locate the original signature or obtain an updated signature from the voter to enter into the voter registration system. If an updated signature is not obtained from the voter and the signature on the voter's ballot envelope cannot be verified the ballot will not be counted.



I continue to be impressed with the Pierce County Elections Department staff for their obvious dedication to the election process and their desire to improve an already good operation.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 360.725.5785 or kramsay@secstate.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kay Ramsay". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Kay Ramsay
Elections Program Specialist