Washington Secretary of State
SAM REED

Advisory Issue: 10 Overlapping Spring Elections
February 1, 2008

The date of the Presidential Primary creates an overlap with the March Special Election that is closer than normally occurs between two spring special elections. This overlap may affect how you administer the two elections. Please keep the following in mind as you plan for the upcoming elections.

Mail Out Dates

Ballots for the March Election must be mailed according to the regular deadlines (February 10th for UOCAVA ballots and February 22nd for regular mail ballots).

New Registrations & Transfers

If you are conducting a March Special Election, you will be entering into your voter registration systems new registrations and transfers to be effective for the March election before the certification of the Presidential Primary. It would be best to wait until after the Presidential Primary election date to enter the new data, but this may not be feasible for your county. If you are unsure how your voter registration system can handle the overlap of elections and allow you to do this without affecting the reconciliation and election database of the February election, please contact your vendor. It may also be helpful to contact other counties that have the same voter registration system.

Voter Registration Figures

As always, your voter registration totals for the February Presidential Primary Election must be accurately reported as of Election Day. Please use the same numbers through certification. Because you will be entering new data for the March election even before the date of the primary, analyze what you need to do in order to attain accurate voter registration figures for the primary.

Crediting Voters

There is a possibility that you will need to credit a voter for the Presidential Primary who has transferred to another county since receiving the primary ballot from your county. Please investigate any voters returning a ballot who appear to be canceled, and determine if you need to credit them in your county. You may need to talk to your vendor to see how you can credit a canceled voter.

Political Party Affiliation Data

If you accept a ballot from a voter who has been canceled out of your county because of an on time transfer to another county for a March election, make sure the political party affiliation data is included in the lists you send to the political parties.

Please see the attached chart for a list of counties planning to run elections in March. If you have any questions, please contact the Certification and Training Program at (360) 902-4180.

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