Washington Secretary of State
SAM REED

Advisory Issue: 07 Party Designation
December 28, 2007

In order for a voter to participate in the Presidential Primary, he or she must sign a political party oath. Each voter registration system will save this party declaration data temporarily.

At the county level, upon request, each county must provide a report of the voters who signed a party oath to the county political party committee. In addition, each county will provide a file to the OSOS that includes the county voter ID and party declaration for all voters that signed an oath.

At the state level, the OSOS will combine county information and produce a statewide report to the state party committees.

WAC 434-219-320 describes the conditions for transmitting this data.

- Provide to county party committees:
  - No later than 30 days following the Presidential Primary
  - The results of the primary, by precinct
  - The names and addresses of voters who signed a party oath (and whose signatures were also accepted)
  - At actual reproduction cost
- Provide to OSOS for the state party committees:
  - A file specific to each voter registration system that includes county voter ID and party declaration of voters who signed a party oath (and whose signatures were also accepted). This file format will be specified by the OSOS.

WAC 434-219-330 also requires counties to remove the party designation record from the voter registration files 60 days following certification of the primary (by May 12th). This is not a problem for counties that are recording the party designation in a field tied to the election and not to the permanent voter registration record. However, counties using the DIMS system will need to run an internal program to remove the party designation from the voter's registration record.

These amended WACs are found at:
http://www.secstate.wa.gov/elections/pdf/rulemaking/consolidated_final_cycle_4_rules.pdf

See attachment for specifics by voter registration system.

If you have any questions, please contact Patty Murphy at pmurphy@secstate.wa.gov or (360) 902-4188.

ELECTIONS DIVISION
520 Union Avenue SE
PO Box 40229
Olympia, WA 98504-0229
Tel: 360.902.4180
www.secstate.wa.gov/elections