STATE OF WASHINGTON

Olympia, Washington 98504

March 1, 2005

Honorable Governor Christine O. Gregoire
Governor, Washington State
Legislative Building
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Governor Gregoire:

It has been a pleasure to serve as the co-chairs of the Election Reform Task Force. Along with Dr. Sam Smith and former Senator Larry Sheahan, we are proud to submit our unanimous recommendations to you.

Over the past month, we have heard from hundreds of citizens across the state. One consistent theme we heard is that the public's sense of trust and respect for our election system has been damaged as a result of real or perceived failures in the recent election. We received some nearly unanimous suggestions and some that reflected completely opposite points of view or conflicted with federal law. The task force listened carefully to the public testimony and took seriously its charge to find ways to address the public concerns.

We believe our recommendations will result in an election system that has consistency, tight management controls, oversight, transparency, and minimal opportunity for fraud or error. We also believe these recommendations will help restore public trust in elections.

Sincerely,

Sam Reed
Co-Chair
Election Reform Task Force

Betti Sheldon
Co-Chair
Election Reform Task Force

Report from the Election Reform Task Force

Executive Summary

Washington State has recently experienced the closest Governor's election in United States history. The extremely close outcome has highlighted both imperfections in our election system and mistakes made that are clearly unacceptable. As a result, Governor Christine O. Gregoire formed the Election Reform Task Force and charged its members to recommend ways to improve the state's election system. The Task Force held five public meetings across the state for the public to provide ideas and concerns about the state's election system. In addition to testimony and written comments received at the five public hearings, the Task Force received feedback on a questionnaire distributed at the public hearings and available on the website. This report is the summation of the public input and the recommendations of the Task Force.

The Task Force has numerous recommendations in the following areas:

- Moving up the date of the primary election
- Improving voter registration records
- Military voters
- Statewide consistency
- Enforcement of voter fraud
- Date for certifying results
- Voter identification
- Voting by mail
- Provisional ballots
- Mandatory reviews or audits
- Signature verification
- Transparency of computer software
- Primary Voters' Pamphlet
- State funding

This Task Force concludes that the Governor, the Legislature, and all elected and appointed officials with election oversight responsibilities must take all necessary steps to restore the public's trust in our election system.

Report from the Election Reform Task Force

Washington State has recently experienced the closest Governor's election in United States history. The extremely close outcome has highlighted both imperfections in our election system and mistakes made that are clearly unacceptable. As a result, Governor Christine O. Gregoire formed the Election Reform Task Force and charged its members to recommend ways to improve the state's election system. The Task Force held five public meetings across the state for the public to provide ideas and concerns about the state's election system. In addition to testimony and written comments received at the five public hearings, the Task Force received feedback on a questionnaire distributed at the public hearings and available on the website. This report is the summation of the public input and the recommendations of the Task Force.

Governor Gregoire's Election Reform Task Force was co-chaired by Secretary of State Sam Reed and former State Senator Betti Sheldon. Task Force members included former WSU President Dr. Sam Smith and former State Senator Larry Sheahan. A detailed background of each Task Force member is attached as appendix A. The Gallatin Group facilitated the meetings.

The five public meetings were held as follows:

- February 10, 2005 Vancouver
- February 14, 2005 Des Moines
- February 16, 2005 Pasco
- February 22, 2005 Spokane
- February 24, 2005 Mount Vernon

Each public meeting started with a general overview of Washington's election system, a description of various election issues, and a summary of the various legislative proposals being considered by the 2005 Legislature. A copy of the presentation is attached as appendix B.

The Task Force members reinforced at each meeting that their role was to listen to the public about the changes needed to reform our election system, and to ensure that every valid vote counts. Most importantly, the Task Force was created to restore trust and confidence in our election system, and to prevent similar problems from occurring in future elections.

More than 455 people signed in as attending, or to provide public testimony, at the Election Reform Task Force meetings (94 in Vancouver, 104 in Des Moines, 55 in Pasco, 89 in Spokane, and 113 in Mount Vernon). The Task Force received completed questionnaires from 685 individuals and groups. Additionally, the Task Force received written submittals from a handful of individuals and groups. A list of materials submitted to the Task Force is attached as appendix C. The detailed summary of the responses to the questionnaire is attached as appendix D.

One theme consistent to every public meeting and in materials submitted is that the public's sense of trust and respect for our election system has been damaged as a result of real or perceived failures in the recent election. The real problems need to be addressed by our Legislature and election supervisors. Improved public outreach and education about state and federal election laws may rectify current misconceptions. The Task Force recognizes the importance of having a system of voting and elections that is trust-worthy and respected. While perfection can be the goal of our election system, we cannot build a completely error-free system. Nonetheless, we must build a system that has consistency, tight management controls, oversight, transparency, and minimal opportunity for fraud or error.

The Task Force started with the premise that voting is a fundamental right of democracy and duty of citizenship. For that right to be fully realized, the electorate must have full confidence in our election system. The Task Force strongly believes that changes to our system should not result in the disenfranchisement of any legitimate voter. Some of the public suggestions were nearly unanimous. Some of the public suggestions reflected completely opposite points of view. And some of the public suggestions conflict with federal law or suggest barriers that could disenfranchise legitimate voters. The Task Force sifted through the comments, reviewed the laws, and discussed what it would take to restore faith in our elections systems. The Task Force believes these recommendations will help restore public trust in elections.

This Task Force concludes that the Governor, the Legislature, and all elected and appointed officials with election oversight responsibilities must take all necessary steps to restore the public's trust in our elections systems.

The following summarizes the themes that emerged from the comments and questionnaires.

- **Public confidence.** There is a strong need to improve public confidence in the election system by eliminating unacceptable errors and illegal voting. In particular, elected and appointed officials in King County must immediately make it a top priority to establish and fund an elections system that meets the standards expected by the citizens across Washington State.
- **Consistency.** There is a need for more consistency in practice and procedures. Notable examples include ballot security, signature verification, notification, recounts, and ballot interpretation.
- **Date of the Primary.** There is a need for more time between the primary and the general election, especially for the distribution and receipt of ballots from military and overseas voters.
- **Enforcement.** There is a need for better enforcement and prosecution to address voter fraud, including a simpler reporting or whistleblower process.
- **Training.** There is a need for better training of poll workers and those involved with recounts.
- **Reviews.** There is a need for more rigorous and frequent reviews and audits of county election processes, including monitoring county compliance with state election laws and rules.
- **Improve Voter Registration Records.** There is a need for a statewide voter registration data base that can link voter information with information related to those convicted of felonies, those who have recently died, those who have moved and are no longer residents of their voting precinct, and those who are newly registered to vote.
- **Identification.** There is a need to assure that voters at the polls and voters who submit an absentee or provisional ballot are who they say they are.
- **Paper Trail.** There is a need for a verifiable paper trail for all ballots cast electronically.
- **Software.** There is a need for complete transparency in software associated with electronic voting machines, including using only open source codes.
- **Notice.** There is a need for the counties to improve the notice given to a voter whose ballot has been rejected or whose signature is not deemed to match the signature on record. The notice must include clear, time certain means for reversing the decision to reject their ballot.
- **Certification.** There is a need for counties to certify recount results on the same day.
- **Voters' Pamphlet.** There is a need for a statewide primary Voters' Pamphlet (if there is at least one statewide office on the primary ballot).
- **Funding.** There is a need for the state to contribute its fair share for the cost of statewide or congressional elections, including the costs associated with recounts.

As a result of the public input, the Task Force recommends the following specific actions:

1. **Move the date of the primary election**. The Task Force recommends that the date of the primary election be moved at least four weeks earlier to give election supervisors sufficient time to certify the primary results, mail the general election ballots, and prepare for the general election. This will help ensure that military and overseas voters receive their ballots within the federally recommended transit time and are able to return their ballot by the deadline established in state law. Public opinion varies as to whether the primary should be moved to June or August; however, the majority of those that testified in support of this recommendation spoke in favor of the June date.

2. **Require voter identification.** Because voters are not currently required to produce proof of identity at polling sites, some members of the public believe that there is an ability to impersonate others and thus vote illegally. Those that vote by mail are required to certify that they are the registered voter, and their signature is checked and verified before the ballot is tallied.

   A majority of those testifying at the Task Force meetings feel that requiring identification to be presented at the polls will reduce the potential for voter fraud. Currently, federal law requires first time voter applicants registering by mail to provide a drivers license number or the last four digits of their social security number. Some of those testifying raised concerns that driver's license does not prove eligibility to vote.

   The purpose of the uniform statewide voter registration data base is to verify the eligibility of voters in terms of age, residency, or felon status. The purpose of an identification requirement at a poll site would be to ensure that persons are who they say they are. The identification requirement is not to ensure voter eligibility.

   To receive a ballot at the polling site, the Task Force supports requiring some form of voter identification. The Task Force recommends that a current driver's license or state identification card could be used to identify voters and that other forms of secondary identification, as provided in the federal Help America Vote Act, could be used in the event that the voter does not possess a drivers license or identification card. If any individual desires to vote, but is unable to provide the specified identification, that individual should be issued a provisional ballot.

3. **Improve Voter Registration Records.** Many of the concerns raised by the public involve a frustration that voter rolls include some illegitimate voters. In particular, concerns were raised that felons who have not had their voting rights restored, illegal aliens, and deceased individuals may still be on the voter rolls. Additionally, examples of duplicate names and non-residents were provided to the Task Force.

One of the means suggested by a number of participants is to require all voters to be re-registered. The practice of wholesale purging of voter registration rolls is likely to raise issues under federal law. The National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (the Motor Voter Act) restricts the manner in which states can purge voters from the voter rolls. The law permits removal only at the voter's request, for felony conviction or mental incapacity, or as part of a general effort to remove ineligible voters from the rolls.

The federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) requires a centralized statewide voter registration data base by January 2006. This computerized statewide voter registration data base will vastly improve the state's ability to manage the voter rolls and eliminate duplication. It also allows linkages with other data bases to assure those not authorized to vote are not on the rolls.

To reduce the instances of illegitimate voters or duplication, the Task Force recommends a strong effort to bring this new data base on-line. The state needs to require that links to other agencies data bases (Department of Corrections, Justice Department, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Health and others) are sufficient to ensure that those convicted of a felony, those who are not citizens, or those who are deceased are removed from the voter rolls in a timely manner. In addition, as authorized by federal law state and local officials must carefully and regularly review the data base to eliminate duplications and non-residents. This is essential to assure Washington citizens that only legitimate voters are receiving ballots.

Nearly unanimously, the public requested felons whose voting rights have not been restored and illegal aliens be removed from the voter rolls. The Task Force believes that a regularly monitored, centralized statewide data base will address most of these problems.

The Task Force recommends that clearer warnings be included on voter material, including the back of the absentee ballot envelope, informing the voter that it is illegal to vote if you are not a U.S. citizen or if you have been convicted of a crime and not had your voting rights restored. The warning should also clearly state that you may not cast a ballot or sign an absentee envelope on behalf of any other voter.

The Task Force does not make any recommendations on modifying the state's current process for restoring the voting rights of convicted felons, as the public has conflicting ideas on this topic.

It was also suggested by some that the state should eliminate the ability of the homeless to register to vote by using the county offices as their location of residence. However, the Washington Constitution does not require a "residence" as a condition of voting. Federal courts have ruled that a lack of a fixed residence does not disqualify an otherwise qualified citizen from voting. The Office of Secretary of State has adopted rules to provide for a uniform method of registering citizens with nontraditional addresses. These nontraditional addresses qualify as the address

listed on the voter registration oath. The Task Force does not recommend changing these provisions.

Finally, it was noted that certain voters with Alzheimer's disease or other dementia, whose families have not deemed it necessary to obtain a judicial determination of incompetency, are still on the voter rolls. An allegation of inappropriate voting by caregivers was presented to the Task Force. The Task Force recommends that provisions be adopted to allow a caregiver exercising a legal Power of Attorney in such situations be able to request the removal of the incompetent individual from the voter rolls.

4. **Improve military ballots**. Washington State can control the initial issuance of ballots and the processing of returns for those serving in the military. Unfortunately, Washington's election officials have no control over the federal mail system or the distribution of Washington's ballots by the military bases. The law does include special provisions to facilitate military voting. Military personnel are required to sign the ballot by election day, but the envelope need not contain a postmark indicating it was mailed election day, as military ballots often do not have a postmark. Military personnel may also fax ballots.

   The most critical issue relating to the counties' ability to issue military ballots any earlier is the late (September) date of Washington's primary. The Task Force recommends moving the primary date earlier as one means to improve the ability of service men and women to participate in our elections.

   One of the main problems with ballots not getting to our armed forces in a timely manner involves those members in the Reserves and National Guard who have been called up to active duty. Delays stemmed from ballots being mailed to the primary residence of the voter who had been called up. Their ballot was then forwarded by a spouse or family member to the active duty station, often overseas. This added weeks to the delivery of the ballots. There needs to be a simpler, more direct means for ballots to get to those on active duty. The Task Force recommends the state implement a system of deployment notification and ballot delivery tailored to those members called up and expected to be away from their primary residences during an election.

5. **Assure statewide procedural consistency**. Washington has long been a populist state, with citizens preferring decentralized government. Our constitutional framers vested primary control over counting ballots and certifying results at the county level. The most recent elections have created a reason to revisit this decentralized control over our election systems. Problems with ballot interpretation, inconsistencies with signature verification, concerns about ballot security, all send a clear message that more consistency is needed between the counties.

   The Task Force recommends that the Secretary of State be given a stronger role to bring about a more consistent election process between counties. Rules should

mandate specific procedures that must be followed by all counties. This is especially important in several areas:

- Security of Ballots and polling sites
- Treatments of provisional ballots
- Verification of signatures
- Acceptable voter identification
- Procedures for interpreting (enhancing or duplicating) ballots
- Procedures of canvassing boards
- Procedures for recounts

Several participants at the public hearings believed that the Secretary of State's Office had not promulgated all rules required by state law. However, the Task Force believes that the law requiring rules with respect to fifty three specified areas was essentially a re-enactment of existing rules that were previously scattered throughout the election code (Title 29 RCW). When that title was recodified, all these requirements were combined in this one statute. Uniform statewide standards have been established in these areas, some in rules adopted by the Secretary of State and some contained in statutes passed by the state legislature. The validity or administration of these standards has been upheld by Washington courts.

6. **Provide clearer warnings and stronger enforcement of voter fraud.** A strong public sentiment has emerged that the government has not taken seriously the allegations of abuse in our elections systems. To restore trust in the system, allegations of voter fraud must be promptly investigated and prosecuted. The Task Force recommends that the legislature evaluate whether the penalties are enough of a deterrent to voter fraud and whether sufficient funding is provided to investigate and prosecute this type of fraud. The Task Force recommends that clearer warnings be included in voter material and on the back of ballot envelopes. These warnings should state that it is illegal to vote for or sign the name of another individual, to vote if not a resident of Washington, to vote if convicted of a felony without having voting rights restored, or to vote if not a U.S. citizen. And finally, the Task Force recommends improving the process for someone to report allegations of voter fraud, including the potential for such reporting to be anonymous.

7. **Consistent date for certifying results**. The most recent recount resulted in a situation where the larger counties took longer to finalize their results and thus posted information at the end. The changing outcomes of later arriving information created the perception that something was amiss in the system, especially in King County. It also created individual and collective emotional swings as the leader changed from day to day, hour to hour. To minimize the perception of impropriety, the Task Force recommends that all counties certify their results on the same day. The larger counties would start earlier than the smaller counties, but all would finish on the same day.

8. **Retain the local option of voting by mail.** Some individuals are opposed to the use of absentee ballots, arguing it increases the opportunity for fraud or abuse. The vast majority of voters in the state use absentee ballots as their preferred method of voting. The Task Force recommends keeping the local option of using mail-in ballots. However, given concerns about potential abuse of absentee ballots, the Task Force recommends that stronger warnings be included with the mailed information and included on the outside of the envelope. For example, instead of just including the current warning with the signature block on the envelope, the Task Force recommends that the warning state that you may not vote for anyone else, you may not sign anyone else's name, and you may only vote if you are a U.S. citizen and a resident of Washington state. It should be clear that anyone violating these legal requirements will be prosecuted for voter fraud.

   As a result of inconsistent public feedback, the Task Force does not recommend changing the date of receipt of absentee ballots. Although some would like to see ballots received by Election Day, this was not a universal opinion. It was also viewed as potentially compounding the problem with the receipt of military or overseas ballots.

9. **Modify provisional ballots.** Provisional, or special, ballots are required by federal law. As a result of inconsistencies and problems in the recent election, the Task Force recommends several changes. First, statewide procedures for handling provisional ballots are needed. Second, to control the counting of provisional ballots before the legitimacy of the signature has been verified, the Task Force recommends that the provisional ballots be a different color than regular ballots and that something be coded or included on the ballot that prohibits the ballot from being read by the optical scanners at the polling sites. An alternative might be to require the provisional ballots to be a larger size so as to be incompatible with the optical scanners.

10. **Mandatory review or audit.** Until recently, the Secretary of State's Office had the authority and funding to periodically audit the elections offices of the counties. That authority and funding was eliminated in recent years. The lack of oversight of local election systems, personnel and equipment has resulted in inconsistent practices and problems. The Task Force believes that to restore trust in the elections systems, a strong, structured review or audit program be mandated and funded. It should be conducted by the Secretary of State's Office.

11. **Improved Notice of signature or ballot irregularity.** The recent election brought to the public's attention the process for verification of voter signatures. It appears that different counties may have used different levels of scrutiny on signatures. As a result of a King County court ruling, the public also believes that each political party had control over whose signature irregularities were corrected. The Task Force believes that improvements are needed in this area. First, statewide consistency is needed in how signatures are verified. Secondly, the responsibility for voter notification and verification should rest with each county. Each county must have an

affirmative duty to notify each voter of an irregularity between a signature on a ballot and one on file. The notice must clearly state the process and timeline for correcting the problem. In situations where a voter is unable to physically get to the county office to make the necessary verification, accommodations must be available.

12. **Improve election system in King County.** The Task Force heard a high level of concern expressed by citizens across the state about a variety of issues with the King County Elections system. Some of the concerns are very real and need both state and local changes. Some of the concerns are based on perceptions that may or may not be true. Regardless of whether the concerns are real or perceived, the elected and appointed officials in King County must immediately make it a top priority to establish and fund an elections system that meets the standards expected by the citizens across Washington State.

13. **Transparency of computer software.** Some members of the public are very distrustful of electronic voting. They would prefer that we not rely on machines at all. They feel that if computers or other machines are used, they must meet the highest degree of certification. They believe that the integrity of the manufacturer, the machine and the software must be the paramount concern of the state election officials. They also believe that any software used in these machines must be open and transparent. Those holding these views advocate for open source coding that can be readily inspected and duplicated by elections officials and the public. Finally, these members of the public believe that any electronic voting machine must be capable of producing a paper ballot and a paper trail for recount and audit purposes.

    The Task Force respects these concerns. The complexity of these issues, however, is beyond the scope of this Task Force. Accordingly, the Task Force does not make recommendations regarding any specific changes to the current system to certify equipment and software. The Task Force does recommend that any electronic voting result in a paper ballot and a voter verified paper audit trail.

14. **Voters Pamphlet in the Primary.** Currently, the state only produces a Voters Pamphlet for the general election. Because of the potential for some elections to be decided in the primary, the Task Force recommends the production of a state primary Voter Pamphlet, if statewide positions appear on the ballot.

15. **State Funding.** The state currently only contributes a share of the funding during each odd-year election. It should not make a difference what year the election occurs. The Task Force recommends the state fund its fair share of any election that includes any congressional or statewide position or measure on the ballot. Additionally, the Task Force recommends that the state should contribute its fair share of any recount on any congressional or statewide position or measure.

Appendix A
Election Reform Task Force Members

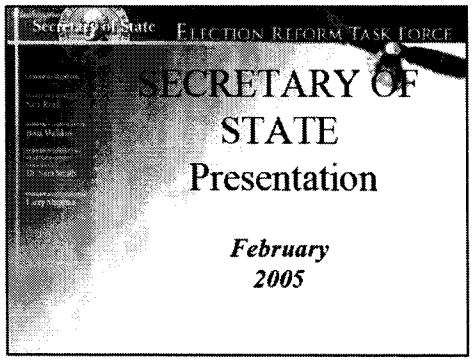
Secretary of State Sam Reed
Sam Reed, a nationally recognized elections expert, is serving his second term as Secretary of State. Prior to that, he served five terms as Thurston County Auditor and six years as Assistant Secretary of State. As an international election advisor, Sam represented the United States during elections in the Republic of Uganda, Africa and for the Russian Khabarovsk Territorial Governor.

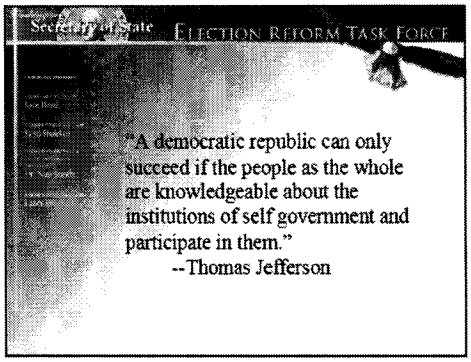
Former Washington State Senator Betti Sheldon
Betti Sheldon served in the Legislature from 1992 to 2004 representing Kitsap County. She has served as Democrat Floor Leader, Majority Floor Leader, Majority Caucus Vice Chair, Majority Whip, and Majority Assistant Floor Leader. Her standing committees have included Economic Development, Higher Education and Ways and Means. She serves, and has served, on the boards of directors of numerous community organizations.

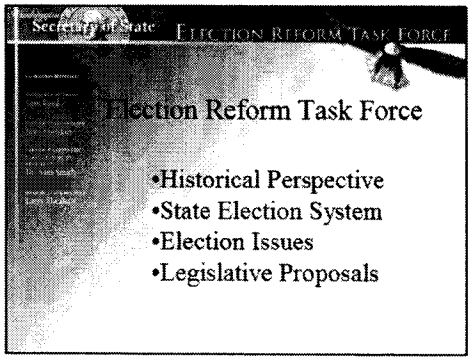
Washington State University President Emeritus Dr. Sam Smith
Dr. Sam Smith was Washington State University's eighth president from 1985 to 2000. Under his leadership, WSU's teaching, research and public service activities received world recognition. He strengthened undergraduate and graduate education, and created urban campuses in Spokane, the Tri-Cities and Vancouver. In 2002, the Board of Regents named WSU's newest building, the Center for Undergraduate Education, after Dr. Smith.

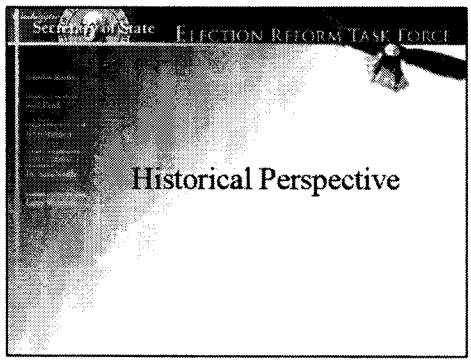
Former Washington State Senator Larry Sheahan
Larry Sheahan served in the Legislature from 1992 to 2004 representing Whitman County, Adams County, and part of Spokane County in both the State Senate and the House of Representatives. He has served as the Senate Republican Majority Floor Leader, Senate Republican Minority Floor Leader, and on committees including Ways and Means, Economic Development, Higher Education, Highways and Transportation, Agriculture and as Chairman of the House Law and Justice Committee.

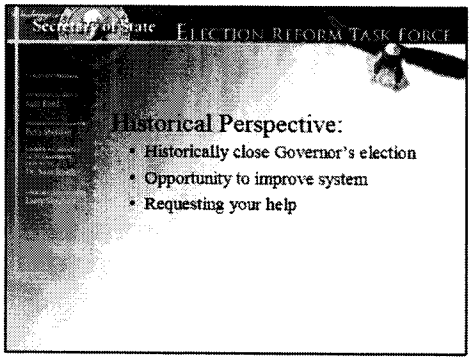
Appendix B

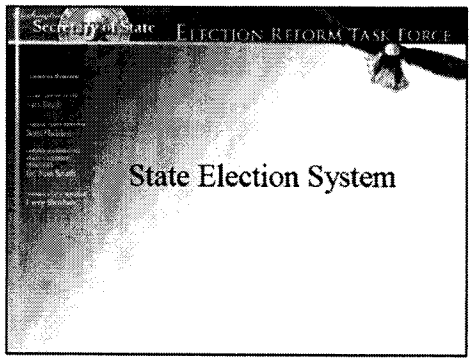

Secretary of State
Election Reform Task Force
SECRETARY OF STATE
Presentation
February
2005


Secretary of State
Election Reform Task Force
"A democratic republic can only succeed if the people as the whole are knowledgeable about the institutions of self government and participate in them."
--Thomas Jefferson


Secretary of State
Election Reform Task Force
Election Reform Task Force
•Historical Perspective
•State Election System
•Election Issues
•Legislative Proposals


Secretary of State
Election Reform Task Force
Historical Perspective


Secretary of State
Election Reform Task Force
Historical Perspective:
• Historically close Governor's election
• Opportunity to improve system
• Requesting your help


Secretary of State
Election Reform Task Force
State Election System

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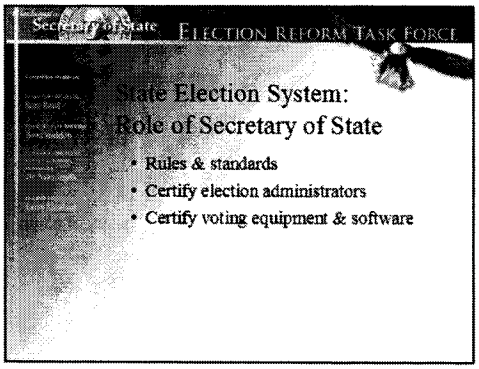
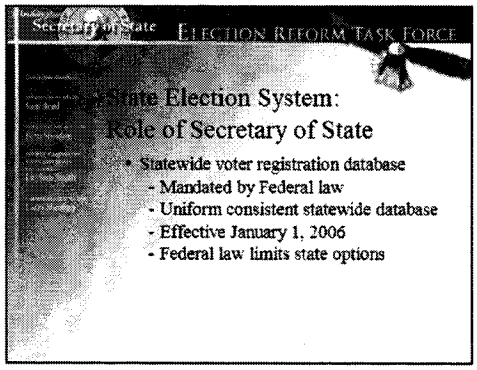
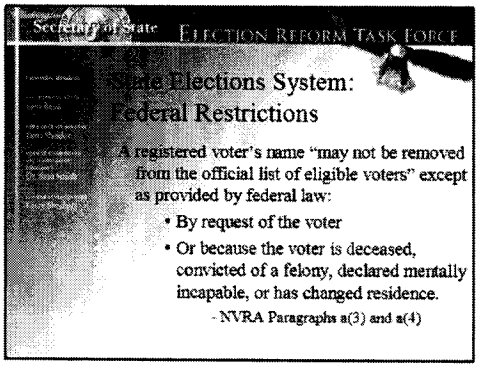
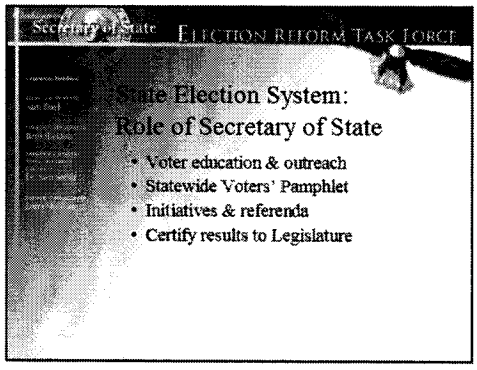
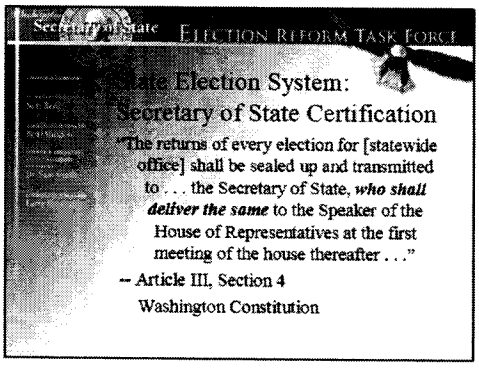
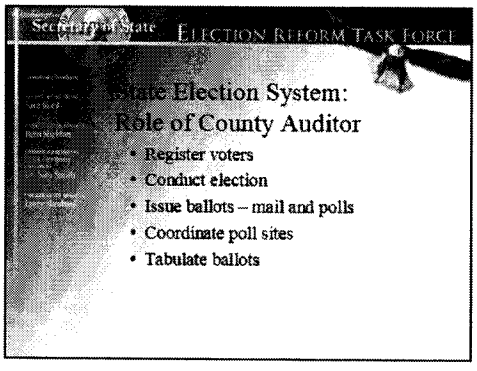

Secretary of State
Election Reform Task Force
State Election System:
Role of Secretary of State
• Rules & standards
• Certify election administrators
• Certify voting equipment & software

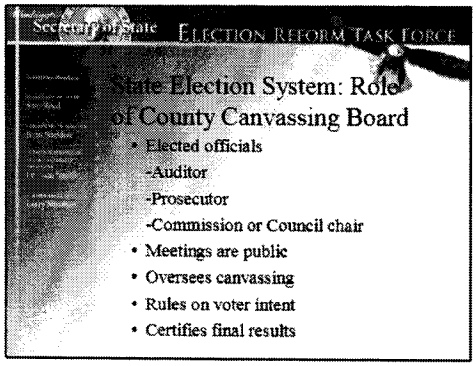

Secretary of State
Election Reform Task Force
State Election System:
Role of Secretary of State
• Statewide voter registration database
- Mandated by Federal law
- Uniform consistent statewide database
- Effective January 1, 2006
- Federal law limits state options

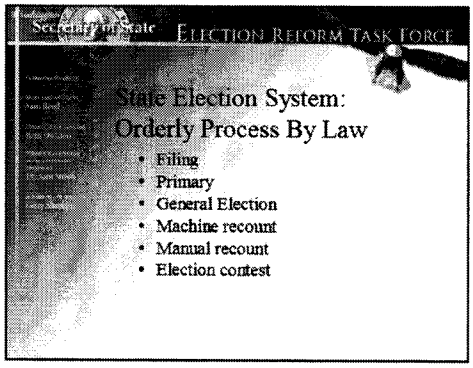

Secretary of State
Election Reform Task Force
State Elections System:
Federal Restrictions
A registered voter's name "may not be removed from the official list of eligible voters" except as provided by federal law:
• By request of the voter
• Or because the voter is deceased, convicted of a felony, declared mentally incapable, or has changed residence.
- NVRA Paragraphs a(3) and a(4)

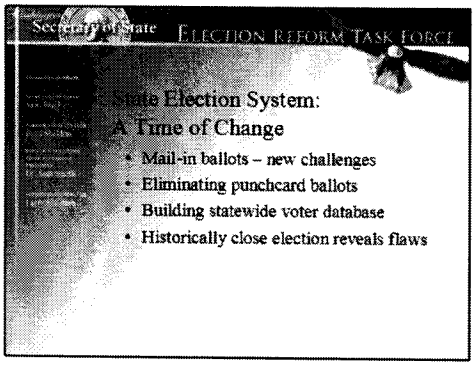

Secretary of State
Election Reform Task Force
State Election System:
Role of Secretary of State
• Voter education & outreach
• Statewide Voters' Pamphlet
• Initiatives & referenda
• Certify results to Legislature

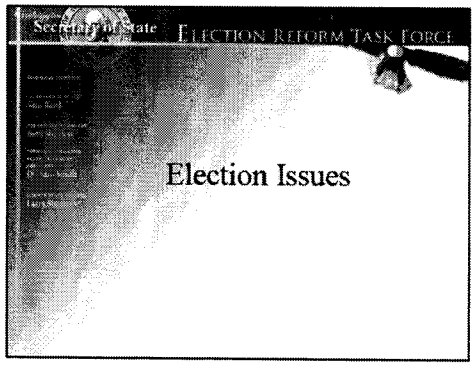

Secretary of State
Election Reform Task Force
State Election System:
Secretary of State Certification
"The returns of every election for [statewide office] shall be sealed up and transmitted to . . . the Secretary of State, ***who shall deliver the same*** to the Speaker of the House of Representatives at the first meeting of the house thereafter . . ."
-- Article III, Section 4
Washington Constitution

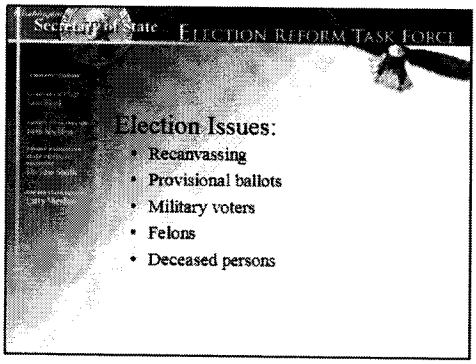

Secretary of State
Election Reform Task Force
State Election System:
Role of County Auditor
• Register voters
• Conduct election
• Issue ballots – mail and polls
• Coordinate poll sites
• Tabulate ballots

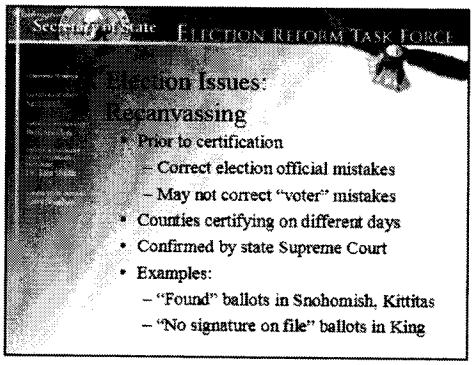

Secretary of State
Election Reform Task Force
State Election System: Role of County Canvassing Board
• Elected officials
-Auditor
-Prosecutor
-Commission or Council chair
• Meetings are public
• Oversees canvassing
• Rules on voter intent
• Certifies final results

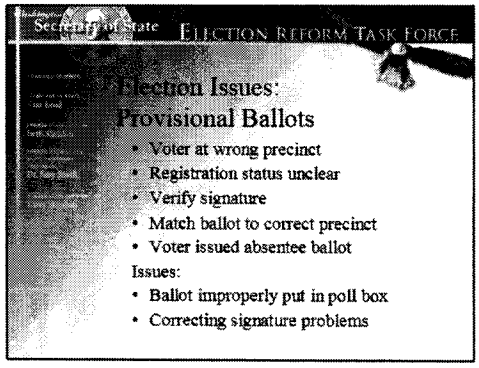

Secretary of State
Election Reform Task Force
State Election System: Orderly Process By Law
• Filing
• Primary
• General Election
• Machine recount
• Manual recount
• Election contest

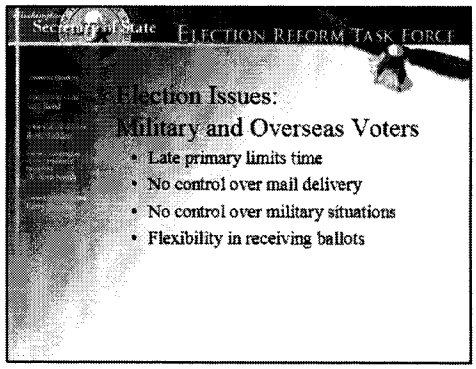

Secretary of State
Election Reform Task Force
State Election System: A Time of Change
• Mail-in ballots – new challenges
• Eliminating punchcard ballots
• Building statewide voter database
• Historically close election reveals flaws

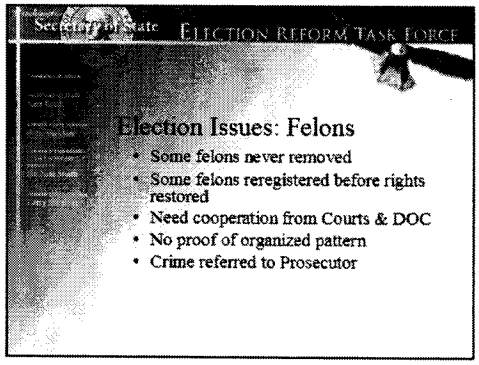

Secretary of State
Election Reform Task Force
Election Issues

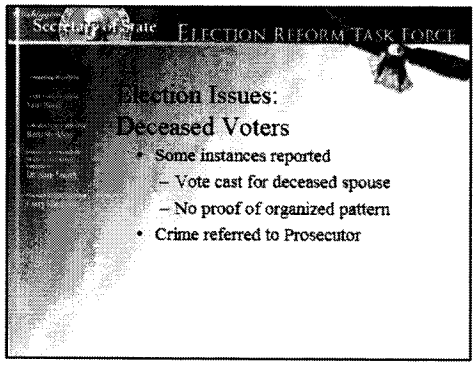

Secretary of State
Election Reform Task Force
Election Issues:
• Recanvassing
• Provisional ballots
• Military voters
• Felons
• Deceased persons

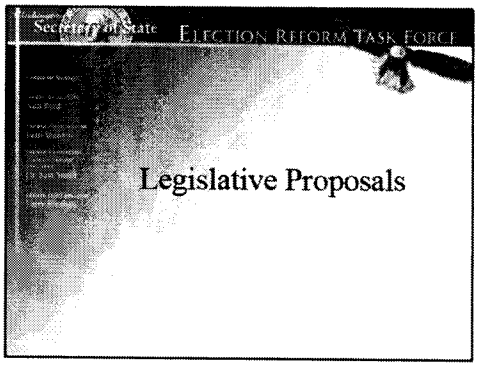

Secretary of State
Election Reform Task Force
Election Issues: Recanvassing
• Prior to certification
– Correct election official mistakes
– May not correct "voter" mistakes
• Counties certifying on different days
• Confirmed by state Supreme Court
• Examples:
– "Found" ballots in Snohomish, Kittitas
– "No signature on file" ballots in King

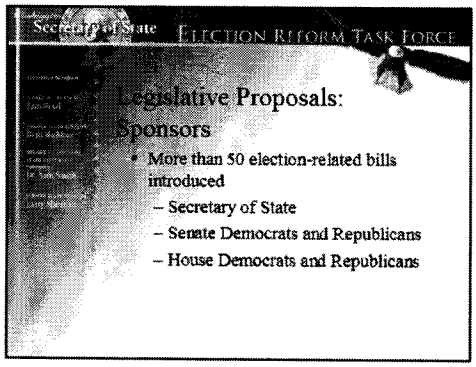

Secretary of State
ELECTION REFORM TASK FORCE
Election Issues:
Provisional Ballots
• Voter at wrong precinct
• Registration status unclear
• Verify signature
• Match ballot to correct precinct
• Voter issued absentee ballot
Issues:
• Ballot improperly put in poll box
• Correcting signature problems

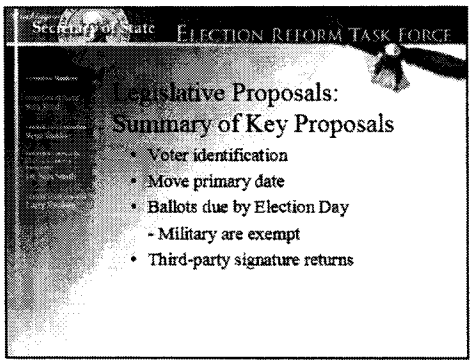

Secretary of State
ELECTION REFORM TASK FORCE
Election Issues:
Military and Overseas Voters
• Late primary limits time
• No control over mail delivery
• No control over military situations
• Flexibility in receiving ballots

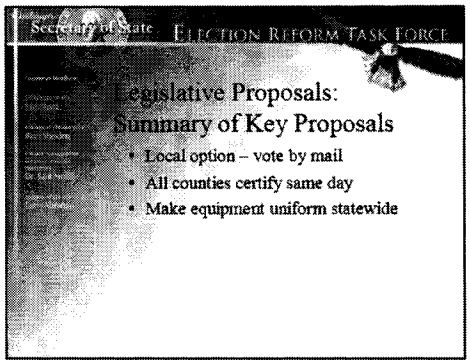

Secretary of State
ELECTION REFORM TASK FORCE
Election Issues: Felons
• Some felons never removed
• Some felons reregistered before rights restored
• Need cooperation from Courts & DOC
• No proof of organized pattern
• Crime referred to Prosecutor

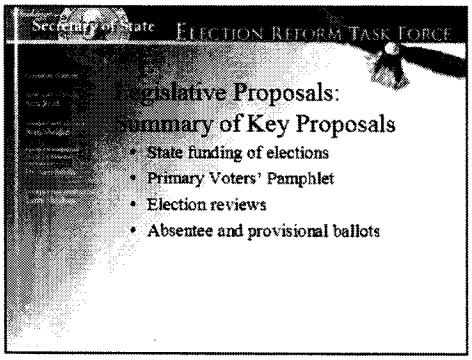

Secretary of State
ELECTION REFORM TASK FORCE
Election Issues:
Deceased Voters
• Some instances reported
– Vote cast for deceased spouse
– No proof of organized pattern
• Crime referred to Prosecutor

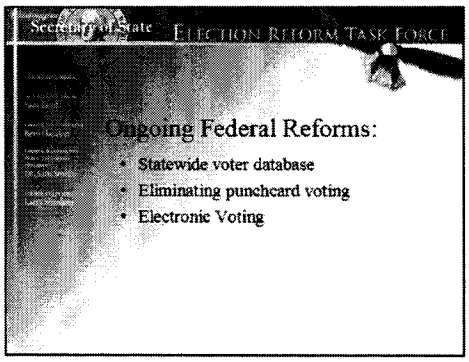

Secretary of State
ELECTION REFORM TASK FORCE
Legislative Proposals

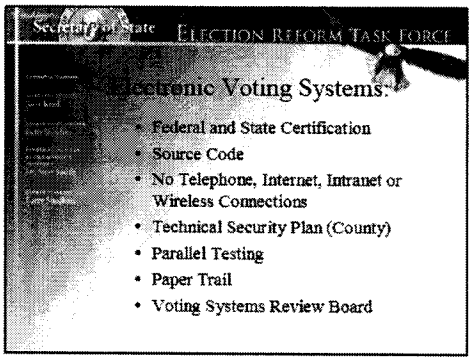

Secretary of State
ELECTION REFORM TASK FORCE
Legislative Proposals:
Sponsors
• More than 50 election-related bills introduced
– Secretary of State
– Senate Democrats and Republicans
– House Democrats and Republicans

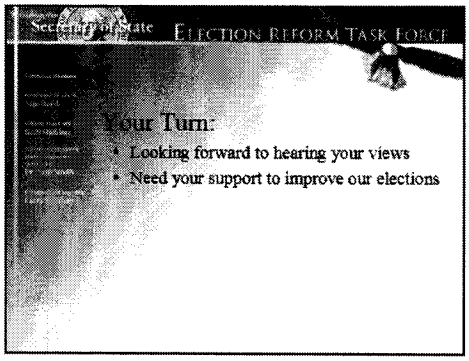

Secretary of State
Election Reform Task Force
Legislative Proposals:
Summary of Key Proposals
• Voter identification
• Move primary date
• Ballots due by Election Day
- Military are exempt
• Third-party signature returns


Secretary of State
Election Reform Task Force
Legislative Proposals:
Summary of Key Proposals
• Local option – vote by mail
• All counties certify same day
• Make equipment uniform statewide


Secretary of State
Election Reform Task Force
Legislative Proposals:
Summary of Key Proposals
• State funding of elections
• Primary Voters' Pamphlet
• Election reviews
• Absentee and provisional ballots


Secretary of State
Election Reform Task Force
Ongoing Federal Reforms:
• Statewide voter database
• Eliminating punchcard voting
• Electronic Voting


Secretary of State
Election Reform Task Force
Electronic Voting Systems:
• Federal and State Certification
• Source Code
• No Telephone, Internet, Intranet or Wireless Connections
• Technical Security Plan (County)
• Parallel Testing
• Paper Trail
• Voting Systems Review Board


Secretary of State
Election Reform Task Force
Your Turn:
• Looking forward to hearing your views
• Need your support to improve our elections

5

Appendix C
Documents and Material
on file with the Governor's Office

Video of February 10th Vancouver Meeting
Video of February 14th Des Moines Meeting
Video of February 16th Pasco Meeting
Video of February 22nd Spokane Meeting
Video of February 24th Mt. Vernon Meeting
Questionnaires submitted and the spreadsheet of the results

Materials or emails submitted to the Task Force:

Ruth Ryan, Spokane Elizabeth Walter Aiko Schaefer, Statewide Poverty Action Network Director Neil J. Uhrig, Washington College Republican Federation Executive Secretary John Piazza, Burlington Gloria Wells, Spokane Linde Knighton Randall Burns Jill Lagergren, Elma Jason Aaron Osgood, Seattle Dennis Heidner Donna Hanson, Pullman Dennis Martin, Lakewood John Leclerc, Olympia Bob Williams, Evergreen Freedom Foundation President Lynn Harsh, Evergreen Freedom Foundation Executive Director Christine Mrak, Your Vote Counts Jennie Stephenson, University Place Rich Littleton J.B. McCrummen, Port Townsend Robert Fithian Ellen Theisen, www.VotersUnite.org John Gideon, www.VotersUnite.org Paul Lehto, www. VotersUnite.org Jeffrey Hoffman Jim Fox Pat Fogerty-Cramer	William M. Turk, Everett Nancy Doty Linda Franz, Ferndale Cris Shardelman, Poulsbo Arnold James Byron, Burlington Lee Eggerbroten, Seattle Zona Lenhart, Franklin County Auditor Chuck Dermady, Redmond Raymond Bliven, Ridgefield Sharon Bumula Michele Cotner, Vancouver Carren Walker, Camas Patrice Jacob, Camas Nancy Sayan, Vancouver Carole Devenir-Moore, Vancouver Al Swindell, Woodland Fred Lamb, Vancouver Rodger Stevens, Vancouver Ezra Steinberg, Vancouver Paul Mulwitz, Camas Moloy Good, Vancouver Elizabeth Adair, Edmonds Susan Denham, Skagit County Bob Williams Judy Golberg, League of Women Voters of Washington President Peter Abbarno, Washington State Republican Party Executive Director Ray Haynie, Auburn Eilert Bjorge, Ellensburg

Total Election Reform Questionnaire Results

Total Election Reform Questionnaire Results

(Reviewers were asked to answer question and rate its importance: 1 (low) to 5 (high))

Total Questionnaires Returned 685

Question	Yes	No	1	2	3	4	5	Average 1-5
Issues Related to Election Timing								
1) Should the primary date be moved to June or August?	510	107	80	57	132	147	203	3.5
June	280							
August	203							
2) Should the Counties be permitted to begin tabulating absentee ballots on the Monday before Election Day, requiring any results to remain secret under penalty of law?	396	232	67	58	123	135	203	3.5
Issues Related to Ballots								
1) Should standards be established to require that provisional ballots be distinguishable from other ballots and incapable of being tabulated by poll site counting devices?	586	54	41	23	86	65	474	4.3
2) Should statewide standards be established for signature verification and provisional ballots?	572	18	39	62	129	82	433	4
3) Should it be required that records of absentee and provisional ballot signature issues are not public records until after the election is certified by the County Canvassing Board?	335	220	47	44	139	98	224	3.7
4) Should all counties be required to certify recounts on the same day?	420	194	59	48	118	104	276	3.8
5) Should the County Canvassing Board only be able to recanvass when there is a discrepancy or inconsistency in the returns due to an error by the County Auditor or his or her staff?	366	207	43	42	125	116	225	3.7
6) Should voters be promptly notified when their signature on an absentee or provisional ballot is rejected?	577	43	41	42	69	89	392	4.1
7) Should a paper trail be made for all ballots cast electronically?	592	39	56	19	47	40	476	4.3

Question	Yes	No	1	2	3	4	5	Average 1-5
Issues Related to Voter Registration								
1) Should an enhanced statewide Voter Registration Database be established?	572	51	71	26	83	103	853	4
2) Should voter rolls be "cleaned" be requiring all currently registered voters to re-register?	385	250	53	38	72	102	159	3.6
3) Should all voters be checked for identification before receiving a ballot at the polls?	534	109	39	62	76	52	442	4.1
Other Proposed Election Reforms								
1) Should statewide elections be conducted entirely by mail?	151	487	52	40	171	90	316	3.8
2) Should the State be required to help pay for election costs incurred by the counties?	394	205	45	76	230	111	129	3.3
3) Should it be required that a Primary Voters' Pamphlet be printed and distributed when at least one statewide office is scheduled to appear on a primary ballot?	463	123	57	87	279	98	147	3.2
4) Should uniform voting machines be required statewide?	434	176	69	52	118	105	265	3.7
5) Should each county elections office be reviewed by the Secretary of State's Office?	559	50	42	32	134	116	279	3.9

Other Reforms/Suggestions

Citizenship/ ID verification	69
All software for electronic voting need to be publicly owned and investigated	39
Adopt Instant Runoff Voting	32
Verifiable Paper Trail	31
When margin of victory is less than error of margin, must be new election	19
Absentee ballots should be restricted/limited	17
Ban ballot enhancing	17
End Provisional Ballots	11
Stop dead people from voting	10
Legally punish election fraud violators.	8
Primary should be abolished. Let parties choose	7
No motor voter	6

Provide "none of the above" option on ballots	6
Abolish DRE voting machines	5
Ballots with mistakes should not be counted at all	5
Election worker training	5
Extend certification of election date until election is determined honest and fair.	5
No electronic ballots	5
Statistically improbable elections should not be certified.	5
100% Electronic registration voter check-in and voting system	4
Ballots in English only	4
ID cards should be required	4
Mandatory audits of election results in randomly selection precincts	4
Military need ballots that leave enough time to return before election day and votes need to be counted	4
No hand counts	4
Absentees should be postmarked by election day	3
Brightly colored provisional ballots	3
Elect top Elections Officer in each county	3
Manuel vote county only. No machine counts.	3
Paper ballots only	3
Performance Audits	3
Purge voter rolls every four years, two years before general	3
Require everyone to vote by mail	3
Require interstate registration list comparison to stop multi-state voters	3
Run off mandatory when third count is different from first two	3
Secretary of State and County Auditors should be non-partisan positions	3
Vote totals equal registered voters	3
Allow post-felons to vote after release from correctional facility.	2
Change absentee postmark due date to 3 days before election	2
Consider same day registration. You register and are allowed to vote on same day.	2
Early voter outreach/training	2
Electronic ballots for military that did not receive ballots in time	2
Eliminate primary	2
No touch screen voting	2
Nullify the elections	2

Paper trail must be voter verified paper ballot retained at the polls, treated like ballot and used in recounts	2
Random manual audits, voter verified by paper ballots	2
Residency in county should not be required for enrolled college students living temporarily out of the county	2
Use punch cards. Lose optical scan/voting machines	2
Using finger ink, like Iraq election	2
A bar code should be on each ballot with a removable copy applied to the voter book at the polling station. When count is resolved bar code can be removed from voter book.	1
Absentees delivered to poll site should be date stamped	1
Absentees only for handicapped and those out of state	1
Adopt Oregon Safe Voting Preservation Act	1
All citizens need to be required to vote	1
All election date be submitted by midnight on election day	1
All election processes must be standardized, open to public review, and subject to audit by independent authority.	1
All issues and elections held once a year reducing cost of multiple mailings	1
All voter registration takes place at auditor's office, unless with disability	1
Any ballot item with more than one choice left blank forces ballot to canvassing board	1
Anytime a revote is needed, only the original votes counted should be rechecked for accuracy.	1
Auditors must prove to citizens that felons and deceased have been removed from voter rolls	1
Better training for county employees in elections office	1
Cannot continue to print blank ballots after election day	1
Canvass board even number and explicitly partisan	1
Certification of those accepting registrations - no partisans	1
Charter cities use Instant Runoff Voting	1
Competent election board	1
Contract experts from the financial industry and learn how we can gain that accuracy rate	1
Defer to machine when determining voter intent	1
Delete voters if they haven't voted in 3 years	1
Do not allow voters to put ballots into counting machines, period	1
Educate High Scholars	1
Electronic voting machines must be required to print out duplicate ballot for voter	1
Eliminate use of public bldg as voters registered address	1
Enact statewide standards on ballot counting	1

Encourage voter participation	1
Ensure no vote buying or voter coercion	1
Ensure transparent elections	1
Establish "Blue Ribbon Commission" to study	1
Establish a system to notify voters that their vote has been counted and in the case of absentee voters, when their ballot was received.	1
Establish voter pin numbers	1
Evaluate Canadian System for efficiency & Security	1
Everyone should go through rigors of immigration and take citizenship test	1
Forbid Campaign Contributions by non-Washington residents.	1
Full public funding for political campaigns	1
Get rid of primary Instant Runoff Voting	1
Have voters, and jail offenders, certify under penalty that they are eligible to vote.	1
If absentee is not signed, do not count	1
If election count is off by 10%, mandatory dismissal	1
If the provisional ballots go before the board, it should have equal representation from the parties. No one sided appointments	1
Implement statewide database	1
In statewide recount, Sec. Of State takes custody of provisional ballots not counted	1
Inform out of state and over seas voters of their rights	1
Ink voter's fingers like Iraq	1
King County elect Auditor	1
Local voters pamphlets	1
Mail absentees on time	1
Make sure only 1 absentee ballot is sent per-voter	1
Military vote be accompanied by thumb print	1
Need a safe way for voters to change vote during voting process	1
Need voter cards like Safeway Club cards	1
No changes made to election process during or directly after an election	1
No electronic closed source software	1
No hand recounts	1
No more mail-in registrations	1
No more that 1% absentee ballots of mailing total	1
No PO Box or public building used as address for registration	1
Notarize absentees	1

Officials making mistakes should be named and reprimanded	1
Once vote is counted by machine, the vote cannot be recounted.	1
Open counting process to individuals	1
Parties have too much control over elections	1
Pilot program with US Department of Defense for electronic transmitting and processing of absentee ballots	1
Poll voters receive a color coded numbered slip corresponding with their sign in number and give it to optical scan monitor to insure no one can "stuff" ballot box.	1
Provide "no cost" ID in case someone cannot afford drivers license	1
Provisional ballots should be forwarded to correct counties for verification	1
Purge voter rolls weekly	1
Require absentee ballots to be returned to elections office by election day.	1
Require everyone vote at polls except those who request an absentee annually	1
Require Machine Counts and only Machine Counts	1
Re-register every 5 years	1
Set aside dedicated fund for elections	1
Simplify Procedures	1
Triplicate Ballots 1) Election Office 2) Republicans 3) Democrats	1
Unsecured ballots should not be counted	1
US Citizen can only get their own absentee ballot by appearing in person	1
Verify ballots cast and voter sign-in lists reconcile	1
Vote only at polls	1
Vote tabulators for electronic voting should be produced by a separate company from the voting machine company.	1
Voter ID verified before sending absentee	1
Votes must be cast in voters precinct	1
Voting should be closed and tabulating should begin one week prior to the date the vote totals are released to public	1