



Washington
Secretary of State
SAM REED

520 Union Avenue
PO Box 40229
Olympia, WA 98504-0229
Tel: 360.902.4180
Fax 360.664.4619
www.secstate.wa.gov

MEMORANDUM

TO: Spokane County Canvassing Board

FROM: Kay Ramsay
Elections Certification and Training Program
Office of the Secretary of State

RE: Special Election Review – Legislative District 6, Pos. 2 Recount

DATE: December 18, 2008

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 Spokane County's post-election procedures for the November 2008 General Election. The closeness of the race for Legislative District 6, Position 2, required a mandatory hand recount. This recount was also observed.

The review consisted of an interview with Mike McLaughlin, Spokane County Elections Manager, and examination of supporting documents. Other documents made available for review include: duplication logs, meeting minutes of the Spokane Canvassing Board, seal logs, notices, and reconciliation reports.

The reviewer met with Mr. McLaughlin on November 24, 2008. The rules, addressing manual recounts as prescribed by Washington Administrative Code Chapter 434-264, were discussed. Additionally, the processes used in the 2008 General Election regarding accountability and reconciliation of ballots, manual inspection of ballots, and ballot security were examined.

The Spokane County Auditor provided the following documents specific to the 2008 General Election: certification and recount procedures in the Spokane County Canvassing Board Administrative Manual, notifications required by RCW 29A.64.030; recount rules for observers and visitors, office procedures used by Spokane County Elections/Voting Division for ballot storage, hand recounts, preparation for recounts, and the official certification documents from the Spokane County Canvassing Board's meeting to certify the 2008 General Election.

Ballot security was maintained throughout the entire election by the utilization of rooms dedicated to a single purpose. All ballot processing rooms were secured with key cards,

numbered seals, and access logs. Two staff members always accompanied unsecured ballots. The same security measures were applied to duplicating ballots and post tabulation storage.

Spokane County Elections is a well run organization with exceptional staff and leadership. The staff is knowledgeable and dedicated to preserving the integrity of elections. My conclusion is that the Spokane County Auditor and Canvassing Board dedicated much thought and attention to the recount. Based on my observations, I believe Spokane County prepared, and conducted, an accurate, efficient recount of the votes cast in the 2008 General Election.