

Elections University
June 2014

What's Cropping Up in 2014?

The Market Basket Collection

Testing the System: the Official Logic
and Accuracy Test

Write-in Voting

Uniformed and Overseas Voters



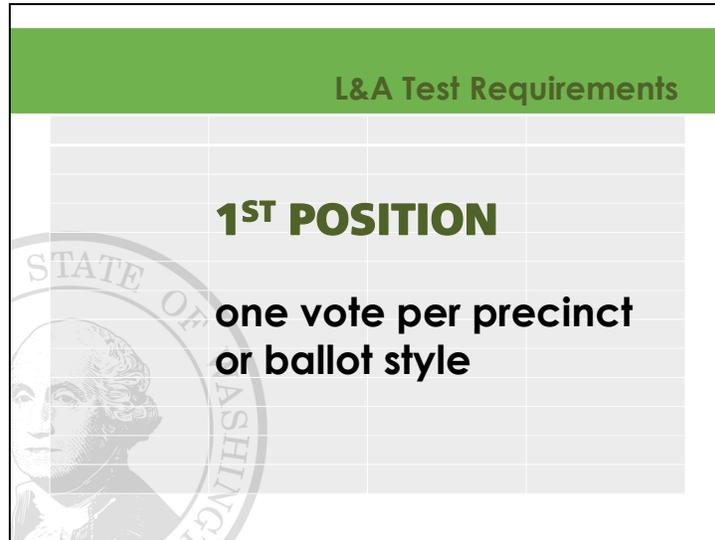
Sheryl Moss and Libby Nieland
CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM



The Official Logic and Accuracy test publicly demonstrates the accuracy of the vote tabulation system. A marked ballot test deck, with pre-determined test results verifies the accuracy of the vote scanning, tabulation and reporting system.

Recent changes in WAC now require testing all parts of the tabulation systems, including supporting software, hardware and web reporting systems. Every ballot tabulator and scanner used in the primary or election must be tested.

The test is complete only after successful verification of posted web results.

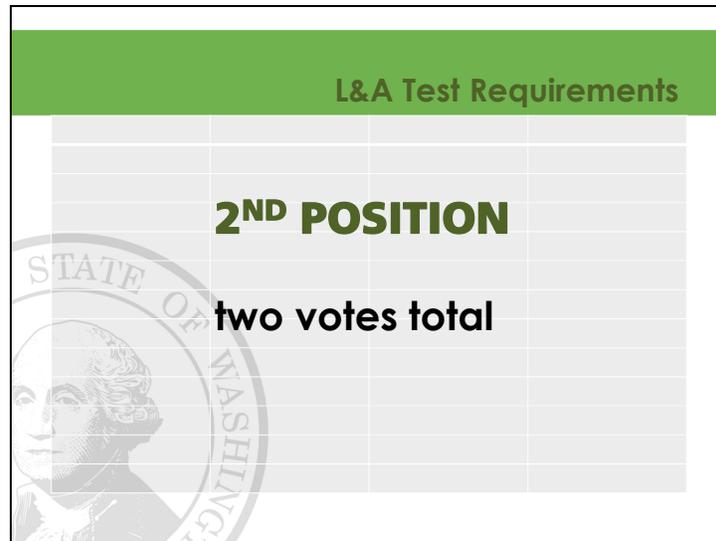


Each county chooses to test by precinct or ballot style.

The County Auditor must create a spreadsheet matrix listing the number of votes cast for each response in each precinct or ballot style. This matrix must be provided at least 14 days before the day of the test to the Office of the Secretary of State (OSOS).

The basic pattern for the official L&A remains the same as in the past.

The first response position for each race or issue must be marked on every ballot style (or precinct). Total votes cast for the first response position equal the number of ballot styles (or precincts).

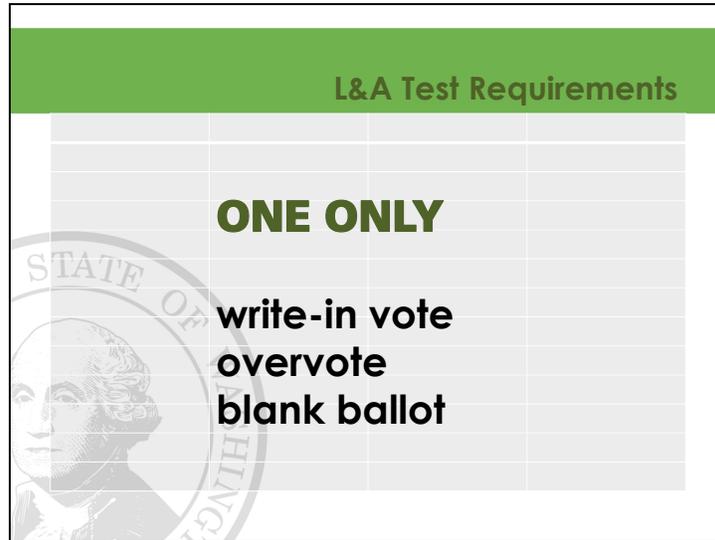


The 2nd response position must have a total of 2 votes for each measure or race.

This means that the second response position will not be marked on every precinct or ballot style.

Continue the test pattern in this manner:

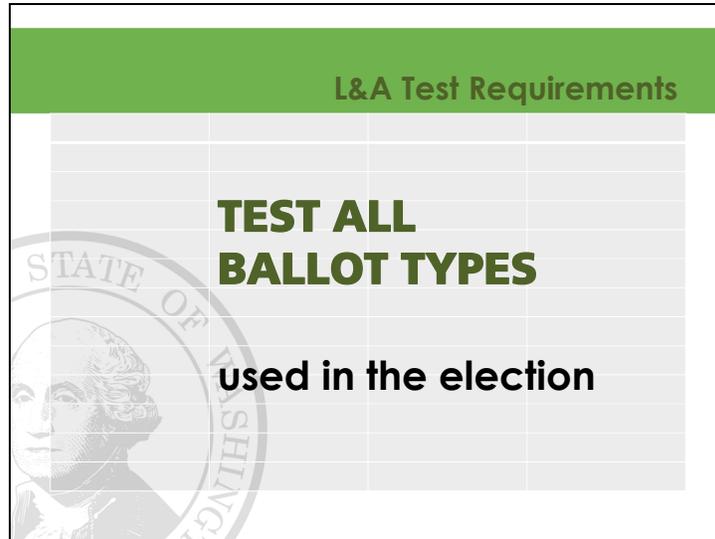
- 3 votes total for the 3rd response,
- 4 votes total for the 4th response,
- Etc., until all responses are tested.



Every tabulator test deck must include **one**:

- Write-in vote,
- Overvote, and
- Blank ballot

Optical scan tabulators must out stack these ballots during the test.



By types of ballot, we mean any of the following:

- ballots on demand,
- alternative language ballots,
- electronically marked ballots, and
- electronically duplicated ballots.

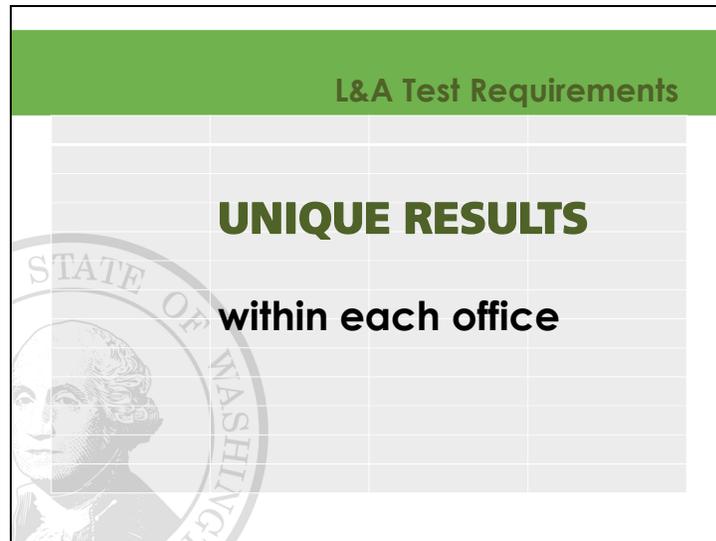
If you can tabulate a ballot type, at least one of the ballots of that type must be included in the test deck.



Every ballot tabulator and scanner used in the primary or election shall be tested. Test all components, including any backups.

When testing multiple scanners or tabulators, you may use one deck per device. You may also distribute portions of the deck between devices, as long as the entire deck is tested and each portion meets the legal requirements.

Digital system tests should auto resolve undervotes, but must manually resolve overvotes and write-ins.



The total votes for every candidate within a race must have unique results. This new requirement clearly demonstrates that the votes cast are correctly recording for a candidate or race.

Add additional ballots to the test deck in the following circumstances:

- More than one response has the same results;
- A candidate appears in two different races on the same ballot.

This rule also applies to the race with **the single** write-in vote.

L&A Test Requirements

Add votes when needed.

Unique results do not apply to overvotes.

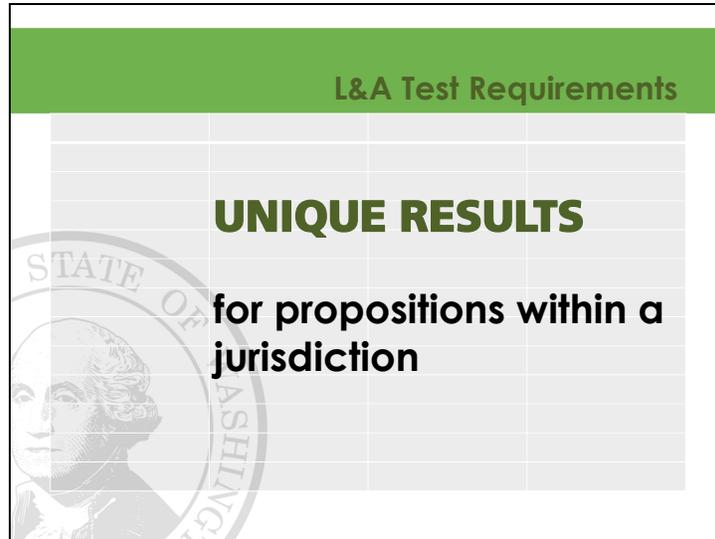
Candidate	Test Vote Total
1st response	4 precincts= 4 votes
2nd response	2
3rd response	3
4th response	4
5th response	5
6th response	6
7th response	7
Write-in	1
Overvote	1

In this example there are 4 precincts in the district. This means that 4 votes will total for the first response. Because of the number of responses (candidates) if we follow the basic required pattern, two responses will have 4 votes.

You can resolve this conflict in two ways. Either way is correct.

- Add 4 votes to the 1st response, OR
- Add 1 vote to the 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th responses.

You may not subtract a vote.



L&A Test Requirements

UNIQUE RESULTS
for propositions within a jurisdiction

The slide features a green header bar with the text "L&A Test Requirements". Below this is a light gray grid background. On the left side, there is a watermark of the Seal of the State of Washington, which includes a portrait of George Washington and the text "STATE OF WASHINGTON". The main text "UNIQUE RESULTS" is in a large, bold, dark green font, and "for propositions within a jurisdiction" is in a smaller, bold, black font below it.

Propositions within a jurisdiction with the same response label must have unique results.

L&A Test Requirements	
Measure in Same Dist.	Test Vote Total
Prop 1	
Yes	4 precincts = 4 votes
No	2
Prop 2	
Yes	4 precincts Add 1 vote = 5
No	2 Add 1 vote = 3
Prop 3	
Approved	4 precincts = 4 votes
Rejected	2

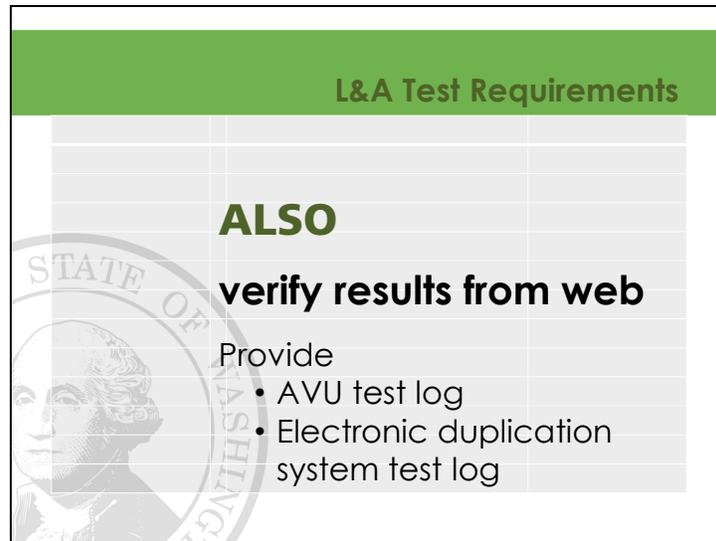
Add votes for same responses.

State L&A tests will not verify PCO races.

The use of unique responses also confirms the Washington State Elections Information system (WEI) results setup.

Unique responses are required for testing measures with the same response labels as long as the measures are within the same district.

In this example, although Proposition 1 and Proposition 3 are in the same district, they have different response labels, so the vote pattern may be the same.



L&A Test Requirements

ALSO

verify results from web

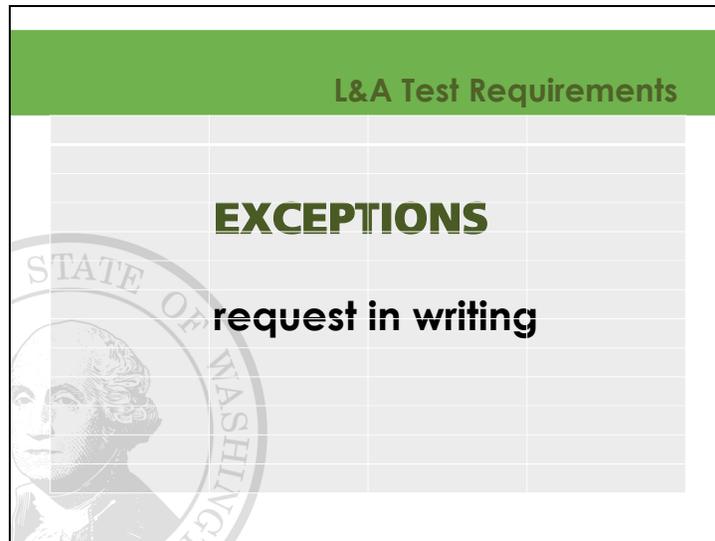
Provide

- AVU test log
- Electronic duplication system test log

To finalize the official L&A systems test, test results will be verified from the web upload.

In addition to other official L&A certification materials, these logs are part of the official test:

- Accessible Voting Unit (AVU) Test logs (blank forms are available on the SOS website> Administrator's tab under Ballot Checklist).
- Electronic duplication test log, if applicable.



Does your county need an exception to the test requirements? Submit a written request by July 1.

Please provide to OSOS a:

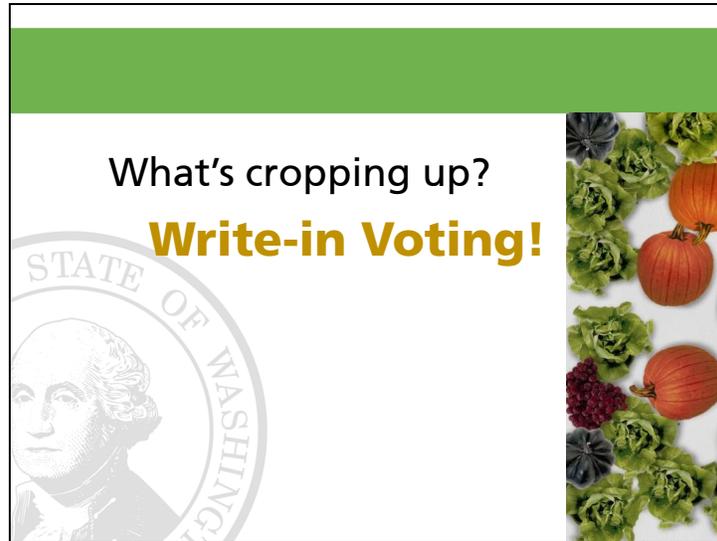
- Description of all modifications desired.
- Example test matrix, if applicable.
- Reasons for exception.

OSOS has 30 days to accept or reject the exception.

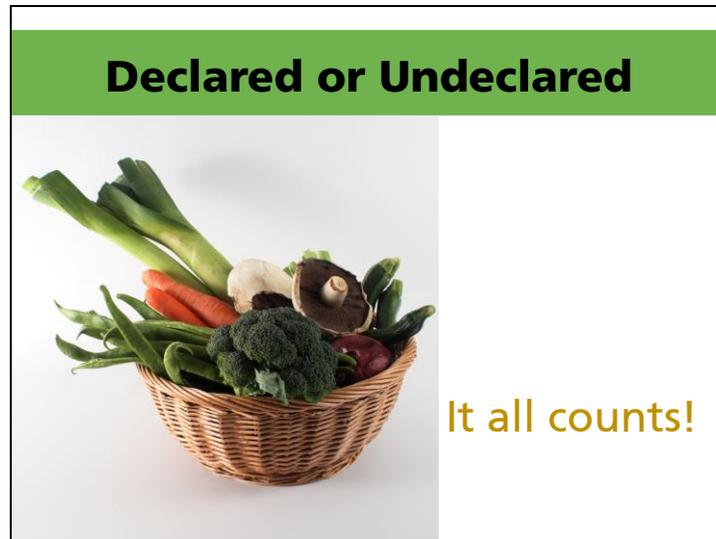
Accepted test patterns may be used in all future elections.

This page is intentionally blank

This page is intentionally blank



Nothing new, but write-in voting deserves a refresher.

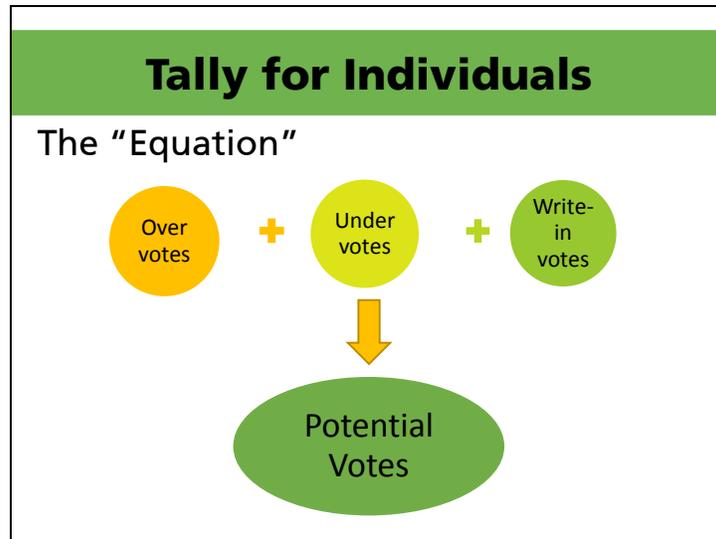


Write-in candidates appear in two ways.

- **Declared** – Fills out a declaration form, pays applicable filing fee, and meets the 18-day deadline.
- **Undeclared** – Just appears on the write-in line of the ballot.

Declared or undeclared, these are all write-in votes. The initial vote tabulation puts them all in one basket.

Depending on the potential results, votes for individual candidates may need to be tallied. Only if the numbers are sufficient will it be necessary to 'sort' the write-ins and tally by individual write-in names.



To assess if you need to sort out the write-in votes by individual candidates, first determine the **“potential votes” in every office.**

The formula requires **Overvotes + undervotes + write-in votes = the number of potential write-in votes.**

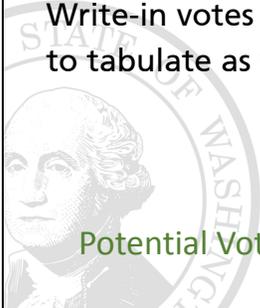
The formula includes overvotes because the write-in line may be a repeat of a vote cast for a candidate already printed in that race.

Undervotes are included to allow for write-in votes without the target area marked.

Alternate Formula

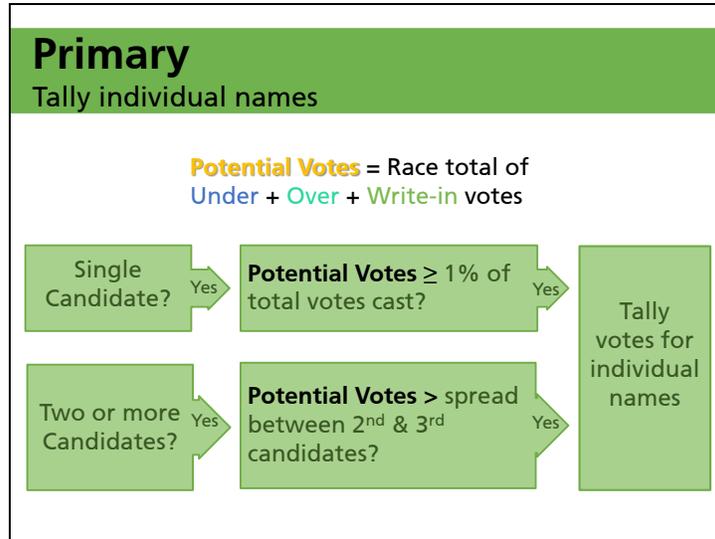
Duplicate  *John S. Doe*

Write-in votes lacking marked targets
to tabulate as write-ins.

 **Potential Votes= Overvotes + Write-ins**

If unmarked write-ins are duplicated so that the vote tabulates as a true write-in, then it is not necessary to include the number of undervotes in the potential vote calculation.

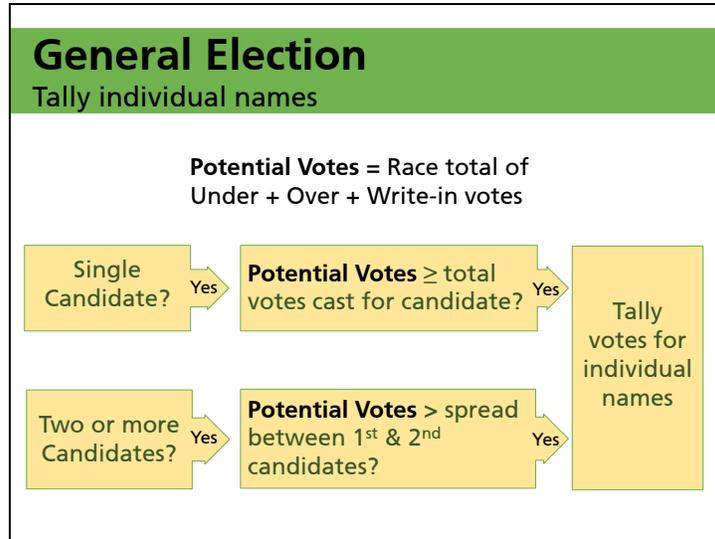
Duplication of write-in vote without target marks must be applied consistently in order to guarantee that all write-in names are accounted in the results report.



Primary

All candidates, including write-ins, must meet a 1% threshold to advance to the general election ballot. Of course, only the “Top 2” vote-getters qualify. When calculating the 1%, the total votes must include all write-in votes for that race.

- Single candidate races—The 1% threshold is most easily met in races with a single candidate. If the potential votes reaches the 1% level, tally individual names.
- Multi-candidate races—look at the spread between the 2nd and 3rd candidates. If the spread is less than the potential votes, tally the individual write-in votes.



General Election

The top vote-getter wins.

- Single candidate—a write-in candidate must receive the most votes to win. If the **“potential votes” are greater than** the single candidate’s total, the votes cast for individual write-ins must be tallied.
- Multi-candidate—If **“potential votes” are greater than the difference** between the two official candidates printed on the ballot, you must tally individual write-ins for that race. Write-in votes are necessary to correctly determine results for the candidates included in certification.

If a write-in name is voted for more than once, tally the total votes cast for that name.



Hand written names can be challenging and so can some voters' spelling! When it is necessary to tally votes for individual write-in candidates, canvassing boards may delegate the responsibility.

The canvassing board must make all reasonable efforts to determine voter intent.

- The party preference does not determine if a write-in vote is counted.
- Variation in the form of the name is allowed, provide the canvassing board can determine the name of the person intended.

A person who filed for Primary and failed to qualify for the General Election may not be a write-in candidate for the same office in the General Election. Disqualify votes cast for this person.

Include vote tallies for write-in candidates with the certified results. Do not merely provide a list of names as written on the ballot.

Canvassing	
Tally the votes for	<input type="checkbox"/> S. Hanek
Declared Candidate	<input type="checkbox"/> Shari Saucedo
Sharon Hanek	<input type="checkbox"/> Sharon Haek
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sharon Kanak
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sharon Hanak
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sharon Hanek

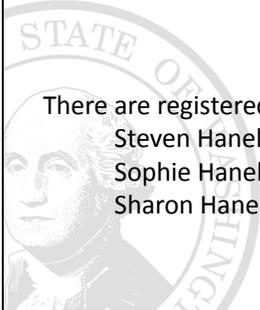
This is an example of write-in votes cast in a race where Sharon Hanek is a declared candidate. On the right is a list of names written in as votes.

As a Canvassing Board member, can you determine how the names should be counted as votes for the declared write-in?

Remember, these are handwritten names. For assistance, refer to RCW 29A.60.021.

The canvassing board must report the votes as a tally. Depending on interpretation (and handwriting) the results could be certified as:

Shari Saucedo	1
Sharon Hanek	5

Canvassing	
Tally the votes for ??????????	<input type="checkbox"/> S. Hanek
 <p>There are registered voters : Steven Hanek Sophie Hanek Sharon Hanek</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Shari Saucedo
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sharon Haek
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sharon Kanak
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sharon Hanak
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sharon Hanek

There is no declared candidate for this race.

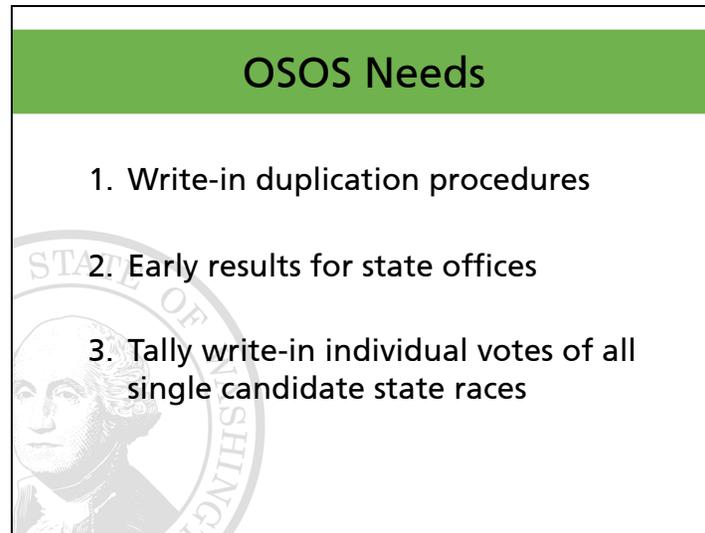
We checked the record and only three registered voters have similar names to those listed. Based on the registered voters, how would you count the votes?

- S. Hanek ? All three registered voters have the initial “s”.
- Shari Saucedo ?
- Sharon Haek or Sharon Kanak ? Possibly, you should look at how it is written on the ballot

The rest should be votes for Sharon Hanek.

The canvassing board must report the votes as a tally. Depending on interpretation (and handwriting) the results are certified as:

S. Hanek	1
Shari Saucedo	1
Sharon Haek	1
Sharon Hanek	3

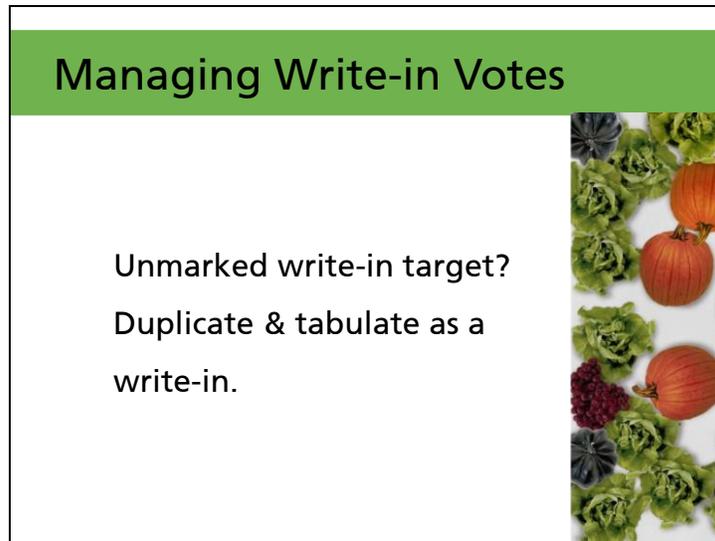


In 2012, nine write-in candidates successfully advanced to the General Ballot. Of those, only four were declared.

To certify the primary in a timely fashion, the OSOS will:

1. Poll counties to learn if the county duplicates all write-in races that have a name written, but the target is not completed.
2. By the **Monday** following the Primary, request for every state race, the number of:
 - Write-in votes,
 - Overvotes, and
 - Undervotes.
3. Request counties to tally specific races for individual write-in votes PRIOR to certification. Remember to have your canvassing board total all votes cast for each candidate.

The OSOS will contact counties with a list of races that need write-in votes to be tallied.



Managing Write-in Votes

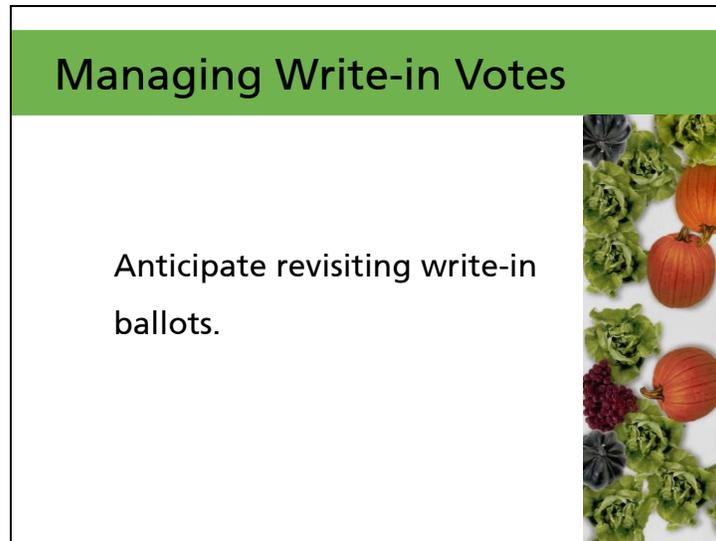
Unmarked write-in target?
Duplicate & tabulate as a
write-in.

The slide features a green header with the title 'Managing Write-in Votes'. The main content area is white with black text. To the right of the text is a vertical decorative border consisting of various fresh vegetables, including pumpkins, leafy greens, and purple grapes.

There are three best practices to adopt making management of write-in candidates easier.

- 1. Consistently duplicate ballots write-in votes lacking a marked target area.*

IF this practice is followed, you will not need to include undervotes when calculating potential votes. In addition, you will gain by not having to re-examine undervoted ballots (outside of a recount).



2. Sort and store ballots so you can visit all write-in votes without having to open every ballot box in storage.

Most optical scan counties wait and calculate the potential write-in formula to see there is a need to tally for the individual candidate. The job becomes immense if the write-in votes were not out-stacked and segregated from the rest of the ballots during final processing.

Digital scan counties failing to record write-in votes during initial processing will also need to segregate ballots with write-in votes for exactly the same reason.

Even digital scan counties that faithfully record the name of every write-in vote should anticipate recounts by storing all write-ins in the same box.



Managing Write-in Votes

Tally individual votes for single candidate primary races.

3. Identify the races with single candidates and begin tallying write-in votes during initial processing.

Train inspectors to segregate and record names of write-in candidates for state races with only one candidate.

Write-in candidate can easily reach the 1% threshold. For instance, total votes cast by 12,000 voters requires only 120 votes. In a single candidate race, the second runner up only needs to reach 1% of the total votes to advance to the ballot.

Total votes cast must include votes for the candidate and total write-in votes.

Be sure the canvassing board or designee reviews the list of names to compile the total votes cast.

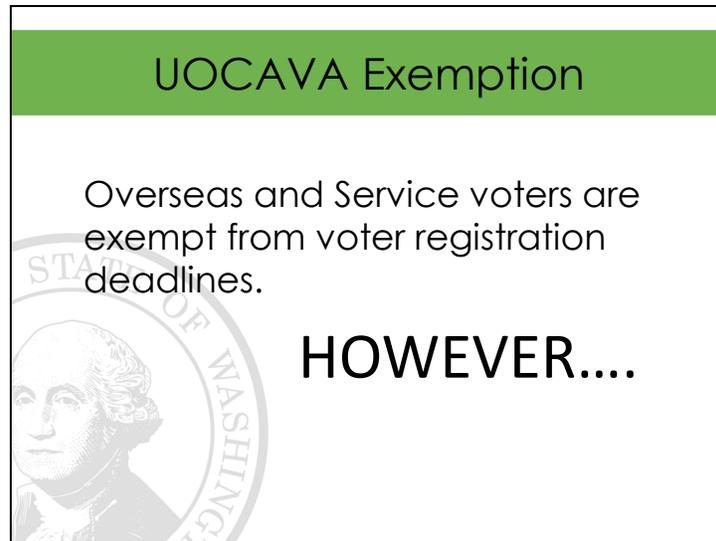
This page is intentionally blank



Service voter means any elector of the state of Washington who

- Is a member of the armed forces under 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1973 ff-6 while in active service,
- Is a member of a reserve component of the armed forces,
- Is a student or member of the faculty at a united states military academy,
- Is a member of the merchant marine of the united states, or
- Is a member of a religious group or welfare agency officially attached to and serving with the armed forces of the United States. (e.g. Red Cross, FEMA, USO)

Overseas voter means any elector of the state of Washington outside the territorial limits of the United States. This also means Canada and Mexico!



UOCAVA Exemption

Overseas and Service voters are exempt from voter registration deadlines.

HOWEVER....

When processing new registrations, overseas and service (UOCAVA) applicants are exempt from deadlines.

The applicant may register by providing:

- A voter registration application;
- A federal post card application;
- A federal write-in absentee ballot;
- A national mail voter registration form; or
- A ballot with a valid signature on the ballot declaration.

Special rules for UOCAVA:

- A UOCAVA voters do not need identification.
- A UOCAVA voter must be offered the option of receiving ballots by postal mail or e-mail.
- Voter registration is flagged as UOCAVA
- Process an application even when WA address is missing. Contact the voter. If the voter does not provide the WA residence after the election/primary, make the voter inactive.

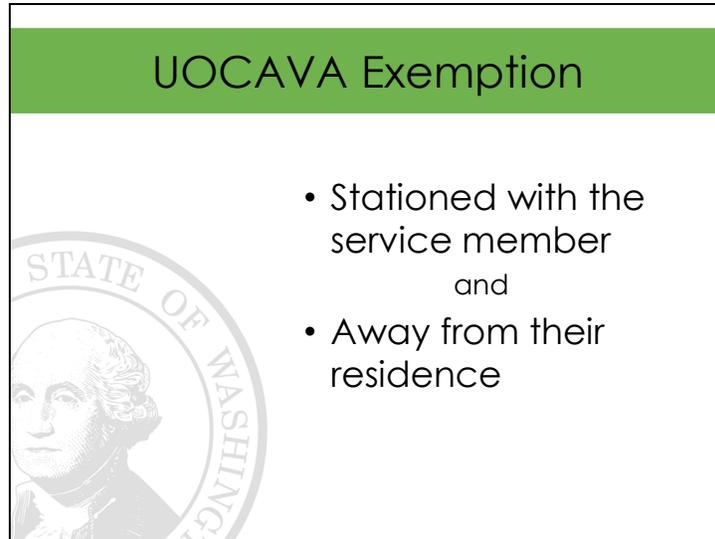
UOCAVA Exemption

Military dependents are not service voters and not exempt



Unless....

Military dependents are not included in the state definition of service voters; however, federal law requires it. The Military and Overseas Voting Empowerment (MOVE) Act provides an exception to military dependents and spouse for voter registration, but only when qualified.

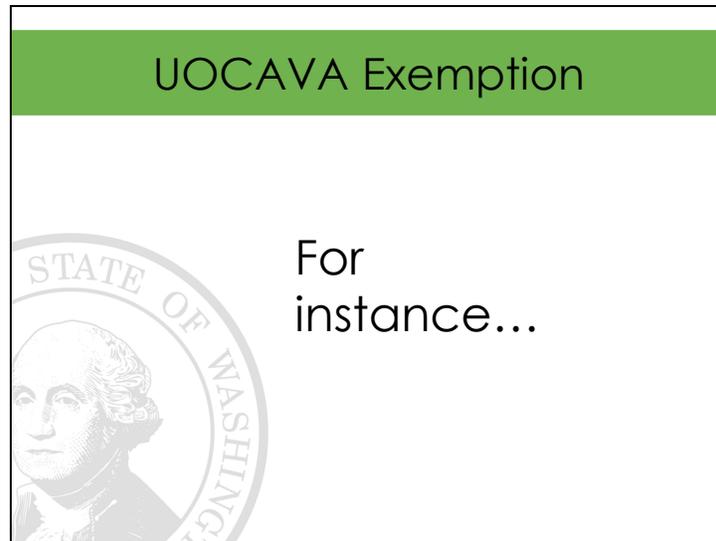


The slide features a green header with the text "UOCAVA Exemption". Below the header, on the left side, is a circular seal of the State of Washington, which includes a portrait of George Washington and the text "STATE OF WASHINGTON". To the right of the seal is a bulleted list of two conditions for exemption.

UOCAVA Exemption

- Stationed with the service member
and
- Away from their residence

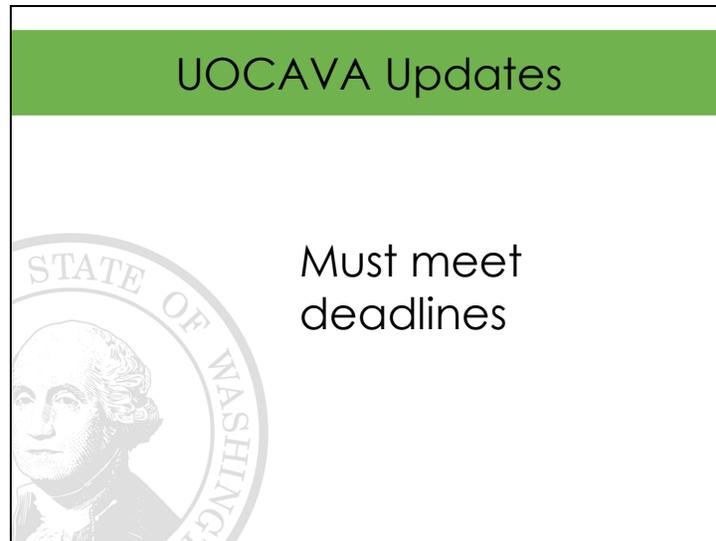
In order to exempt a military spouse or dependent from voter registration deadlines, he or she . . . must be away from residence due to the service member active duty.



A service person and spouse have established their residence in Spokane County. The service person was recently stationed in Island County and anticipates being there for at least a year. They wish to register to vote and submit voter registration applications 6 days before the election. The service person is exempt from the voter registration deadlines. Exception to the voter registration deadline for the spouse depends upon residence.

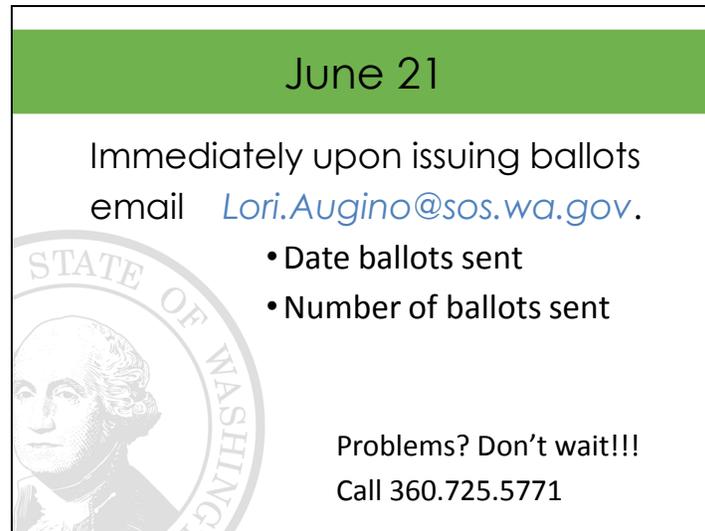
Example 1: Both use the address where they currently live in Island County. The service person may register and vote. However, the spouse is not away from their residence and cannot vote in the current election. This registration will be valid for the next election.

Example 2: Same situation, except the spouse uses the Spokane County address. The spouse is exempt from the voter registration deadline. Process the voter registration and contact Spokane County to arrange for a ballot. This situation could occur the day of the election. How could you assist the voters in receive a ballot?



WACs adopted this year now clearly state that the 29-day deadline for updating voter registration applies to UOCAVA voters. Updates include transfers, name changes, and voluntary cancellations.

WAC 434-235-020 requires, “A service or overseas voter who is already registered to vote in Washington may not transfer or update a registration after the deadlines in RCW 29A.08.140 have passed.”



June 21

Immediately upon issuing ballots
email Lori.Augino@sos.wa.gov.

- Date ballots sent
- Number of ballots sent

Problems? Don't wait!!!
Call 360.725.5771

The Department of Justice asks Washington State to verify that UOCAVA ballots have been issued by the 45-day deadline (June 21 for 2014 Primary).

On the day you mail these ballots, immediately email the date of mailing and number of ballots to Lori.Augino@sos.wa.gov .

- If the mailing is scheduled for Saturday, send Lori an email Friday.
- If you cannot meet the deadline, **call** Lori immediately at 360.725.5771.

For more information or assistance on these subjects contact:

Certification and Training Program

Elections Division

Office of the Secretary of State

360.901.4280

CTsupport@sos.wa.gov

www.sos.wa.gov

