



Washington  
**Secretary of State**  
SAM REED

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November 11, 2008

Whatcom County Canvassing Board  
c/o The Honorable Shirley Forslof, Auditor  
311 Grand Avenue, Suite 103  
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038

Dear Canvassing Board Members:

In accordance with RCW 29A.04.570, the State Election Certification and Training Program conducted a comprehensive review of election procedures in Whatcom County during the 2007 Primary Election.

The RCW also requires a follow-up visit prior to the next Primary or General Election to verify the County has taken the steps necessary to correct the changes recommended in the review report.

I visited the Whatcom County Elections Department October 31, 2008. Below you will find the initial recommendation with the findings of the follow-up visit.

**Notice to Voters Requiring Identification:** The notice must be revised to remove the registration style form, and reworded to clarify that the voter is required to send in a copy of identification in order for the ballot to be counted.

**Follow-up:** The Whatcom County Auditor provided samples of the three verification notices sent to voters needing to provide identification. The notices are now compliant and clearly state the voter must provide a copy of identification in order for the ballot to be counted.

**Precincts and Precinct Boundaries:** The Whatcom County Elections Department must redraw precinct lines to ensure that all precincts have 900 or fewer active registered voters, and that all precincts are compact and contiguous.

**Follow-up:** They will redraw the precinct lines after the results of the next census.

**Publishing Information on Voting Aids:** This information must be published no later than the notice of closing of registration.

**Follow-up:** Information regarding assistance for elderly and disabled persons was included in the Notice of Closing of Registration for the November 4, 2008 General Election. Additionally, the Whatcom County Auditor issued a press release announcing accommodations and voting aids for the elderly and visually challenged. Both notices were published prior to the statutory deadline.

**Special Absentee Ballot Application:** The special absentee ballot application must be revised to include spaces for the voter to print his or her registered address or last residential address in Washington.

**Follow-up:** The special absentee ballot application has been revised in response to the recommendation in the review and is now fully compliant.

Shirley Forslof, Whatcom County Auditor, and her staff should be commended for establishing high standards in the administration of Whatcom County elections and for fully engaging with the review process.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 360.725-5770 or [lnieland@secstate.wa.gov](mailto:lnieland@secstate.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Nieland". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and a long, sweeping underline.

Libby Nieland  
Election Certification and Training Program Specialist