

# EXHIBIT O

**KING COUNTY CANVASSING BOARD**  
***Governor's Race Manual Recount***  
***November 2, 2004***

**Staff Report**

Prepared by: Bill Huennekens, Superintendent of Elections

1. **Presentation of 573 ballots originally rejected when no signature existed in the Election Management and Voter Registration System**
  - How these ballots were administered in this election.
    - These ballots were received on time and handled the same as the 560,000 plus ballots that we received and tabulated.
    - When staff checks the signatures on absentee ballots, if the record of the voter did not have an image, the image was not visible, or the image was incorrect, the ballot was set aside and coded as "No Signature on File" in the Election Management and Registration System.
    - These ballots were then grouped with the ballots from voters whose signatures did not match.
    - All of these ballots were then reviewed by more experienced staff.
    - Data was then captured on these ballots from the bar code on the ballot and a mail merge letter was sent to each voter.
      - As the election was administered and these ballots were received, we can confirm that 423 of these voters were sent a letter asking for an updated signature.
    - If the voter sent back the completed letter, the signature was compared and the ballot accepted if the signature matched.
    - If the voter did not return the letter, the ballots were kept secured in the vault and not tabulated and no research was done to find the voter's original registration form.
    - Before certification of the Election on the November 17, 2004, each of these ballots was reviewed again and researched.
    - At certification of the election, these ballots were accounted for in the mail ballot report as signature mis-comparisons.
  - Background on these types of absentee ballots:
    - In August, 101 of these voters were sent letters asking them for an updated signature because we did not have a signature on file in our system and they did not return a signature on the letter.
    - To date, staff has located a signature either in electronic or hard copy for 240 out of the 573 voters.

- o The scanning and capturing of signature images has been a difficult challenge in King County for some time. It was one of many reasons for switching to a new Election Management and Voter Registration System.
- o This spring, I learned that the long-standing operating procedure for absentee voters who did not have a signature in the system was to simply let the ballot count. For the May special election, I instructed staff that this was not acceptable and that the effort must be made to locate the voter's original registration card, or the image of their signature.
- o At conversion to our new system early this summer, we had several thousand registration records that did not have a record attached. A concerted effort was made to scan and link the signature in the new system upon conversion.
- o In August 1,146 letters were mailed to voters who did not have a signature in our system.
- o We did have an ongoing issue with newer registrations that were entered over the counter where individuals were given a ballot. This was discussed at weekly meetings and to my understanding was resolved.

**2. Presentation of 22 ballots from base units of Accuvote Machines (2 provisional and 20 absentee)**

- Ballots retrieved when units are picked up from polling locations after the certification of the election on November 17, 2004:
  - o When the ballots were discovered they were transported to our Mail Ballot Operations Satellite and securely stored.
- Ballots that were retrieved from the base units prior to the certification of the election on November 17, 2004 were included if they were otherwise valid.
- Poll workers are trained to ensure that every ballot is retrieved from the side bin of the base unit at the end of the night. I did this training personally with each of the polling place inspectors in advance of the general election.
- After Election Day and before certification of the election crews attempt to go to polling locations and double-check each base unit. We were unable to gain access to all the locations and all units are not able to be checked.