

Risk-limiting Audit: Contest Lot Draw

2023 Primary

In a risk-limiting audit, the audit contests are selected randomly [[RCW 29A.60.185\(c\)\(ii\)](#)] to ensure that the process is free from bias or external influence.

For a risk-limiting audit to produce a mathematically significant result, all ballots containing the selected contest must be included in the population of ballots to be sampled.

For the contest lot draw, the Office of the Secretary of State or the county auditor will create a list of potential contests that are suitable for a risk-limiting audit, considering the following factors as described in [WAC 434-261-116](#):

- Number of candidates/positions—contests where a candidate is running unopposed will not be considered for audit
- Geographical scope of the contest—all ballots containing the selected contest must be included in the population of ballots to be sampled
- Number of ballots counted in the contest—contests that appear on only a small percentage of the county's ballots are inefficient to audit
- Closeness of the reported tabulation outcome of the contests—contests that may potentially go to a recount are not considered for a risk-limiting audit
- Ability of county elections staff to complete the audit before the canvass deadline—contests whose estimated sample sizes are so large that the audit workload may compromise other election duties will generally be excluded from consideration for a risk-limiting audit


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With these factors in mind, the following potential contests will appear in the contest lot draw for this election:

Cowlitz County

District	Contest
City of Longview	Council Position 2
Longview School District No. 122	Director Position 4

Spokane County

District	Contest
City of Spokane District No. 2	Council Position No. 1
City of Spokane	Council President
City of Spokane	Mayor
Spokane School District 81	Director Position No. 5

Thurston County

District	Contest
City of Olympia	Mayor
Fire Protection District No. 03 - Lacey	Proposition No. 1 Levy Lid Lift
Port Commissioner District No. 1	Port Commissioner, District No. 1
Olympia School District No. 111	School Board Director, District No. 2
Olympia School District No. 111	School Board Director, District No. 4

Whatcom County

District	Contest
Whatcom County	At-Large Position B
Whatcom County	Executive
Whatcom County Council District 4	Council District 4
City of Bellingham	Council At-Large
City of Bellingham	Mayor

Each contest name is placed into a capsule and inserted into a random-draw cage, which mixes the capsules. One capsule is selected and withdrawn; the contest name inside is the target contest for the risk-limiting audit. This process is repeated for each county conducting an official risk-limiting audit.

The selected contests for the 2023 Primary risk-limiting audits are:

Cowlitz County	Longview School District No. 122 Director Position 4
Spokane County	City of Spokane Mayor
Thurston County	Port Commissioner District No. 1
Whatcom County	Whatcom County Council District 4