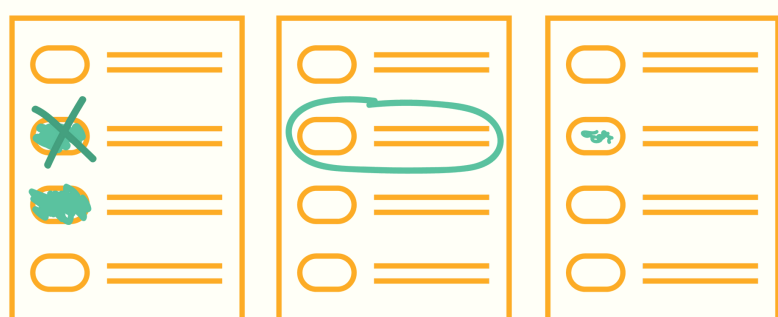


RESOLVING MESSY MARKS ON BALLOTS

We use state of the art technology to count and process election ballots. It's a digital technology that scans both sides of the ballot to create an image for tallying. The paper ballot is always retained for reference and audits.

IT'S IMPORTANT THAT EVERY BALLOT WE RECEIVE ON TIME IS COUNTED.



We try to be clear with our voter instructions, but sometimes voters can be messy.



The tabulation machines can't process a ballot if marks are outside the target area or they're so faint that they don't look like a mark.

BY LAW, WASHINGTON IS A VOTER INTENT STATE

When voter intent can be discerned, the vote will always be counted. All election officials follow the same rules to resolve messy marks and corrections.

- WAC 434-235-040
- WAC 434-261-005
- WAC 434-261-070
- WAC 434-261-120



We always work in teams of two.

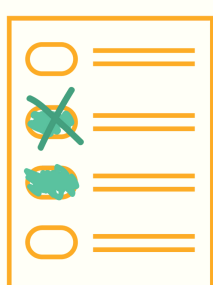


All changes are logged with the date, time, and employee.



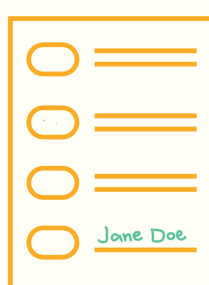
Digital images created by the scanner can be matched to the original paper ballots.

Our tabulation system can quickly identify messy marks and voter corrections that need attention to determine the voter's intent. Let's take a look at a few examples:



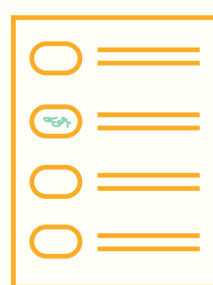
CORRECTIONS

This is an example of a voter trying to correct their own mistake. About 90% of resolved ballots are voter correction marks.



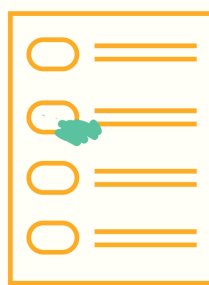
WRITE-IN VOTES

Another issue we see a lot happens with write-in votes. Voters will often forget to fill in the bubble.



VOTER FATIGUE

The marks gradually become fainter or stray further away from the target area, as the voter's eyes or hands get tired.



POOR VISION

Sometimes voters with poor vision or a disability can miss the target area.

INTEGRITY. ACCURACY. TRANSPARENCY.



Election workers inspect the entire ballot even if only one or two votes need to be resolved on that ballot.



In the event an election worker makes a mistake, the resolution can be reversed.



Election observers can watch as election workers inspect and resolve ballot issues.



Every duplicated ballot is inspected again by an independent pair of reviewers. This audit is conducted before the election is certified.



If observers have questions, they can make a note of any specific ballot number and discuss concerns with election management. If the voter's intent isn't easily discerned, the ballot is sent to the canvassing board. Canvassing board meetings are open to the public.