

**Pierce County Primary Election - November 4, 2008  
Canvassing Board Report  
November 21, 2008**

**Canvassing Board Status Report  
Ballot Statistics as of 11/20/2008**

<b>VOTER STATISTICS</b>	
Total registered absentee voters	317,999
Total registered poll voters	93,104
Total number of active registered voters in all precincts	411,103
Total number of inactive registered voters in all precincts	57,553
Total registered voters in all precincts	468,656

<b>BALLOT STATISTICS</b>	
<b><u>Absentee and Vote By Mail (VBM) Ballots</u></b>	
The total number of absentee/VBM ballots issued	327,959
Total number of absentee/VBM ballots returned (includes challenged ballots)	278,694
Total traditional ballot cards counted*	281,447
Percentage of absentee voter turnout (based on valid ballots counted against ballots issued)	85.82%
*includes absentee, VBM, provisionals, overseas, out of state, service voters, e-ballots, Federal Write-In ballots, Special Absentee Ballots and ACP ballots	
<b><u>Absentee Return Statistics (See report 1 and 2 for detail)</u></b>	
Ballots returned by mail	227,839
Ballots returned at Express Booths	41,476
Ballots returned at the customer service counter and outside drop box	3,847
Ballots returned at a polling place	5,532
<b><u>Polling Place Ballots</u></b>	
Total poll site ballots counted	52,134
Percentage of poll voter turnout	56.00%
<b><u>Provisional Ballots</u></b>	
Total number of provisional ballots issued by Pierce County	9,210
Total number of provisional ballots received from other counties	1,103
Total provisional ballots counted (included in absentee ballot count)	7,733
Number of valid provisional ballots voted by absentee voters	3,411
Number of valid provisional ballots voted by poll voters	4,322

<b>VOTER TURNOUT STATISTICS - OVERALL</b>	
Total ballots counted	333,581
Overall Turnout Percentage	81.14%

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<b>CHALLENGED BALLOT STATISTICS</b>		
<b><u>Unsigned ballot envelopes</u></b>		
Total Unsigned ballot envelopes received	982	
Signature updates received and processed	639	
Outstanding letters sent to voters with no response		<b>343</b>
<b><u>Signature Discrepancies**</u></b>		
Total Signature Discrepancies received	1,483	
Signature discrepancies resolved and processed	617	
Outstanding letters sent to voters with no response		<b>866</b>
**Includes signatures that do not match, wrong signers, printed signatures, and envelopes signed with Power of Attorney		
<b><u>Other challenged ballots</u></b>		
ID needed (Voters who failed to provide necessary ID)		<b>3</b>
Unsigned Registrations - no signature on file		<b>308</b>
<b>Total ballots currently challenged</b>		<b>1,520</b>

<b>TO BE CANVASSED</b>		
<b><u>Voter Intent Unclear - Refer to Statewide Standards on What is a Vote</u></b>		
Group 1 - More than two ballots cards contained in one envelope	1	
Group 2 - Consistent Pattern. Pages 20, 23, 26 and 29	8	
Group 3 - Corrected Votes. Pages 30-41	3	
Group 4 - Voter Intent	5	
<b><u>Federal Write-In Absentee Ballots containing votes cast by party indication only.</u></b>	22	
Should votes for these party candidates be counted?		
<b><u>Federal Write-In Absentee Ballots containing the voter's signature or identifying marks.</u></b>	5	
Should these ballots be counted?		
<b><u>Two Provisional Ballots returned by same voter at polls.</u></b>	4	
Based upon phone contact with the voters it appears that they initially filled out the outer provisional envelope, voted their ballot in private, returned to the provisional table and could not find the outer envelope, so a second outer envelope was completed. Both envelopes contain ballots.		
<b><u>Voter voted at the polls and returned a provisional ballot</u></b>	1	
Voter indicated that they dropped the traditional ballot in the ballot box and voted the RCV ballot by voting a provisional ballot. Should this ballot card be counted?		
<b><u>Provisional Ballots cast by military voters</u></b>	45	
Based upon the address or written comments on ballot envelope, these provisional ballots were cast by military voters. Should staff register the voter based upon the address and information on the envelope, provided all required information is given, and count the ballot?		
<b>Total ballots to be canvassed</b>		<b>94</b>

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<b>REJECTED BALLOT STATISTICS</b>		
<b><u>Absentee ballots rejected</u></b>		
<b>Total absentee ballots rejected (voter challenge code applied)</b>		<b>98</b>
No ballot in envelope	13	
Eballot received with no oath	4	
Federal Write in Absentee ballot received with no oath	1	
Voter cancelled	80	
<b>Total absentee ballots rejected (No challenge code applied, credit given)</b>		<b>16</b>
Signature on the ballot	16	
<b>Total absentee ballots rejected (No challenge code applied, No credit given)</b>		<b>490</b>
Received at an express booth after Election Day	1	
Loose absentee ballots returned at a Polling Place with no envelopes	29	
Loose absentee ballot returned at an Express Booth with no envelopes	1	
Loose ballot returned via the USPS with no envelopes	1	
Returned secrecy only. No voter oath, cannot identify voter	59	
Wrong Election	399	
<b>Total absentee ballots rejected</b>		<b>604</b>
<b><u>Provisional ballots rejected</u></b>		
Not registered	940	
Voter cancelled	245	
Voter returned an absentee ballot	35	
Voter signed the poll book and voted a provisional ballot	5	
Ballot in secrecy envelope only - no oath or identifying information	89	
Loose provisional ballot cards received from the polls with no envelopes	20	
Provisional ballots sent to other counties	574	
<b>Total Provisional ballots rejected</b>		<b>1,908</b>

<b>POLLING PLACE RECONCILIATION***</b>	
<b><u>Political Parties requested a manual count of selected precincts</u></b>	
<p>On election night, representatives of the political parties requested a manual tally of the Attorney General race in the following precincts: 25-151, 26-227 and 31-628. Election staff performed this manual tally the day after the election prior to the tabulation of the ballots on the central count tabulators in accordance with state law. The manual tally was compared to the results tabulated for each precinct. All results matched exactly. No discrepancies were found. This requested manual audit was done in the presence of official political party observers.</p>	
<b><u>Touch Screen Audit of Results</u></b>	
<p>In accordance with State Law, Pierce County conducted an audit of results of votes cast on the touch screen voting machines. The law requires that this audit be conducted on four percent of the devices used in the election. Accordingly, four machines were selected by lot. To conduct the audit, an election worker read the results from the voter verifiable paper audit trail and another election worker tallied the results. These results were compared to the results accumulated in the election tabulation system. No discrepancies or anomalies were found. The audit was conducted on three races; State Treasurer, Insurance Commissioner and State Supreme Court Justice Position No. 4 on the following machines:</p>	
<b><u>Machine Number</u></b>	<b><u>Polling Location</u></b>
35259	Eatonville Multi-Purpose Center
35302	Agnus Dei Lutheran Church
35332	Praise Covenant Church
35371	Zion Lutheran Church
***All activities were conducted in the presence of political party observers	

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**Ballot Accountability Forms**

Poll workers are required to complete a ballot accountability form at the end of election night after closing the polls. Election staff have reviewed all ballot accountability forms. This involves an extensive review of the number of people signing the poll book compared to the number of ballots cast at the polling places and the number of voters receiving credit.

**OF ADDITIONAL NOTE:**

**Election Day - November 4, 2008**

November 4, 2008 will go down in history as one of the largest and most historic elections of our time. For Pierce County it marked the first Ranked Choice Voting election and is the largest election ever conducted in our County. Election staff, devoted an extraordinary amount of hours in preparation for this first Ranked Choice Voting Election. Many hours were dedicated to developing procedures, voting system certification, system testing, ballot design and voter education.

On Election Day, Pierce County experienced crowds and some long lines at the polls, similar to the rest of the nation. It has been many years, since we have seen a voting populace so engaged and fully immersed in the electoral process. As problems arose on Election Day, staff took immediate action including:

Rectifying machine issues in the field.

Additional workers from the absentee processing crew were deployed to the busiest polling places.

Troubleshooters and Election staff assisted with line management and splitting up of poll books.

Transporter/Poll Workers were deployed in the afternoon to add additional support for the evening rush and closing process.

It should be noted :

We did not run out of ballots.

We did not run out of provisional envelopes.

All ballots were returned on Election Night.

Polling Place ballots were tabulated throughout the night and completed the following day.

Election staff worked 24 hours per day for seven days in a row, then continued to work long hours, 17 hours per day through November 18th.

**Puyallup Library**

On Election Day a touch screen voting machine at Puyallup Library became inoperable. The troubleshooter was called and the machine displayed an error message. The troubleshooter indicated that the last voter had finished voting on the machine. The machine was removed from service.

On Election Night, we were unable to read the results cartridge. After consultation with our voting system vendor it was determined that results could be printed but that we would not be able to read the cartridge. In order to preserve the ballot images necessary for Ranked Choice Voting, ballots were duplicated from the voter verifiable paper audit trail on to polling place optical scan ballots. During this process it was discovered that one ballot pulled for duplication was a test ballot which had been marked for testing purposes. These ballots were removed and the duplication process continued.

The remade ballots were tabulated and the polling place results updated. All activities were conducted in the presence of political party observers.

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**Ballot Printing Issue**

After the initial mailing of absentee ballots to military, out of state and overseas voters, but prior to the main mailing of absentee ballots it was determined that two ballot types had printing issue. A small quantity of the ranked choice voting ballots (types 1095 and 1130) were printed without a back side. As these ballots come folded from the printer, this problem was not identified during ballot check-in and during the inserting process. When discovered the ballot envelopes had already been sorted with other ballot types into zip code order.

Election staff took the following actions:

- Prepared a list of all potentially impacted voters.
- Sorted through 100's of prepared mail trays and thousands of ballot envelope to find the potentially impacted voter's envelopes.
- Opened each envelope and checked the ballot to ensure proper printing and resealed in a new outer envelope.
- Checked **all** unused ballots to ensure each ballot contained printing on the reverse side.
- A letter and/or email was mailed to those voters who had already been mailed a ballot or who's ballot envelope could not be found.

Six voters returned ballots without printing on the back. These ballots were duplicated and tabulated. The Sheriff and County Council District No. 2 appeared on the back of these ballots. This printing error did not impact the outcome of any elections. The problem has been reviewed and discussed with our ballot printing vendor.

**Rule K - Mystery Write-In**

Concerns were raised by a Republican observer regarding how ballots with only a write-in line marked were being remade by election workers. Election staff investigated immediately and determined that some staff working the previous evening may have remade these ballots incorrectly. This rule directs that ballots with the write-in line marked, but without a name written in, are not to be counted as valid votes, even though they may be tallied by the tabulation system. The Office of the Secretary of State was contacted for assistance and guidance. To rectify the situation election staff identified the remade ballots in question, performed a visual scan of ballots and corrected any improperly remade ballots. All staff and workers were briefed regarding proper marking of Rule K - Mystery Write-In votes.

**Postmarks on Absentee Ballot Envelopes**

Prior to election day concerns were raised by the Republican party regarding the postmarking of absentee ballots. The Elections Division was assured by the United States Postal Service prior to, during and after the election that ballots would be postmarked. As concerns were raised, Election staff again communicated with United States Postal Service and were assured of proper postmarking. After the election, all ballots were reviewed to ensure the ballot was returned on time and counted in accordance with state law.

**Unable to Arm Election Center**

When closing the Election Center at Midnight on the evening of November 10, 2008, Election Staff were unable to set the alarm on the building. Due to work performed earlier that day to prevent rodents from entering the building, a door sensor was not properly functioning. Staff notified facilities maintenance, but was still unable to set the alarm. Election staff ensured all exterior doors were locked and placed tamper evident seals on each door. Off-duty Police Officers were hired to provide additional security to monitor the Election Center perimeter from early Tuesday morning through Wednesday morning.

**MAILING STATISTICS**

**Total number of undeliverable ballots returned by the Post Office** **2,722**

**Ballots postmarked too late**

Received November 6, 2008	1,103
Received November 7, 2008	144
Received November 10, 2008	28
Received November 12, 2008	5
Received November 13, 2008	4
Received November 16, 2008	6

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Total number of ballots postmarked too late

1,290

# November 4, 2008 General Election

Report 1

Absentee Ballots Issued		327,959	
Date	Number Received	Cumulative	Percent Received
10/20/2008	2864	2864	0.87%
10/21/2008	5793	8657	2.64%
10/22/2008	11915	20572	6.27%
10/23/2008	13009	33581	10.24%
10/24/2008	12212	45793	13.96%
10/27/2008	24252	70045	21.36%
10/28/2008	7313	77358	23.59%
10/29/2008	21089	98447	30.02%
10/30/2008	10166	108613	33.12%
10/31/2008	16717	125330	38.22%
11/1/2008	22064	147394	44.94%
11/2/2008	11943	159337	48.58%
11/3/2008	16636	175973	53.66%
11/4/2008	21614	197587	60.25%
11/5/2008	10772	208359	63.53%
11/6/2008	40321	248680	75.83%
11/7/2008	16707	265387	80.92%
11/8/2008	1	265388	80.92%
11/9/2008	7989	273377	83.36%
11/10/2008	64	273441	83.38%
11/12/2008	1456	274897	83.82%
11/13/2008	898	275795	84.09%
11/14/2008	688	276483	84.30%
11/15/2008	1103	277586	84.64%
11/16/2008	839	278425	84.90%
11/17/2008	154	278579	84.94%
11/18/2008	57	278636	84.96%
11/19/2008	37	278673	84.97%
11/20/2008	21	278694	84.98%
11/21/2008	9	278703	84.98%
The above numbers reflect ballots processed as of 3:30 p.m.			

Includes challenged ballots.