

Election Manual for Jurisdictions

2010

Pierce County Elections Division
2501 S 35th St, Suite C
Tacoma, WA 98409
piercecountywa.org/auditor
253-798-VOTE



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Cost of Participating in an Election

RCW 29A.04.410 states that every city, town and taxing district is liable for its proportionate share of election costs and that special election costs must shall be borne by the city, town or district concerned. It provides for Pierce County to either transfer funds or bill to recoup reimbursement for these costs.

The State Auditor's Office has established uniform procedures for allocating election costs. Election costs are allocated to each jurisdiction based upon its registered voter population as a percentage of the total registered voter population of all participating jurisdictions in that election.

Election costs vary from one election to the next depending on a variety of factors. However, the number of participating jurisdictions and their respective size is the primary variable impacting what the costs will be for the individual jurisdictions. For example, election shared by ten (10) jurisdictions are going to cost more per voter for each jurisdiction than an election with 75 jurisdictions.

Special Elections administered in February, April and/or May are often shared by a smaller number of jurisdictions, thus the proportional share is often greater, and in some cases may be 100% of the cost (single jurisdiction election).

In deciding when to place a measure on the ballot, cost is a significant factor, but it is not the only factor that contributes to the decision. Since the cost allocation is dependent on how many jurisdictions participate and how many registered voters they represent, and because these are typically unknown when preparing the estimate, a specific cost or quote cannot be provided.

Estimates will be based on a reasonable range, taking into account historical information and specific known information about a particular election date.

Voters' Pamphlet Cost

RCW 29A.30.270 states that the cost of a local voters' pamphlet shall be considered an election cost to those local jurisdictions included in the pamphlet and shall be prorated in the same manner as election costs.

Voters' Pamphlet costs are captured separately and are allocated to participating jurisdictions based on the number of registered voters.

Resolution Submittal Process

Resolutions/ordinances calling for an election by a district shall be submitted on or before the resolution deadline as established by state law. Resolutions calling for a special election in February, April, or May must be submitted at least 45 days prior to the election date. Resolutions calling for an election in conjunction with the primary or general election must be submitted at least 84 days prior to the election date. (RCW.29A.04.330, 29A.36.071-80)

Upon receipt of the resolution an acknowledgment letter will be mailed to the District contact. The resolution will be scanned and a copy of the resolution and mandatory cover sheet will be placed on the Auditor's web page.

Ballot Titles

Ballot titles for local measures will be prepared in accordance with RCW 29A.36.071, .080 and .090.

Resolutions submitted by districts which need a ballot title prepared by the Pierce County Prosecuting Attorney will be forwarded to the Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Upon receipt of the final official ballot title from the Prosecuting Attorney's office, the Elections Division will notify the District contact person via email or fax. The final ballot title will be posted to the Auditor's website.

Requesting a copy of the ballot title

RCW 29A.36.080 outlines the process to obtain a copy of the official ballot title. Individuals desiring a copy of the ballot title shall make such requests in writing.

Requests shall be directed to the Pierce County Auditor at 2501 S 35th St., Suite C, Tacoma, WA 98409. Requests shall be made for a specific election and a specific issue. Blanket requests for multiple/all elections or multiple/all issues will not be honored. A notice on how interested parties can request copies of a ballot title appears on the Auditor's website.

Local Measures – Ballot Title Appeal

RCW 29A.36.090 sets forth the process by which a person may appeal the ballot title language.

Submission of Resolution

In order to place a measure on the ballot an original signed resolution or a certified copy of the resolution, must be submitted by the applicable deadline. Please contact Mike Rooney at 253-798-2148 with any questions.

Mandatory Resolution Cover Sheet

This form must accompany each resolution that is submitted. Contact person or persons should have the authority and be available to answer questions. It is very important that the contact person be available throughout the election.

Name of District: _____

Date of Election: _____

Contact Person: _____ Title: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____

Contact Email: _____

Contact Person: _____ Title: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____

Contact Email: _____

District Address: _____

Type of Election (levy, bond, etc.): _____ (i.e. lid lift, benefit charge)

Attorney for District: _____

Attorney Phone Number: _____ Attorney Fax Number: _____

Attorney Email Address: _____

Are you requesting a Vote by Mail Election? Yes ___ No ___

Is it included with resolution? Yes ___ No ___

Is there a separate letter requesting it? Yes ___ No ___

If a letter requesting a Vote by Mail Election is not turned in by the resolution deadline, you will need to provide a letter stating your request within 5 working days.

Special Instructions: _____

This online fillable form is available on our website at: piercecountywa.org/elections
This form can be filled out, and printed. The Mandatory Resolution Cover Sheet form **must** accompany the original or certified copy of the resolution.

Bond and Levy Validation

Passing a levy or bond issue isn't always a simple matter of majority rules. State law makes bond issues and some types of levies tougher to pass by requiring a "super majority". Other levies such as levy lid lifts and school levies only require a simple majority.

State Constitution (Article 7 Section 2) mandates the validation requirements for excess levies and bond issues.

Levy Validation for Schools

The passage of Engrossed House Joint Resolution 4204 in November of 2007 changed the constitutional requirement as it relates to school district levy elections. A school district levy requires a simple majority to pass. School Bond issues still must validate and require a 60% majority to pass.

Bond Validation

Bond issues must validate two ways. They must pass with a 60% favorable majority, meaning 60% of ballots cast are "Yes" votes. In addition, they have a voter turnout requirement. The turnout must equal 40% of the voters who cast a ballot in the last General Election. So, a bond measure could get the required number of YES votes, but could still fail if not enough people vote in the election.

To better understand validation requirements, it may be helpful to read the State Constitution (Article 7, Section 2).

Validation Summary

Following the certification of the general election each year, Pierce County Elections will provide the jurisdictions a copy of the validation summary. The validation summary is also posted on the Pierce County Elections website.

The summary contains information compiled from the general election and includes the following statistics for each jurisdiction:

Active Voters: The total number of "Active Registered Voters" in the jurisdiction at the time of the election. "Active Registered Voters" refers to voters whose status is current with Pierce County Elections. These are voters who are not on the inactive list due to the return, as non-deliverable, of official documents such as an absentee ballot, voter registration card, or jury notice.

Voted: The total number of voter's voting in the last general election.

Bond: The **total number** of votes required to validate a bond issue.

Levy: The total number of **yes votes** required to validate a levy issue.

Publishing a Voters' Pamphlet

Pierce County publishes an Official Local Voters' Pamphlet for all elections. It is available in printed format and on our website. Distribution of this pamphlet will precede the first mailing of Absentee and Vote-By-Mail ballots for each election by two to three days. Pamphlets are either mailed to all registered households or to all households (saturation). In Special Elections, pamphlets are typically mailed to all registered voter households. In County-wide Primary and General Elections, pamphlets are mailed to all households in Pierce County.

The state publishes a pamphlet prior to the General Election. State propositions and candidates for state and federal offices appear in this publication. Local offices and local measures appear in the Pierce County Pamphlet.

Explanatory Statements

An explanatory statement describing the measure must accompany all ballot measures submitted for inclusion in the pamphlet. The statement is prepared by the jurisdiction or the jurisdiction's attorney stating the effect of a ballot measure if passed into law. The statement shall be neutral. The statement shall not be an argument likely to create prejudice either for or against the measure. The explanatory statement must be approved by the jurisdiction's attorney. Correspondence confirming a review of the explanatory statement submitted by the jurisdiction's attorney must accompany the statement upon its submission to the Auditor.

Length and Other Specifications

Explanatory Statements must be 200 words

or less, in block paragraph form. No bullets, multiple indents, words in all CAPS, or underlining permitted. If statements are submitted with words in all CAPS or underlined, the text will be changed to appear in italics. Words may be bold faced and/or italicized.

Submission of Explanatory Statement

Email to: pcvoterpamphlet@co.pierce.wa.us

Statements must be submitted by email or on a cd or disk. Please contact Michelle Ackers at 253-798-2143 with any questions.

Establishment of For and Against Committees

The jurisdiction shall whenever possible appoint persons known to favor the measure to serve on the committee advocating approval and appoint persons known to oppose the measure to serve on the committee advocating rejection. Each committee shall consist of not more than three members; however, a committee may seek the advice of any person or persons.

Should the jurisdiction fail to make such appointments by the prescribed deadline, the County Auditor shall, whenever possible, make the appointments. The Auditor appointments shall be made from citizens who have made themselves known to favor or oppose a measure. The assignment of up to three committee members will be made on a first come, first serve basis. The committees are solely responsible for submitting their argument statements in accordance with the specified timeline for that election.

For and Against Committee Members Form

Please fill in names, addresses and phone numbers of "for" and "against" committee members. You may list up to three names per committee to appear in the pamphlet. If appointments are not made by the deadline, the auditor shall, whenever possible, make the appointments. (RCW 29A.32.280)

Name of Jurisdiction Submitting Measure: _____

Contact Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

"For" Committee	"Against" Committee
1. (Spokesperson for Committee - Person responsible for contact with voters' pamphlet coordinator on behalf of the committee.) Name: _____ Address: _____ _____ Phone: _____ <small>Publish in Voters' Pamphlet? <input type="checkbox"/></small> Email: _____ <small>Publish in Voters' Pamphlet? <input type="checkbox"/></small> Website: _____ <small>Publish in Voters' Pamphlet? <input type="checkbox"/></small> Fax: _____	1. (Spokesperson for Committee - Person responsible for contact with voters' pamphlet coordinator on behalf of the committee.) Name: _____ Address: _____ _____ Phone: _____ <small>Publish in Voters' Pamphlet? <input type="checkbox"/></small> Email: _____ <small>Publish in Voters' Pamphlet? <input type="checkbox"/></small> Website: _____ <small>Publish in Voters' Pamphlet? <input type="checkbox"/></small> Fax: _____
2. Name: _____ Address: _____ _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____	2. Name: _____ Address: _____ _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____
3. Name: _____ Address: _____ _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____	3. Name: _____ Address: _____ _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Sample

An online fillable form is available on our website at: piercecounitywa.org/elections
 This form can be filled out, saved, and attached in an email to:
pcvoterpamphlet@co.pierce.wa.us

For and Against Statements

For and against committees write a statement in favor of or in opposition to the ballot measure. They are required to submit the statement by the deadline.

Length and Other Specifications

Statements must be 150 words or less, in block paragraph form. No bullets, multiple indents, words in all CAPS, or underlining permitted. Where words appear in all CAPS or underlined, the text will be changed to appear in *italics*. Words may be bold faced and/or italicized. Up to four headings may be used to summarize and identify major arguments or portions of the statement for the convenience of the reader. Such headings shall not be included in the computation of the number of words in the statement.

The name of the committee, or the committee members preparing the statement, a phone number where additional information on the argument may be obtained, an email address and/or website address shall be added after the statements but shall not be included in the statement word counts. Committee members' titles shall not be included.

Rebuttal Statements

Once both for and against statements are submitted, the Voters' Pamphlet Coordinator will email or fax the opposing committee's statement to the spokesperson listed on the committee appointment form. An email address or fax number is required for the spokesperson.

Rebuttal statements are not required, however, it gives each committee an opportunity to write a few more words supporting their point of view.

Length and Other Specifications

Statements must be 75 words or less, in block paragraph form. Bullets, multiple indents, words in all CAPS, underlining and headings are NOT permitted. Where words appear in all CAPS or underlined, the text will be changed to appear in *italics*. Words may be bold faced and/or italicized. Rebuttals may not interject new points. You are limited to addressing issues raised in the opposing argument only.

General Provisions for All Statements

By preparing and distributing a voters' pamphlet, Pierce County provides an opportunity to better inform the voting public about measures and candidates on the ballot. Arguments and statements prepared by committees for or against measures are the responsibility of the authors and are not considered to represent the position of the County regarding the measure, or of any material contained therein; nor is the County responsible for the validity or accuracy of the statements, arguments or rebuttals.

Submission of For and Against and Rebuttal Statements

Email to: pcvoterpamphlet@co.pierce.wa.us

Statements must be submitted by email or on a cd or disk. Please contact Michelle Ackers at 253-798-2143 with any questions.

2010 Submittal Deadlines

The following are the deadlines for the submission of material for all 2010 elections. Deadlines are as of 4:30 p.m. on the prescribed day.

Election Dates	Feb. 9, 2010	Apr. 27, 2010	*May 18, 2010	Aug. 17, 2010	Nov. 2, 2010
Deadline to make Committee Appointments. Names of persons appointed to serve on the For and Against committees. See RCW 29A.32.280	**Dec. 7, 2009	**Feb. 22, 2010	**Mar. 15, 2010	***June 4, 2010	***Aug. 4, 2010
Resolution Deadline Mandatory Resolution Cover Sheet must be submitted with resolution. This form will be used as the main jurisdiction contact sheet.	Dec. 24, 2009	Mar. 12, 2010	April 2, 2010	May 25, 2010	Aug. 10, 2010
Explanatory Statement Deadline	Dec. 24, 2009	Mar. 12, 2010	April 2, 2010	May 25, 2010	Aug. 10, 2010
Statement "For" and Statement "Against" Deadline. Written by the committees for and against the measure.	Dec. 24, 2009	Mar. 12, 2010	April 2, 2010	June 9, 2010	Aug. 18, 2010
Rebuttal Statement Deadline	Dec. 29, 2009	Mar. 16, 2010	April 6, 2010	June 11, 2010	Aug. 20, 2010

*The May Special Election is restricted to tax levies that failed previously in 2010 and new bond issues only. (See RCW 29A.04.321, RCW 29A.04.330)

**This publication date is based on when the voters' pamphlet is available to the public.

***This publication date is based on deadlines to mail ballots and voter pamphlets to uniformed and overseas absentee voters (UOCAVA).

Voter Statistics

(Information current as of October 27, 2009)

District	Registered Voters	Polls	Absentees	Precincts
Pierce County	407,804	88,108	319,696	382*
County Council Districts				
County Council District No. 1	71,742	14,361	57,381	99
County Council District No. 2	56,497	11,805	44,692	46
County Council District No. 3	70,585	15,749	54,836	59
County Council District No. 4	51,765	12,064	39,701	36
County Council District No. 5	47,584	11,560	36,024	52
County Council District No. 6	42,751	9,949	32,802	42
County Council District No. 7	66,876	12,617	54,259	47
Congressional Districts				
Congressional District 6	173,712	38,024	135,688	144
Congressional District 8	97,443	19,816	77,627	100
Congressional District 9	136,645	30,265	106,380	137
Legislative Districts				
Legislative District 2	69,391	15,918	53,473	61
Legislative District 25	76,950	16,158	60,792	76
Legislative District 26	39,017	7,026	31,991	25
Legislative District 27	65,588	14,200	48,388	56
Legislative District 28	61,573	13,185	48,388	48
Legislative District 29	50,456	12,516	37,940	54
Legislative District 31	47,825	9,102	38,723	61
Port of Tacoma				
Port of Tacoma	407,804	88,108	319,696	382
Cities - Towns				
City of Auburn	(Does not include King Co. figures) 3,103	546	2,557	2
City of Bonney Lake	9,310	1,744	7,566	5
Bonney Lake - Council Ward 1	2,055	443	1,612	1
Bonney Lake - Council Ward 2	1,606	244	1,362	1
Bonney Lake - Council Ward 3	2,034	442	1,592	1
Bonney Lake - Council Ward 4	1,757	299	1,458	1
Bonney Lake - Council Ward 5	1,858	316	1,542	1
City of Buckley	2,320	562	1,758	2
Town of Carbonado	345	5	340	1
City of DuPont	3,587	707	2,880	2
Town of Eatonville	1,462	374	1,088	1
City of Edgewood	6,331	1,252	5,079	7
City of Fife	3,103	666	2,437	8

*Precinct 29-500 is a precinct used for non-resident military voters registered in Pierce County. Voters in this precinct are eligible for county-wide and state-wide issues only. This precinct is not included in the Congressional, Legislative, or County Council precinct counts, but is included in the county wide precinct totals.

District	Registered Voters	Polls	Absentees	Precincts
City of Fircrest	4,155	857	3,298	3
City of Gig Harbor	4,499	679	3,820	4
City of Lakewood	26,853	6,351	20,502	24
City of Milton <small>(Does not include King Co. figures)</small>	3,374	832	2,542	5
City of Orting	3,272	887	2,385	2
City of Pacific <small>(Does not include King Co. figures)</small>	57	1	56	1
City of Puyallup	20,474	4,000	16,474	16
Puyallup Council District No. 1	6,019	1,259	4,760	6
Puyallup Council District No. 2	7,691	1,515	6,176	5
Puyallup Council District No. 3	6,764	1,226	5,538	5
City of Roy	423	118	305	1
Town of Ruston	488	130	358	1
Town of South Prairie	268	61	207	1
Town of Steilacoom	3,796	772	3,024	3
City of Sumner	5,004	1,074	3,930	9
City of Tacoma	98,238	22,068	73,170	75
City of Tacoma, Council District No. 1	22,756	4,690	18,066	13
City of Tacoma, Council District No. 2	22,489	4,994	17,495	19
City of Tacoma, Council District No. 3	16,239	4,023	12,216	11
City of Tacoma, Council District No. 4	16,023	3,931	12,092	14
City of Tacoma, Council District No. 5	17,731	4,430	13,301	18
City of University Place	18,405	3,798	14,607	12
Town of Wilkeson	262	4	258	2
School Districts				
SD No. 1 Steilacoom Historical	10,679	1,987	8,692	12
SD No. 2 Yelm Community <small>(Does not include Thurston Co. figures)</small>	2,673	670	2,003	3
SD No. 3 Puyallup	65,078	13,237	51,841	49
SD No. 10 Tacoma	102,830	23,435	79,395	79
SD No. 19 Carbonado Historical	473	10	463	2
SD No. 83 University Place	16,985	3,627	13,358	11
SD No. 320 Sumner	23,912	4,633	19,279	37
SD No. 343 Dieringer	5,116	969	4,147	9
SD No. 344 Orting	7,210	1,781	5,429	12
SD No. 400 Clover Park	29,721	7,383	22,338	30
SD No. 401 Peninsula	39,017	7,026	31,991	25
SD No. 402 Franklin Pierce	22,320	5,205	17,115	27
SD No. 403 Bethel	51,484	12,203	39,281	48

Voter Statistics

District	Registered Voters	Polls	Absentees	Precincts
SD No. 404 Eatonville <small>(Does not include Lewis Co. figures)</small>	7,110	1,403	5,707	10
SD No. 408 Auburn <small>(Does not include King Co. figures)</small>	3,072	542	2,530	1
SD No. 416 White River	12,712	2,362	10,350	30
SD No. 417 Fife <small>(Does not include King Co. figures)</small>	7,408	1,632	5,776	20
Fire Protection Districts				
FPD No. 2 Lakewood	28,386	6,656	21,730	26
FPD No. 3 University Place	18,428	3,801	14,627	13
FPD No. 5 Gig Harbor	29,091	5,079	24,012	20
FPD No. 6 Central Pierce	99,953	21,885	78,068	94
FPD No. 8 Edgewood	6,331	1,252	5,079	7
FPD No. 10 Fife	4,313	866	3,447	12
FPD No. 13 Browns Point-Dash Point	1,510	293	1,217	1
FPD No. 14 Riverside	1,082	191	891	1
FPD No. 16 Key Peninsula	9,926	1,947	7,979	5
FPD No. 17 South Pierce	10,572	2,571	8,001	11
FPD No. 18 Orting	3,896	799	3,097	12
FPD No. 21 Graham	29,183	6,604	22,579	24
FPD No. 22 East Pierce	38,251	7,323	30,928	53
FPD No. 23 Ashford	744	2	742	2
FPD No. 25 Crystal Mountain	28	0	28	1
FPD No. 26 Greenwater	210	0	210	1
FPD No. 27 Anderson Island	765	3	762	1
Valley Regional Fire	3,160	547	2,613	3
Park Districts				
Anderson Island Park and Rec District	765	3	762	1
Key Peninsula Metro. Park District	9,926	1,947	7,979	5
Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma	96,748	22,361	74,387	76
Peninsula Metropolitan Park District	24,798	4,437	20,361	19
Water Districts				
Ashford Water District	134	1	130	1
Burnett Water District	50	0	50	1
Clear Lake Water District	146	25	121	1
East Gig Harbor Water District	287	42	245	1
Elbe Water District	27	0	27	1
Elkhorn Water District	19	0	19	1
Kapowsin Water District	45	10	35	1
Kopachuck Ridge Estates Water District	157	19	138	1

District	Registered Voters	Polls	Absentees	Precincts
Lakewood Water District	28,761	6,730	22,031	29
McKenna Water District	67	18	49	1
Valley Water District	3,546	656	2,890	18
Sewer Districts				
Crystal Mountain Sewer District	30	0	30	1
Wollochet Harbor Sewer District	115	23	92	1

Purchasing Election Data

State law establishes rules and restrictions on the use of registered voter data. Voter information may not be used for commercial or other non-political purposes. The RCW related to the use of this data is printed below:

RCW 29A.08.740

Violations of restricted use of registered voter data -- Penalties -- Liabilities.

(1) Any person who uses registered voter data furnished under RCW 29A.08.720 for the purpose of mailing or delivering any advertisement or offer for any property, establishment, organization, product, or service or for the purpose of mailing or delivering any solicitation for money, services, or anything of value is guilty of a class C felony punishable by imprisonment in a state correctional facility for a period of not more than five years or a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars or both such fine and imprisonment, and is liable to each person provided such advertisement or solicitation, without the person's consent, for the nuisance value of such person having to dispose of it, which value is herein established at five dollars for each item mailed or delivered to the person's residence. However, a person who mails or delivers any advertisement, offer, or solicitation for a political purpose is not liable under this section unless the person is liable under subsection (2) of this section. For purposes of this subsection, two or more attached papers or sheets or two or more papers that are enclosed in the same envelope or container or are folded together are one item. Merely having a mailbox or other receptacle for mail on or near the person's residence is not an indication that the person consented to receive the advertisement or solicitation. A class action may be brought to recover damages under this section, and the court may award a reasonable attorney's fee to any party recovering damages under this section.

(2) Each person furnished data under RCW 29A.08.720 shall take reasonable precautions designed to assure that the data is not used for the purpose of mailing or delivering any advertisement or offer for any property, establishment, organization, product, or service or for

the purpose of mailing or delivering any solicitation for money, services, or anything of value. However, the data may be used for any political purpose. Where failure to exercise due care in carrying out this responsibility results in the data being used for such purposes, then such person is jointly and severally liable for damages under subsection (1) of this section along with any other person liable under subsection (1) of this section for the misuse of such data.

Voter Registration Information

Voter information may be obtained from:

Pierce County Auditor, Tacoma
(253) 798-VOTE (8683) or (800) 446-4979

Data Resources, Olympia
(360) 754-8220

Data Supply, Tacoma
(253) 922-3494

Labels & Lists, Bellevue
(800) 842-5478

Mail Northwest/FPS, Tacoma
(253) 565-2866

Pierce County Report Formats

- Election Data on CD or via email
- Election abstracts on CD or via email
- Labels
- Paper printouts
- Photocopied election abstracts

Data includes:

- Name of registered voter
- Registered address, city, state, zip
- Mailing address, if different and if provided to County Auditor
- Precinct number
- Date of registration
- Date of birth
- Voter history for the last twenty elections
- Identify if an ongoing or regular absentee ballot has been requested
- Identify those who have or have not returned an ongoing or regular absentee ballot for a previous election or election in progress.

State law does not allow phone numbers or email addresses to be public. (Reference RCW 29A.08.710)

Of additional use:

- Labels and lists by district or precinct (alphabetically or by household).
- "Walking or "door-belling" lists in street order for precincts and districts. (Does not include voter history.)
- Ability to target voters who cast ballots in specific elections. (Not available in household format.)

Lists:

The following options are available:

- Individual registered voters in alphabetical order.
- Targeted voters who voted in specific elections.
- Walking lists (registered voters in address/ precinct order). (Does not include voter history.)
- Voter history for the last six elections.

Labels:

The following options are available:

- All registered voters in alphabetical or precinct order.
- Ongoing Absentees and/or Poll Voters.
- By household (does not allow for targeting voters).
- Targeted voters (may specify voters who voted in up to six out of the last six elections).

To order miscellaneous election information (data, labels or lists):

1. Come into the Election Department to place an order or mail your payment with the order form. Payment is required in advance for all orders.
2. Your order will generally be completed within 24 hours.

Sample label:



Purchasing Election Data

To order absentee labels or lists:

Absentee voter information is available in the form of labels, lists, or data. The permanent absentee voter information is available approximately 29 days prior to each election. Specific election information is available at this time also. Lists or data of voters who have returned their absentee ballots (match backs) are also available for purchase.

Commercial Demographic Firms

Business firms also offer various voter statistical formats and services, such as targeting, printing, designing and mailing. They may also provide phone numbers and other demographic information. Options and charges for these services vary from vendor to vendor. Check sources for a variety of products, services and fees.

Pierce County Auditor's Office Fees (Effective January 1, 2010)

Data	
CD containing Data	\$15.00
District File	\$15.00
Abstracts (Precinct Results) on CD	\$20.00
Absentee ballots returned data (match backs)	\$15.00 per day
Labels and Lists	
Precinct list printout	\$12.00
Precinct labels	\$12.00
Precinct walking list	\$12.00
Maps	
Legislative or County Council district map (large)	\$9.00
11 x 17 legislative district map	\$2.00
Custom G.I.S. generated map*	\$75.00 per hour
Miscellaneous	
Certificate of voter registration	\$3.00
Copies	
Miscellaneous copies	\$.15 per page

*Cost estimate provided at time of inquiry.

An online printable form is available on our website at: piercecountywa.org/elections.
Pre-payment is required for all data orders.

Registered Voters or Absentee Data, Lists & Labels Order Form

The following 2 options are available for purchasing voter data: (check one)

- Countywide CD prepared monthly, new file created the 1st Monday of every month: \$15.00
- Public Disclosure Request for data - This option allows 5 business days for processing: \$15.00
(Subject to RCW 42.56 and Pierce County Code Ch. 2.04)

Candidate / Campaign Name: _____

Contact Person's Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Signature: _____

I acknowledge by signing this form that I am in compliance with RCW 29A.08.740 and the restricted use of voter data. (Full text of RCW is on the back of your receipt.)

Electronic Voter Data on CD (Voter data is provided as a delimited text file.)

- Active Voters/No History Newly Registered Voters only from _____ to _____
- Active Voters/with History Inactive Voters Date of Birth

Absentee Matchbacks for current election and date(s) requested are:

What districts or precincts would you like:

Paper List or Labels Which would you like: Lists or Labels (circle one)

What format would you like?

- Voter History
- Alpha (List Only)
- By Household* (labels only)
*Items by household are not available in alphabetical order.
- Alpha by Precinct
- Street Order
- 2-up walking list
(does not include voter history)

Who would you like to target:

- All Voters
- Absentee Voters Only
- Poll Voters Only
- Voters who voted in ____ out of ____ elections
(List elections to target)

Order Date: _____
Taken By: _____
Comments: _____

Completed by: _____
Date: _____ Time: _____

Receipt # _____

Campaign Planning for Vote by Mail

Over 78% of the registered voters in Pierce County receive an absentee ballot each election. The remaining 22% vote at a polling place. Pierce County is the only county in the state that has polls open on election day.

There are three kinds of mail ballots:

Ongoing Absentee Ballots

Registered voters who have requested ongoing (permanent) absentee status are automatically mailed a ballot 18 days prior to any election in which they are eligible to vote. A permanent year-round mailing address is required.

(Reference RCW 29A.40.070)

Regular Absentee Ballots

Registered voters who wish to have a ballot mailed to their home address or an alternate mailing address for one election need only contact the Elections Division by telephone or letter. Regular absentee ballots can be obtained up until the day before the election.

Vote-By-Mail Precinct Ballots

Voters living in a precinct with 200 or fewer registered voters, after the number of ongoing absentee voters have been deducted, may be assigned to a Vote-By-Mail Precinct. A ballot is automatically mailed to all registered voters in Vote-by-Mail precincts for all elections in which they are eligible to vote.

For candidates, or for jurisdictions planning ballot measures, a sampling of 2004-2009 election statistics are listed below.

Mail Ballot Return Statistics

Running Percentage of Absentee Ballots Received on Selected Days

Number of Days Before Election	11/2/04 General Election	11/8/05 General Election	11/7/06 General Election	11/6/07 General Election	11/4/08 General Election	11/3/09 General Election
11	14.66%	10.08%	10.73%	7.19%	13.96%	6.91%
6	33.41%	20.27%	21.71%	14.35%	30.02%	13.35%
Election Day	70.06%	41.17%	47.10%	34.20%	60.25%	30.24%
E + 1 (Day After)	78.64%	50.38%	56.38%	42.78%	63.53%	34.22%

This is just a sample of a general election turnout. Check out the Election Archives on our website for the full breakdown by day for past special, primary and general elections.

How to get Election Results

Election Day results are available at approximately 8:30 p.m. on election night at the Pierce County Auditor's Election Center, 2501 S. 35th Street, Suite C, Tacoma. Campaign committees are welcome to come in to obtain immediate results.

Access results on-line at piercecountywa.org/results. Results will be posted starting with the first release of the absentee ballots. The site will be updated with each new release of results. Other important election information will be added as it becomes available.

After Election Day

Pierce County Elections staff will continue to verify, open and tabulate absentee, vote-by-mail, and provisional ballots until certification. Updated results will be released each day through certification. The public can observe the processing of ballots from the public viewing area at the Pierce County Election Center.

About This Manual

This manual should be used in conjunction with state and local laws, not in place of them. The Revised Code of Washington, Washington Administrative Code, and other notations are offered as references for additional research. The material contained herein may change due to new legislation, judicial determination or rule changes.

Pierce County Elections Division
2501 S 35th St, Suite C
Tacoma, WA 98409
piercecountywa.org/auditor
253-798-VOTE

