

Dean Logan
April 4, 2005
Page 1



King County

Records, Elections and Licensing Services Division Election Section

Department of Executive Services
King County Administration Building
500 Fourth Avenue, Room 553
Seattle, WA 98104-2337

206-296-1565 Fax 206-296-0108
TTY Relay: 711

April 4, 2005

TO: Dean Logan
Director of Records, Elections, and Licensing Services Division

FR: Garth Fell
Assistant Superintendent of Elections

RE: Discovery and Subsequent Investigation of Untabulated Absentee Ballots

Summary

On March 24, 2005 King County Elections staff discovered a bundle of 48 envelopes containing untabulated absentee ballots from the November 2004 General Election during the course of work being performed on the absentee signature envelopes as it relates to our continuing activities surrounding alleged registered felons. On March 24, following the discovery of this bundle, Records, Elections and Licensing Services Director Dean Logan directed that I conduct a full investigation of all absentee ballot envelopes from the November 2004 General Election. Mr. Logan and I met with legal counsel from the Prosecuting Attorney's Office and it was determined that a complete and thorough examination of all envelopes would be made before disclosure, and that all relevant facts and circumstances relating to the discovery and investigation would be documented in a memorandum to Mr. Logan for subsequent release to the parties to the election contest litigation. In the work that followed, 44 additional envelopes containing untabulated absentee ballots and one additional loose emailed or faxed ballot were found. All envelopes containing untabulated absentee ballots were found in boxes used to store empty signature envelopes, and all but one of the ballots were sealed within security envelopes. All but three of the absentee ballots were also within the outer signature envelope. In total 93 envelopes containing untabulated absentee ballots have been found.

On March 30, Mr. Logan directed that the investigation be expanded to include a complete examination of all provisional ballot envelopes to determine whether there were any untabulated provisional ballots within those envelopes. On March 30 and 31, staff examined the approximately 28,000 provisional ballot envelopes and determined that there were no untabulated ballots within the provisional ballot envelopes.