



King County

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Summary of King County's Poll Ballot Reconciliation

To aid in understanding the reconciliation of the 2004 General Election, canvassing documents prepared by elections staff have been summarized in a spreadsheet.

The spreadsheet provides insight into the reconciliation of 2,616 precincts and poll books and the work of more than 3,000 poll workers.

The Reconciliation Process

The purpose of reconciliation is to determine whether the number of ballots signed for at the polls balances with the sum of the machine count, provisional ballots issued, and add-on ballots.

Starting the day after Election Day, Elections staff began a canvass of the election and the reconciliation of poll books. A team of 20 canvassers, working eight to ten hours a day, checked the accuracy of the ballot accountability form, counted signatures, checked for spoiled and provisional ballots, counted ballot stubs and contacted poll workers and inspectors.

If the canvasser's examination of a precinct revealed a variance, steps were taken to investigate the issue. These included but were not limited to:

- checking the accuracy of the ballot accountability form;
- recounting the signatures in the poll book;
- checking the bins in the ballot counter;
- recounting the spoiled ballots;
- checking the provisional ballots;
- counting the ballot stubs;
- checking the poll site supplies for ballots;
- manually counting the number of ballots; and
- contacting poll workers and inspectors.

The Three Ring Binder

The work was documented by the canvassers in a three ring binder. Among the matters noted in the binder are:

- the number of provisional ballots issued;

- the number of any add-on ballots, if any;
- the number of ballots tabulated by the Accuvote machine;
- the variance in the sum of the provisional ballots issued, add-ons and the number of ballots tabulated by the Accuvote machine relative to the number of signatures in the poll books; and
- notes made by the canvassers as a result of discussions with poll workers or the review of poll books.

Polling Place Canvass Report Spreadsheet

The spreadsheet includes the following information in the indicated columns:

- **Reconciliation** – the process of determining whether the number of signatures is equal to the sum of the provisional ballots issued, add-ons and the number of ballots tabulated by the Accuvote machine.
- **Polling Place** – the name of the polling place.
- **Precinct** – the name of the precincts within each polling place.
- **Adjusted Number** – the number in this column explains the reconciliation variance and was arrived at by reviewing notes made by canvassers and poll workers in the three ring binder and poll books.
- **Net Difference** – the number in this column represents the final net reconciliation variance.

(“Adjusted Number Column” **minus** “Plus/Minus Column” = Net Difference)

- **Plus/Minus** – reconciliation variance
 - **+** = The number by which the sum of provisional ballots, the machine count, and add-ons exceeds the number of signatures in the poll book.
 - **--** = The number by which the sum of provisional ballots, the machine count, and add-ons is less than the number of signatures in the poll book.
- **PBAV** – the number of provisional ballots put through Accuvote machines. This number only includes instances that were confirmed by poll workers.
- **PB Issued** – the number of provisional ballots issued in each precinct.
- **Election Day Machine Count** – the number of ballots tabulated at the polling location on Election Day.
- **Add-ons** – valid ballots not counted on Election Day because they did not go through the Accuvote machine. This fail-safe mechanism is designed to ensure ballots are counted and secured when there are technical glitches or when a voter does not want to use the Accuvote machine. These ballots are kept secure in the second side bin of the Accuvote machine base unit, recorded in the reconciliation binder and later added to the official

count.

- **Zero Tab?** – When there is a question concerning the Accuvote tabulation, the results for a polling place can be zeroed-out and the ballots re-tabulated at the elections office. If a precinct was zeroed-out, it was indicated in the binder.
- **Notes?** – Notes made by canvassers in the poll ballot reconciliation binder. Please see the “Notes from Inspectors and Canvassers” spreadsheet.

Examples from the Poll Ballot Reconciliation

Aki Kurose Middle School – this represents an example of cross-over voting. When one precinct is +1 and another precinct in the same polling place is -1, it is assumed the voter was given the wrong precinct ballot. With 2,616 precincts and because poll workers manage both English and Chinese versions of each precinct ballot sometimes a registered voter is inadvertently given a ballot for the wrong precinct.

This is demonstrated by a 1 in the “Plus/Minus” column for SEA 37-1619 and a -1 for SEA 37-1620. The adjusted reconciliation for the polling location indicates a net difference of 0.

Polling Place	Precinct	Adjusted #	Net Difference	Plus/Minus	PBAV	PB Issued	Election Day MC
Aki Kurose Middle School	SEA 37-1618				4	39	99
Aki Kurose Middle School	SEA 37-1619			1	2	28	85
Aki Kurose Middle School	SEA 37-1620			-1		13	63
Aki Kurose Middle School	SEA 37-1628			1		3	113
Aki Kurose Middle School	SEA 37-1635					18	104
Aki Kurose Middle School	SEA 37-1636			-1		24	125

Bothell Regional Library – this is an example where it appears provisional ballots went through the Accuvote though there was not direct confirmation from a poll worker. A note from the canvasser was entered in the canvass binder and that number is reflected in the “Adjusted #” column. See page five in the “Notes from Inspectors and Canvassers” spreadsheet.

Polling Place	Precinct	Notes and/or Zero Out
Bothell Regional Library	ALL	plus 32 ok, but 31 ballots that should
Bothell Regional Library	BOT 01-0253	includes 3 no label
Bothell Regional Library	BOT 01-0254	includes 4 no label
Bothell Regional Library	BOT 01-0259	includes 2 no label
Bothell Regional Library	BOT 01-0260	includes 2 no label
Bothell Regional Library	BOT 01-0262	
Bothell Regional Library	BOT 01-3271	includes 10 no label
Bothell Regional Library	BOT 01-3398	includes 10 no label

Polling Place	Precinct	Adjusted #	Net Difference	Plus/Minus	PBAV	PB Issued	Election Day MC
Bothell Regional Library	BOT 01-0253			3		14	115
Bothell Regional Library	BOT 01-0254			7		8	177
Bothell Regional Library	BOT 01-0259			-1		5	88
Bothell Regional Library	BOT 01-0260			2		5	159
Bothell Regional Library	BOT 01-0262			1		29	123
Bothell Regional Library	BOT 01-3271			16		25	154
Bothell Regional Library	BOT 01-3398			4		43	130
Bothell Regional Library Total		31	1	32	0		

Clark Elementary – this is an example of a situation where there was confirmation from a poll worker that provisional ballots went through the Accuvote machine. In this instance, the number is represented in the “PBAV column” and then in the “Adjusted #” column so that the adjusted reconciliation for the polling location indicates a net difference of 0.

Polling Place	Precinct	Notes and/or Zero Out
Clark Elementary	ALL	ID: several ballots through AV
Clark Elementary	GILMAN	
Clark Elementary	ISS 05-2602	
Clark Elementary	ISS 05-3464	

Polling Place	Precinct	Adjusted #	Net Difference	Plus/Minus	PBAV	PB Issued	Election Day
Clark Elementary	GILMAN					6	71
Clark Elementary	ISS 05-2602			1	1	33	348
Clark Elementary	ISS 05-3464			8	8	64	307
Clark Elementary Total		9	0	9	9		

Summary

On Election Day, November 2, 2004, more than 3,000 poll workers staffed 540 polling places and issued 334,185 ballots in 2,616 precincts. Between Election Day and the certification of the election on November 17, King County Elections conducted a polling place reconciliation and canvassing process. Worksheets documenting this process were maintained in a 148-page binder. The contents of that binder have been compiled and summarized in the spreadsheet entitled “King County Polling Place Reconciliation Summary, 2004 General Election.”

Analysis of the polling place pre-certification reconciliation effort establishes that of the 540 polling places, 288 show zero variance (the number of signatures in the precinct poll books equaled the combined sum of the provisional ballots issued, the number of ballots tabulated by the AccuVote machine, and the number of add-on ballots). An additional 165 polling places were reconciled to a variance of a single ballot. These figures are derived, respectively, by counting the number of polling places that show a “0” in the “Net Difference” column, and counting the number of polling places that show either a “1” or “-1” in that column of the spreadsheet.

Following the reconciliation process, a degree of variance remains. Polling places that showed a negative variance have a sum total variance of “-158”, indicating that the sum of provisional

ballots issued, add-ons, and the AccuVote machine tabulation was 158 less than the sum total of ballots signed for in these polling places. Likewise, polling places that showed a positive variance have a sum total variance of 216, indicating that the sum of provisional ballots issued, add-ons, and the AccuVote machine tabulation was 216 more than the sum total of ballots signed for in these polling places. The combined negative and positive variance is 374. Based on 334,185 polling place ballots cast, this represents a variance of .0011, or just over one-tenth of one percent.

There are a number of polling place occurrences that are difficult to detect or trace that may contribute to the variances. For example, some portion of the 216 positive variance is likely attributable to poll workers mistakenly handing a voter a ballot without securing the voter's signature. A portion of the 158 total negative variance may include occasions when a voter who had signed for and been handed a ballot, for reasons personal to that voter, left the polling place with the ballot rather than casting a vote.

This report has been prepared to assist those who have requested reconciliation data in understanding the complex and labor intensive process of pre-certification reconciliation of polling place ballots.

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