



King County

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Department of Executive Services

Records, Elections and Licensing Services Division

FACT SHEET

CLEANING THE VOTER ROLES

King County made cleaning the voter rolls a priority over the past year. This fact sheet outlines the ongoing processes King County uses to clean the voter rolls and the results of those efforts.

Post Office and Personal Mail Boxes:

- King County regularly runs queries of its voter database that show if a voter is registered to a post office box or personal mail box.
- Registrations where a voter uses the words "P.O. Box or PMB" are set aside until the voter provides a residential address.
- **There are currently no voters registered with the words "P.O. Box or PMB" in the residential address field.**
- King County is careful not to cancel any voter unless he or she specifies "P.O. Box or PMB" on their registration form. Removing voters from the rolls must be done thoughtfully and deliberately to ensure no one is disenfranchised.

Duplicates:

- King County runs queries to remove duplicate registrations from its voter rolls. **More than 18,000 duplicate registrations have been merged and the work continues between elections.**
- Database queries to find duplicates search for date of birth, first and last names and driver's license number. In the report, address also shows up.
- Staff looks at each record and where there looks like there is a duplicate (name, date of birth, address, etc.), they do a signature match. If the signatures match, they remove the more recent voter registration, keeping the oldest to retain more of the person's voting history.

Deceased

- King County relies on the families of deceased voters to notify the Elections Division when a voter should be removed from the voter rolls. King County also takes the proactive step of looking at obituaries in the newspaper, which often list date of birth and other information that help adequately identify a deceased voter to be removed from the voter list.
- The Department of Health mails quarterly vital statistics reports to election officials.
- **The names of 8,900 deceased have been removed from the voter rolls.**

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Voting twice

- If someone does vote twice, their case is forwarded to the Prosecuting Attorney. **Seven people were prosecuted for voting twice in the 2004 General Election and several others cases are under investigation by the King County Sheriff.**

Voter outreach and education

- In June we launched a massive outreach campaign to inform voters about new voting requirements. We mailed 1.1 million voters new registration cards and asked voters to partner with us to clean our voter rolls – and they responded.
- At least every two years King County Elections does countywide mailing urging voters to verify their addresses and registration information. Any returned mail is put on inactive status. **Since June two countywide mailings resulted in 73,000 voter registrations put on inactive status.**

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