



King County

**Records, Elections and
Licensing Services Division**

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

206-296-1540 Fax 206-296-0108
TTY Relay: 711

June 20, 2005

Robert M. Edelman
29871 232nd Ave. SE
Black Diamond, WA 98010

Dear Mr. Edelman:

On May 16, 2005, the King County Records Elections and Licensing Services Division received a public disclosure request from you dated May 14, 2005. In your request, you asked for: "the quantity and date of mailing for each and every set of military ballots mailed for the November 2, 2004 General Election. Pursuant to this request, a file was extracted that contains data from King County's voter registration system listing the dates that specific numbers of voters were brought into the General Election database from the voter registration database. The file contains 98 printed pages of material.

The S, RS, RM, and SUBMA computer categories in the file include any military, overseas and out-of-state voters. To ensure ballots were mailed timely, staff hand-sorted the RS and RM categories to make sure all identifiable military and overseas voters and voters who needed or requested an early ballot were in the first mailing of absentee ballots.

The total number of voters brought into the election database is slightly different from the number reported in early January on our on-line fact sheet because the data was pulled from the system at different times. Updates done by voter registration staff would alter these records between the times the different files were pulled.

The "CountOfvoter_id" column in the referenced file contains a varying range of numbers. The numbers are based upon the exact time that a specific voter ID entered the election. This can happen either through a batch process or through an individual staff member during data entry. Voters brought in through batch processing represent higher numbers.

Internal mail reports and staff e-mail verify that King County Elections mailed ballots to every voter in its registration system listed under the RM and "sub" categories by October 8, 2004. These 4,591 voter registrations were pulled from the registration system on October 2, 2004,

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prepared, and mailed by the October 8 deadline. This is detailed in an e-mail from the mail ballot supervisor dated Saturday, October 9, 2004, and an outgoing mail log.

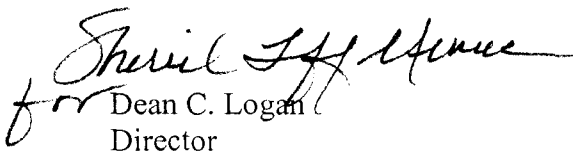
Following the initial mailing of military and overseas ballots, staff continued to pull and mail absentee ballot requests as they came in. Staff went to great lengths to fax and e-mail ballots to voters to ensure they had every opportunity to cast a ballot. Ballots were faxed, e-mailed, and shipped FedEx to ensure expediency to our overseas and military voters. Ballots requested from members of the military subsequent to the initial mailing were mailed normally within 24 hours, but no more than 48 hours as required by state law. Because these ballots are paid for by a federal permit, this activity is not reflected in King County Elections' account with the United States Postal Service.

King County went to great lengths to ensure its military and overseas voters received ballots on time. We rely on information from voters to identify military and overseas voters; and unless the voter calls the Elections Office or indicates he or she is in the military or they have an APO address, we have no way of knowing they are in the military. Many military voters live off-base, which is why overseas voters are pulled and mailed along with military voters. Recent legislation requires that registration forms be updated to include a box for voters to indicate if they are in the military. We believe this will assist us in getting out ballots early to military voters.

These 98 pages are available at a cost of \$14.70 (\$.15 per page). Please contact Mary Stoa at 206-296-1540 to arrange a time to pick up these documents. If you prefer to have them mailed to you, please send a check to the attention of Mary Stoa and made payable to the **King County Treasury** in the amount of \$18.65 (\$14.70 + \$3.95 postage). Upon receipt of your check, Ms. Stoa will mail the documents to you.

I trust that these documents are responsive to your request. However, if you have questions about this response, please contact Bill Huennekens, Superintendent of Elections, at 206-296-1565.

Sincerely,


for Dean C. Logan
Director

cc: Bill Huennekens, Superintendent of Elections