

Subject: questions about absentee ballots
From: Stefan Sharkansky
Date: Fri, 25 Mar 2005 11:53:38 -0800
To: "Egan, Bobbie" <Bobbie.Egan@METROKC.GOV>

Bobbie,

Just this week I discovered the King County Elections "Absentee Ballot Return Statistics" web page <http://www.metrokc.gov/elections/2004nov/ballotsreceived.htm>
This page reports that the number of absentee ballots returned as of Nov. 15 was 566,291. A note at the bottom of the page says it was last updated on Nov. 18.
The page also links to text files of "Registration ID numbers [of returned absentee ballots] by legislative district"

These text files appear to be mostly complete and generally match the numbers in the page's table of absentee ballots returned by legislative district (except for a couple of likely data entry errors). The one significant issue is that the file at the link for the 32nd district appears to be a version of the file for the 31st district.

A few questions --

1) The Mail Ballot Report that you gave me earlier this month shows that 568,333 absentee ballots were returned. That is 2,042 more ballots than the number reported on the web page. Presumably this is the number of ballots that arrived after the web page and the posted set of leg. district voter id files were created. Can you provide final files of returned absentee voter ids by legislative district that account for all of the returned absentee ballots?

2) I cross-checked the above leg. district voter id files against the voter registration database. I found that 91 voters who were listed in the leg. district files as having returned absentee ballots were credited in the database as V(NP), indicating they cast a provisional ballot. I've attached a spreadsheet of the voter records. Can you explain how these particular voters returned an absentee ballot but were credited as a provisional voter?

thank you very much
Stefan Sharkansky

ProvisionalAbsentees.xls	Content-Type: application/vnd.ms-excel Content-Encoding: base64
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