



## WASHINGTON STATE REPUBLICAN PARTY

December 7, 2005

Dean Logan  
Director  
King County REALS  
500 Fourth Avenue, Room 553  
Seattle, WA 98104-2337

Dear Mr. Logan:

We would like to thank you for the steps your department has taken over the last year to improve the way elections are administered in King County. Although there is still substantial room for improvement, several much needed changes have taken place to improve the accuracy and integrity of the system. Among the steps we find encouraging:

- 1) It appears that elections officials have solved the problem of provisional ballots going through Accuvote machines at polling place locations. As you know, this was a widespread problem during the 2004 election and led to hundreds of provisional ballots being included in the vote count without the required verification.
- 2) King County has shown an increased willingness to remove illegal voters from the rolls. We are especially impressed with Prosecutor Norm Maleng's actions earlier this year in regards to removing felons from the rolls, and his recent comments in regards to checking county records for voters illegally registered at private mail boxes. Illegal voter registrations are the first step toward illegal votes, so ensuring that registrations are valid is critical to the integrity of the system. We will continue to do our own research to supplement the work of your office, and we look forward to working with you on this issue.

Despite these strides in the right direction, there are still some concerns that we and many others have about to how elections are run in King County. We hope you can answer the following questions regarding those concerns:

- 1) In 2004 it was revealed that elections officials fabricated numbers in the Mail Ballot Report, and that your absentee ballot reconciliation system was seriously flawed. Once again in this year's primary, you failed to account for 390 ballots, and you once again simply added the number of ballots counted and the number tabulated in order to arrive at the number returned, rather than

beginning your reconciliation with the total number returned and subtracting from there. The Mail Ballot Report for the 2005 General appears to solve this problem by using DIMS to track the number of ballots returned. However, this raises a couple of concerns. First, when the state party's Executive Director spoke with Garth Fell of your staff about using DIMS in this way, he was told it was not "...exactly accurate." Mr. Fell did not elaborate, but his statement does raise some red flags about how accurate the DIMS system is at tracking incoming ballots. Second, the Mail Ballot Summary Report for the 2005 General Election shows 23 more ballots tabulated than opened and sent to tabulation. Although this is a small number, our concern is that this is a net number; this means that you likely have some batches with more ballots tabulated than opened and sent to tabulation, and some batches with more ballots opened and sent to tabulation than tabulated. These are separate numbers and are hidden when added together, potentially masking a larger problem. Could you please respond to Mr. Fell's statement regarding the accuracy of the DIMS system? In addition, we would appreciate a description of how the county plans to reconcile the number of mail ballots received and tabulated, and whether the county plans to use a gross or net total to account for these ballots.

- 2) Have you taken steps to improve security of blank ballots? Are there still numerous employees with access to the "ballot on demand" system? Are records now being kept of the use of that system? Are poll workers still being given blank ballots in advance of the election without an exact accounting for those ballots?
- 3) What is the canvassing board's standard on what marks constitute a vote and can you assure us that that standard will be used consistently and will not change during the course of an election (as happened in 2004)?
- 4) In light of recent changes to state law, will you decline to accept documents submitted by partisan staff or volunteers correcting missing or mismatched signatures on provisional and absentee ballots?
- 5) Will King County count all absentee votes before counting any provisional ballots in order to avoid double counting? If not, what steps will be taken to prevent counting both an absentee and a provisional ballot from the same voter, and how will those steps differ from procedures in prior elections where this occurred?
- 6) Recent press reports have indicated that hundreds of invalid provisional votes were counted in 2004. What steps have been taken to prevent the counting of "fatal pend" and other invalid provisional ballots in the future?
- 7) Finally, what is the exact role of Executive Sims' "Turnaround Team?"

As we have always maintained, the Republican Party is dedicated to protecting the integrity of the electoral system and avoiding a repeat of the widespread problems we have seen in the past. The people of King County should be confident that their votes will be counted accurately, and will not be diluted by illegal votes. Once again, we appreciate your efforts and hope that we can work together in achieving the common goal of fair and accurate elections.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Vance'.

Chris Vance, Chairman  
Washington State Republican Party

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Young'.

Michael Young, Chairman  
King County Republican Party

Cc: Ron Sims, King County Executive  
King County Council  
Norm Maleng, King County Prosecutor