Kitsap County Auditor – Elections Division

2025 Voter Access Plan

Plan Overview

Each year, the Kitsap County Voter Access Advisory Committee reviews how Kitsap County Elections is meeting the Washington State Constitution's mandate that *"all persons"* qualified to vote *"shall be entitled to vote at all elections."*

Feedback from this committee—made up of residents, advocates, and local stakeholders—helps shape the county's continuing efforts to improve voter access. This plan reflects that feedback and is completed in compliance with RCW 29A.04.223.

Who We Are

Name	Function	Roles and Responsibilities
Paul Andrews / Daryl Daugs	Executive Sponsors	• Provide policy oversight and direction
Regina McRay	Plan Manager	• Maintain implementation schedule • Ensure compliance with state and federal laws • Oversee security • Facilitate communication, planning, and testing
Steve Gardner	Plan Coordinator	• Manage media and community relations • Lead voter education, training, and outreach • Document projects • Coordinate with Advisory Committee and Elections staff
Advisory Committee	Guidance and Expertise	• Recommend solutions to reduce barriers • Assist with communication and training • Expand outreach connections

Where We Are

Accessible Voting Program: 2024–2025 Accomplishments

- Continued providing Braille pamphlets and added large-print versions, available in our office and vote centers.

- Began outreach with community partners to explore ways to support voters with disabilities.

- Provided accessible voting units (AVUs) at vote centers, enabling voters with vision and other disabilities to vote privately and independently.

- Increased social media outreach by 250% over the past year, with improved accessibility features such as alt text and captions and accessible color schemes.

- Expanded communication with senior-care facilities to strengthen voting access for residents.

- Scheduled meetings with Bainbridge Island voters and other groups to identify additional access needs.

2025 Priorities

- **Community Engagement:** Reach out to diverse communities to better understand voting practices and barriers.

- **Service to Seniors:** Continue partnerships with senior living facilities to tailor support.

- **Accessible Communications:** Improve open captioning for live meetings, candidate and measure videos, and ensure consistent communication across platforms. Greater use of accessible video.

- **Website Accessibility:** The county is in the process of upgrading its website, which will dramatically improve its accessible presence online.

Voter Access Advisory Committee

The committee includes residents, advocates for people with disabilities, county staff, and the County Auditor. Its core functions are to:

- Meet at least annually to review and revise voter access plans.

- Provide input on accessible voting programs and proposals.

- Help distribute outreach and education materials.

Voter Access Plan

This plan describes the county's accessible voting program and is updated each year by the Auditor's Office in consultation with the committee. It includes recommendations for:

- Online ballot delivery access

- Vote center locations

- Ballot drop box locations

- Outreach to voters with disabilities

- Partnerships that can help increase voter participation

- Implementation of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA)

- Communication to ensure all voters can cast a private ballot

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Voter Outreach and Education

- The Local Voters' Pamphlet is mailed about one week before ballots, giving voters time to review measures and candidates.

- Elections uses Facebook, YouTube, X, Instagram, and BlueSky to share election information.

- Outreach is coordinated with senior-care facilities and community organizations.

- Social media posts continue to be improved with accessibility features.

Voting Options

Online Ballot Access

Voters can mark ballots online using screen readers or magnifiers, then print and return them by mail or ballot drop box. Accessible candidate and measure statements are included in online ballots via VoteWA.gov.

Ballot Drop Boxes

Kitsap County maintains 27 secure drop boxes, each equipped with Braille signage. Boxes are open at least 18 days before each election.

Mail

Voters can use the U.S. Postal Service to return ballots. They are advised to get their ballots into the mail at least a week ahead of Election Day.

Accessible Voting Units (AVUs)

AVUs provide audio, touchscreen, and tactile controls to assist voters, while producing a verifiable paper ballot.

- AVUs are available at all vote centers and at the Elections Office 30 or 45 days before each election.

- Usage has declined significantly (893 voters in 2012 vs. one usage across five 2024 elections).

- Outreach, including social media, will continue to determine whether this reflects permanent voter preference for at-home voting or unmet needs.

Plan Objectives

Beyond meeting minimum federal and state requirements, Kitsap Elections commits to:

- Providing three staffed vote centers (Poulsbo, Bremerton, Port Orchard).

- Expanding use of accessibility tools such as alt text, captioning and video.

- Meeting regularly with community members to identify improvements.

- Offering accessibility training to Elections staff.

- Studying participation data to track progress.

- Enhancing service to senior living communities.

Facts Relevant to the Plan

- All voting machines must be federally qualified and state certified.

- No jurisdiction may purchase or alter voting systems without state approval.

- All electronic voting equipment must produce a Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT).

Measurements of Success

- Installation of new ballot drop boxes when warranted.

- Successful testing of voting software and hardware.

- Ongoing staff training and voter education.

- Implementation of committee recommendations.

- Increased and measurable use of Online Ballot Access.

- Increased social media presence, particularly on Access issues.

- Increased conversations with community members.

- Increased attention to Accessible Voting Units

Plan Risks

- Ineffective communication.

- Reduced confidence in voting systems.

- Low adoption of online tools.

- Voter confusion about online ballot delivery.

- Unidentified accessibility barriers.

Plan Schedule

Fall 2025

- Convene Advisory Committee.

- Coordinate accessible voting logistics.

- Assess accessible voting options.

- Train elections staff.

- Hold outreach meetings with voters with disabilities.

Winter 2025–26

- Implement recommendations from outreach.

- Continue improving accessible communications.

- Seek feedback from community partners.

Spring 2026

- Reconvene Advisory Committee.

Advisory Committee Membership

Members are recruited from the community and should have experience or interest in disability access. Duties include:

- Reviewing the plan.

- Participating in annual meetings (in person, online, or by phone).

- Sharing accessible voting materials.

- Providing input on programs and proposals.

Members serve voluntarily and are asked to remain for at least one year. The Auditor's Office is not funded to compensate members for mileage or per diem.

Communications and Meetings

- The Elections Division will maintain regular communication with committee members.

- Meetings occur annually, with additional sessions or online discussions as needed.

- Minutes, agendas, statistics, and survey results are stored in the Auditor's Document Center and shared with the committee.

Voter Education and Outreach

- Update accessible voting website and brochures.

- Promote Online Ballot Access, drop boxes, AVUs, and other tools.

- Provide demonstrations of AVUs on request.

- Use social media to highlight accessible voting options.

- Collect statistics to measure program effectiveness.

Internet and Technology Access

- Accessible voting information will remain on the county's website.

- A new, more accessible county website platform is expected in 2026.

- Online Ballot Access is compatible with screen readers, magnifiers, Braille output, tool tips, closed captioning, and audio formats.

Quality Management

- All equipment undergoes required testing, analysis, and acceptance checks.

- Staff receive training in respectful communication, AVU operation, election law, and accessibility standards.

- Proofing ensures consistency between online and printed materials.

Election Worker Recruitment

- Workers are recruited beginning in January and trained before serving.

- Each vote center includes at least two sworn workers, with representation from major political parties when possible.

Closing Statement

Kitsap County Elections is committed to ensuring every eligible voter can cast a ballot independently, privately, and securely. By working with the Voter Access Advisory Committee and community partners, we will continue listening, learning, and improving accessibility in every election.

Accessible Voting Statistics Overview from 2024

Category	Feb. 13 Special Election (January 12-Feb. 23)	March 12 Presidential Primary (Jan. 26 – March 22)	April 23 Special Election (March 22-May 3)	Aug. 6 Primary (June 21 – Aug 20)	Nov. 5 General (Sept. 20-Nov. 26)
Elections Page Views	4,895	7,037	6,582	3,491	9,575
Candidates and Committees Videos	1	0	0	2	0
Online Ballots Returned	106	221	29	270	1,868
Voted Using AVU	0	1	0	0	0
Overall Election turnout	38.93%	38.97%	37.80%	45.24%	80.08%

Accessible Voting Statistics Overview 2025

Category	Feb. 11 Special Election (January 10-Feb. 21)	Aug. 5 Primary (June 20 – Aug 19)	Nov. 4 General (Sept. 19-Nov. 25)
Elections Page Views	1,805	6,063	
Candidates and Committees Videos	0	3	
Online Ballots Returned	26	169	
Voted Using AVU	0	0	
Overall Election turnout	35.91%	35.74%	

24-Hour Ballot Drop Boxes

Ballot drop boxes are available 24 hours a day beginning 18 days before Election Day.
They remain open until 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Bainbridge Island School District 8489 Madison Avenue North Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 (drive-up)	**Navy Yard City - West Side Improvement Club** 4109 West E Street Bremerton, WA 98312 (drive-up)
Bremerton - Downtown Norm Dicks Government Center 345 6th Street, Bremerton, WA 98337 (drive-up)	**Olalla Bay Market & Landing** 13965 Crescent Valley Road SE Olalla, WA 98359
Bremerton - East Kitsap Regional Library, Sylvan Way Branch 1301 Sylvan Way, Bremerton, WA 98310 (drive-up)	**Port Gamble - S'Klallam Tribal Center** 31912 Little Boston Road NE Kingston, WA 98346
Bremerton - Marvin Williams Recreation Center 725 Park Avenue Bremerton, WA 98337 (drive-up)	**Port Orchard** Kitsap County Auditor's Office 619 Division Street Port Orchard, WA 98366
Bremerton National Airport 8850 SW State Highway 3 Bremerton, WA 98312 (drive-up)	**Port Orchard (East) - SKFR Station 8** 1974 Fircrest Drive SE Port Orchard, WA 98366 (drive-up)
Burley Store 14972 Bethel-Burley Road SE Port Orchard, WA 98367 (drive-up)	**Port Orchard (Glenwood) - SKFR Station 17** 7990 McCormick Woods Drive SW Port Orchard, WA 98367
Hansville - Buck Lake County Park 6959 Buck Lake Road NE Hansville, WA 98340 (drive-up)	**Poulsbo Fire Station** 911 NE Liberty Road Poulsbo, WA 98370 (drive-up)
Indianola Tennis Courts 20761 Greenwood Street NE Indianola, WA 98342	**Seabeck - Green Mountain Elementary School** 3860 Boundary Trail NW Bremerton, WA 98312 (drive-up)
Keyport - Central Park 15378 Washington Avenue NE Keyport, WA 98345	**Silverdale - KCSO Substation** 3591 NW Randall Way Silverdale, WA 98383 (drive-up)
Kingston - North Kitsap Fire & Rescue 26642 Miller Bay Road NE Kingston, WA 98346 (drive-up)	**Silverdale Rotary Gateway Park** 11601 Silverdale Way NW Silverdale, WA 98383 (drive-up)
Kingston - Village Green Park 10810 NE West Kingston Road Kingston, WA 98346 (drive-up)	**Southworth WSF Terminal** 11677 SE Southworth Ferry Drive Port Orchard, WA 98366 (near terminal entrance)
Manchester Stormwater Park 2399 Colchester Drive E Port Orchard, WA 98366	**Suquamish Tribal Council Bldg.** 18490 Suquamish Way NE Suquamish, WA 98392
Naval Base Kitsap - Bangor 2500 Ohio Street NSB Silverdale, WA 98315	**Tracyton - Bremerton Elks, Lodge 1181** 4131 Pine Road NE Bremerton, WA 98310
Naval Base Kitsap - Bremerton 886 Barclay Street Bremerton, WA 98314	