



Clallam County Auditor's Office

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Elections Division – Room 042

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 6, 2023

General Election Focus Points

CLALLAM COUNTY – The General Election is tomorrow! Clallam County has an approximate 24.30% return rate, with over 13,950 ballots returned as of Monday Morning.

Focus Point #1 – Voting Your Ballot

Did you know when you vote your ballot you are not required to vote on everything?

When voters are voting their ballot and making their choices, it is not a requirement to vote on all offices and/or measures. You can choose to skip any measures or offices you don't wish to vote in. That choice is up to you. All the votes you cast will be counted.

Focus Point #2 – How Do I Vote and Return My Ballot?

1. Vote your ballot
2. Sign your Return Envelope – Your signature is required to accept your ballot.
3. Return your ballot:
 - a. By Official Ballot Drop Box – Drop boxes are open until 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. There are 9 Official Ballot Drop Boxes in Clallam County.
 - b. By Mail – No stamp needed – Your ballot must be postmarked by Election Day, November 7, 2023. There are approximately 18 USPS post boxes and offices available in Clallam County.
4. Check the status of your Ballot – Go to www.votewa.gov to see if your ballot has been received by our office.

Important Note: If you cannot personally return your ballot, let only people you trust deliver it for you. It is completely acceptable for family members to return the ballots of their household.



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Focus Point #3 – Vote Centers and In Person Voting

Vote Centers provide assistance, not polling booths.

At Vote Centers, we register voters, provide replacement ballots, and provide in-person support for voters with disabilities who may need assistance with their ballots. Most voters do not need to come to a Vote Center. There is no in-person voting experience and the ballot provided at the Voter Center is the same ballot that arrived to you in the mail.

Services/Who Should Come to a Vote Center:

- Voters can register to vote or update their address if they missed the online registration deadline on October 30th.
- Voters may also receive a replacement ballot if they are not able to print one at home.
- There are assistive devices available for voters with disabilities. These devices are specialized equipment that can assist voters with a variety of disabilities in casting a private, secure ballot. No tabulation or vote storage occurs on these devices, they simply assist voters in marking their ballots.
 - Assistive devices provide ballots in large print, various contrast settings, or in an audio format. Staff will be on hand to help the voter get set up and answer questions as needed.
- While anyone can come to a Vote Center, we encourage voters who do not require assistance to return their ballots by using an Official Ballot Drop Box or by mail.
- There are no voting machines, so if you're waiting for an in-person voting 'experience' that's not what you'll find at the Vote Center.
- You will be issued the same paper ballot that you were mailed and drop it in a secure Ballot Drop Box at the Vote Center.
- Ballots received at a Vote Center are processed at regular intervals, just like the Official Ballot Drop Boxes located throughout the County. There is no difference in how your ballot is processed if you drop your ballot off at a Vote Center versus a drop box.

When to go to a Vote Center:

- Voters who need to come in-person are encouraged to visit our Vote Center immediately, as we are expecting long lines on Election Day.
- We do not recommend waiting until 7:00 p.m. on Election Day to come to a Vote Center. We will, of course, be here to help you but there will be long lines and it's best not to take any chances – come early and get it done.

I want to vote on Election Day. Why should I vote early?

- Of course, you can vote on Election Day. Your ballot must have a postmark of Election Day or before or be in a drop box by 8:00 p.m. sharp. If voting on Election Day, we recommend using a drop box to ensure that it's received as on-time.



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- Voting early means that you can already know BY Election Day that your ballot is in, verified, and accepted.
- The more people who turn in their ballot before the last week of voting, the more votes we're able to include in the initial results. That means a clearer picture of results on Election Night and in the days immediately following.
 - We process ballots faster when they come back in a steady stream throughout the course of the voting period, rather than in a huge wave at the end. By returning your ballot early, you help our team get your ballot through the process quickly and efficiently.
- Voting early also gives you time to track your ballot and gives you some extra time in case there is an issue with your ballot, like you forgot to sign or your signature doesn't match what's on file.
- We strongly encourage all voters to track their ballot – no matter where, when, or how they return it.

Media Contact:

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