

# Some Elections Questions and Concerns

## How do we ensure that only eligible people can register to vote?

When people register to vote in Washington state, their information is cross-checked with DOL and the Social Security Administration to determine that the age and address is correct, and that they are citizens. If there are discrepancies, the individual may be *provisionally* registered: they can vote but their ballot will not be counted until/unless the discrepancies are resolved.

## Could the government send ICE agents to polling places? Could the government outlaw vote-by-mail?

The executive branch does not have authority to intervene in elections, though they could try. Any attempt would be immediately litigated by affected states, and the courts would likely side with them. **Congress can** enact laws that change requirements on elections, which could include requiring picture ID to vote or eliminating vote-by-mail. However, making changes to elections this close to the midterms would also be litigated if states argued they did not have enough time to implement the changes.

## How do we ensure that individual votes aren't illegally cast (e.g. dead people, people who have moved)?

Washington, like all states, keeps a state-wide voter list. The Secretary of State's office is responsible for maintaining it, and regularly monitors information about deaths, changes of address and felony convictions. County auditors also update information from local information.

## What is voter suppression? How does it work?

Voter suppression is any activity that prevents or deters people from voting, or discounts their votes, particularly when only specific types of voters are targeted. Examples:

- Gerrymandering
- Changing voting locations or rules close to elections
- Purging voter rolls close to elections
- Physical intimidation at the ballot box
- Misinformation! Attacks on the election system itself discourages voting.



# Actions You can Take

## Secure your own vote

- Use the [VoteWA Voter Portal](#) to confirm your registration, update your address, or get a new ballot if yours is damaged or missing.
- Vote early and preferably put your vote directly in a ballot box rather than in the mail.
- In the unlikely case that your vote is challenged or not accepted, you will be notified and given a chance to respond. Do so promptly!

## Spread good information about how to register and vote

## Counter some common misinformation

- Voter fraud is very rare. [Concerted audits to discover it have turned up only small numbers of cases](#), and no elections where it has altered the outcome.
- Every vote matters. It is unlikely that any race comes down to a single vote, but in the bigger picture the overall legitimacy of an election is strongly affected by the turnout. The more people vote, the more conclusive that it represents the will of the people.

## Monitor the Election Process

In Kitsap County, you can watch ballot processing via [webcam](#) or be an election observer in person (via your political party).

## If you want to be more active, or help outside Kitsap, consider GOTV work

Many organizations do Get Out The Vote (GOTV) activity, both locally and elsewhere. Many GOTV activities are partisan or candidate-specific, but not all. If you want to help voting and democracy generally, seek out the organizations that are non-partisan. Non-partisan GOTV efforts do voter registration drives, voting education programs, or counter common misinformation. They can range from booths at fairs to door-to-door outreach.

# Essential Links

Your Voting Portal: [votewa.gov](http://votewa.gov) ◦ League of Women Voters: [lwvwa.org/Voting-Tools](http://lwvwa.org/Voting-Tools)  
Kitsap County: [kitsap.gov/auditor/Pages/elections.aspx](http://kitsap.gov/auditor/Pages/elections.aspx)



Conversations for Democracy

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