

A centralized process for election-related records requests

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Updates to the Election Records Request Process

Like many, election officials in Washington state received an influx of election-related public records requests after 2020.

Legislation to streamline records request processes

- State law clarifies that requests for information from our voter registration database go through my office.
- This lifted the burden of responding to these records requests from county auditors.
- This process also increases efficiency and mitigates misinformation.



Mitigating Misinformation



- Previously, individuals could request election-related public records from multiple counties and the state.
- Requestors may have received slightly different data depending on when each of these requests were fulfilled.
- This created a perception that there were discrepancies.
- Centralizing our response to these records requests prevents these misunderstandings.

Reduced Burden on Counties



- My office has more capacity to process records requests than county election officers do.
- The influx of election-related records requests following the 2020 election pulled county election officials from other important responsibilities.
- Consolidating records requests frees up county election officials — especially in smaller counties.

Increased Efficiency



- Centralizing these requests is possible because there is one voter registration database for all of Washington state.
- We were able to automate responses to common data requests.
- This allows state election workers to dedicate more time to specialized or complex requests that require human attention.



Thank you

