



King County Elections 2022

Year in Review



Friends,

I've worked for more than two decades as an election administrator, and I have never experienced a year like 2022. As rumors and misinformation about elections abound, the landscape in which we do our work has shifted dramatically.

As election administrators, it can be disheartening to have our competence, honesty, and integrity constantly called into question by those who believe the lies.

Yet, in the face of these challenges, the team here at King County Elections continues to run accurate, secure, and accessible elections and remove barriers to voting for all. This democracy-driven team is made of up experienced election professionals, many of whom are state and nationally certified.

Our team here at KCE is incredible. I'm proud to work with them, and to share their work with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads 'Julie Wise'.

Julie Wise

Innovative Work, Nationally Recognized

KCE was awarded two of the Election Center's Professional Practice Paper Awards. The Guardian Award celebrates our work to expand bipartisan opportunities, and the Eagles' Award honors the efficiency and effectiveness of our virtual processes in a post-pandemic world.





Worked to make signatures less challenging.

Under state law, signatures are the sole mechanism for verifying that the right person voted the right ballot. Trained staff verify every signature on every ballot in every election. Ballots with signatures that do not match the signature on the voter's registration record are "challenged," or held uncounted, until the voter resolves the issue by returning a simple form.

In an effort to reduce signature challenge rates and help all voters make sure their vote counts, we:

- Launched a data dashboard and interactive maps to identify regions and communities with higher signature challenge rates.
- Implemented anti-bias training for signature verification staff.
- Increased voter education about why signatures matter in elections and what to do if you run into a signature challenge.
- Sent signature update forms to nearly 250,000 voters, resulting in more than 80,000 signature updates.



Served more than 5,000 voters on Election Day.

During Primary and General elections, KCE operates seven Vote Center locations across the county to help voters get registered after the online voter registration deadline has passed, issue replacement ballots, and provide assistive voting devices for voters with disabilities.

In November 2022, we saw thousands of voters on Election Day. Nearly 1,000 voters registered for the very first time that day.

When last-minute voters showed up in droves, the entire KCE team met the challenge. Staff and leadership alike deployed to Vote Centers and Student Engagement Hubs around the county to ensure every voter who was in line to vote at 8 p.m. sharp was able to vote and make their voice heard.

Launched text and email ballot alerts

In October 2022, KCE launched ballot alerts to allow voters to opt in to receive text or email alerts (or both) about where their ballot is in the process, from mailed to counted. These alerts are delivered directly to the voter, sometimes within minutes of their ballot moving through the process.

Ballot alerts are currently available in English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, and Vietnamese. Alerts in Russian and Somali will be available for the August 2023 Primary Election.

BALLOT ALERT

KC Elections has received your ballot. Learn more about how ballots are verified and counted at kce.wiki/process.

BALLOT ALERT

Your signature has been verified and your ballot will be counted. Thanks for voting! Visit kce.wiki/results for election results after 8 pm on Election Day.

Other highlights from 2022

- ✓ Saw more than 500 observer visits and welcomed non-partisan observers for the first time.
- ✓ Advocated for language access and added Russian and Somali to our suite of full-service languages.
- ✓ Provided in-person support to incarcerated voters, registering 90 eligible in King County jails across two days.
- ✓ Fielded a record number of public records requests.