Registrar of Voters

WASHOE COUNTY

2019 Legislative Operations and Elections Committee Presentation

Registrar of Voters

WASHOE COUNTY FAST FACTS

ESTABLISHED IN **1861**

CURRENT POPULATION **460,587**
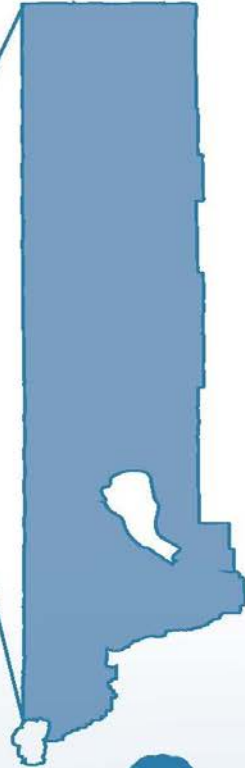
NUMBER OF PRECINCTS **559**

NUMBER OF DISTRICTS **71**

6,551 SQUARE MILES

Number of Registered Voters
273,091

- **The Washoe County Registrar of Voters Office:**

  6 Full time staff members (including the Registrar) to administer voter registration and elections for over 273,000+ voters
  - Over 45,500 voters per staff member
  - Supervise 40-50 Temporary Staff during election cycles
  - Hire over 400 Poll Workers for each election

Election Administration

This is the most visible side of what we do and how we conduct elections is primarily mandated by Federal and State Law.

The Civil Rights Act, Voting Rights Act of 1965, Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act of 1984, Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act of 1986 (UOCAVA), National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (Motor Voter), Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA), Nevada Revised Statutes, Nevada Administrative Code, and the Nevada Constitution.

Important Requirements

Pre-LAT Test (Logic and Accuracy Testing)– Required before Early Voting (NRS 293B.150 & 293B.165) and after the election and must be certified by the Accuracy Certification Board

- Certification of Software and Operating Systems required not later than the first day of voting (NAC 293B.110)

- File election Computer Program at least one week before the Primary Election (NRS 293B.135(1))

- Appointment of Accuracy Certification Board Required and additional duties (NRS 293B.140 & NRS 293B.390)

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What does it take to run an election?

- Planning and coordination
- Managing timelines and meeting deadlines
- Equipment and supplies
- People

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Election Administration – Overview

- Begin Poll place coordination in November/December of year prior (both Early Voting and Election Day sites)
- Poll worker recruitment begins - January
- Candidate filing and Certified List of Candidates
  - Judicial in January; Non Judicial in March
- Ballot Set Up – Begins immediately after candidate filing, process takes two to three weeks to complete
- Sample Ballot Preparation and Mailing Services – Must be finalized by two months prior to the election for print and mail deadlines
- Election equipment moving services – established three months prior to election; finalized plans due two weeks prior to the start of early voting
- Absentee/Mail in Ballot services – begin working with printers immediately after ballot set up is complete
- Mandated Publications

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2018 GENERAL ELECTION HIGHTLIGHTS

- **269,236 Registered Voters**
  - 4,435 more than in the 2016 General (264,801)
  - 43,891 more than in the 2014 Mid-Term General (225,345)

  - Democratic – 94,606
  - Republican – 99,782
  - ➢ Minor Party and Nonpartisans – 74,848
    - ➢ **TOTAL = 269,236**

ELECTION STATISTICS

- **TOTAL TURNOUT – 188,824   (70.13%)**

  Comparisons:

  2016 General Election: 210,287 (79.41%)

  2014 General Election: 116,335 (51.63%)

TOTAL TURNOUT by Tally Type
- *Early Voters – 105,016 (39.01%)*
- Absentee Voter – 19,213 (7.14%)
- Mail-In Voters – 483 (0.18%)
- Election Day Voters – 64,112 (23.81%)

EARLY VOTING

- 23 Early Voting Sites with over 2,200 hours of operation
- 103 Early Voting poll workers hired
- 215 ICX Prime Voting Tablets used for Early Voting

ELECTION DAY

- **82 Election Day locations**
  - Historic Tribal Locations: Hungry Valley and the Pyramid Lake Tribal Office
- **340 Election Day poll workers hired**
- **812 ICX Prime Voting Tablets used for Election Day**

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ABSENTEE/MAIL-IN BALLOTS

- **21,772 Issued**
- **19,696 Returned (90.5% return rate)**
- **3 - ICC (Image Cast Central) Tabulators and 2 Adjudication Stations used**
- **2 Duplication Boards**

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Our Volunteers

County Workers

- 32 County employees at the polls
- 18+ technology services employees who participated in Pre-LAT (Logic and Accuracy testing) and provided troubleshooter/tech support in the field
- 5 County employees who worked in our call center on election day

A *VERY SPECIAL THANKS* TO ALL THE EARLY VOTING AND ELECTION DAY WORKERS!

Area of Focus for 2020

- **Poll Worker Recruitment – it has become increasingly difficult to recruit and retain poll workers**

Election	Total Number of Poll Workers	Number of County Workers	Number of Non County Workers
2016 Primary	**569** **(481 election day; 88 early voting)**	55	514
2016 General	**791** **(648 election day; 143 early voting)**	48	743
2018 Primary	**407** **(316 election day; 91 early voting)**	24	383
2018 General	**443** **(340 election day; 103 early voting)**	33	409

Poll Worker Demographics 2018

Age Range	Number of Poll Workers
Under 18	4
18-24 years old	11
25-40 years old	23
41-60 years old	88
61-70 years old	168
Over 70	179
Total	**443**

Potential Options for poll worker recruitment:

- Outreach
- Direct Mailers
- Adopt a Polling Place
- Increased pay/stipend

Election Infrastructure and Cybersecurity

Organizations we belong to and resources available to us:

- **EI-ISAC (Elections Infrastructure Information Sharing & Analysis Center)**

- **MS-ISAC (Multi-State Information Sharing & Analysis Center)**

  - As a member we have access to election-specific threat intelligence products, cybersecurity awareness and training products and webinars, security best practices, and cybersecurity alerts and advisories.

- **Election Center**

- **Election Administration Reports**

- **iGO (International Organization of Government Officials)**

Election Security

We are aware and act vigilantly to ensure the security and integrity of our elections and our elections infrastructure.

Three Ways We Protect Our Elections Infrastructure:

1. **Physical**
   - Decentralized System – voting tablets are stand alone with an isolated server
   - No Wi-Fi or network connectivity on our voting equipment
   - Barcoded and tamper evident seals, cable locks, lock boxes, machine logs, and other safeguards are used at all points of access to our equipment and this is enforced by our office

2. **Procedural**
   - Our office conforms to the Washoe County Security Policy
   - A Certification Board participates in and verifies pre and post-election audits
   - Post-election audits are conducted using the VVPAT (Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail) to confirm votes cast
   - We verify the election tabulation and operating software and firmware for authenticity before each election.
   - We perform system maintenance, monitoring, and reviews and watch for anomalies or suspicious activities or behaviors

3. **Cyber**
   - Washoe County maintains a well trained and certified Cyber Security team, which uses modern technologies and procedures to help to protect Washoe County's infrastructure from common cyber threats.
   - Election equipment uses security credentials and authentication of authorized users, and uses NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology) approved encryption and decryption
   - Monitoring, auditing, response, and remediation; both in house as well as with trusted security partners, are an important part of those initiatives

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Washoe County Challenges Being Addressed for 2020

- Sample Ballot formatting/printing – mobile friendly sample ballots

- More polling locations for our growing community

- Recruiting more poll workers

- Longer lines at our polling locations for high turnout elections

- Need for more equipment and staff – how to maximize the use of our limited resources

- Automatic Voter Registration Implementation

- Seeking to extend absentee ballot deadline to 14 days

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For Potential Future Discussions

- County Registrars/Clerks are a valuable resource regarding discussions on these important topics:

  – Automatic Voter Registration (IP-1)
    - Working with partners to move project forward
    - Washoe County is participating on the working group for this project
    - Top-Down Voter Registration System

  – Same Day Registration

  – Extending Early Voting

WASHOE COUNTY

Voter Registration and Elections Administration

Thank You

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