

# Washington State Elections Weekly

November 5, 2014

## Military and Overseas Voters

A representative of the [Federal Voting Assistance Program](#) (FVAP) has reported that Washington has the lowest ballot rejection rates for military and overseas voters. The FVAP reports that Washington has a 2 percent rejection rate for these voters, whereas the national average is about 6 percent. Some counties in the nation are as high as 30 percent.

Representatives from FVAP and the [Council of State Governments](#) (CSG) will be visiting King County and Pierce County this week to identify the best practices in Washington that contribute to our success, with the intent of sharing these ideas across the country.

## Record Mock Election Turnout

The Mock Election, now celebrating 10 years, saw its second-biggest turnout ever with 18,211 student voters in grades K-12. The Mock Election teaches kids the importance of voting and how to be informed voters. Every year, kids vote online the week before the General Election. County election offices are welcome to add local measures and promote the Mock Election at your regional schools. Free classroom kits include lesson plans and “I Voted” stickers for teachers who participate. Results are available by city and school at [www.vote.wa.gov/MockElection](http://www.vote.wa.gov/MockElection).

## Increase in Voter Registration

You may notice an increase in the number of registrations through the end of November. The [Health Care Authority](#) (HCA) has their open enrollment from November 1<sup>st</sup> through the 30<sup>th</sup>, and part of the HCA’s packet of information is voter registration information. Most of the registrations will come through MyVote, but there is an option for a paper registration form.

## Tech Summit Update: RFP to Help Us Capture Business Requirements

The Tech Summit is back in full swing. With the help of the Tech Summit Committee, [a request for proposal \(RFP\) to hire a consultant has been issued](#). The purpose of the consultant will be to assess the current statewide voter registration system, and to help document the business requirements we all want for a modern system. A dedicated consultant will ensure that we fully document these important requirements, and provide estimates for the solution that we collectively feel is the best approach. With the help of the Tech Summit Committee, the consultant will work with us (counties and state) in 2015

from February through August. This is step one. In the next phase another RFP will be built to seek the solution. Ideally we will have our modern solution in early 2017.

The Tech Summit Committee has not made a decision regarding the type of system will work best for Washington. But beginning early next year, the committee will meet regularly to discuss current and future needs of our election management system.

Thanks to all of the members of the Tech Summit Committee that reviewed the RFP and sent in their comments during the pinnacle of the election season. All of the feedback was greatly appreciated!

## **Auditor Recipient of the One World Award**

Danielle Miller, Director of the [Washington Talking Book and Braille Library](#) (part of the Office of the Secretary of State), shared with us that Kitsap County Auditor Walt Washington just received the One World Award. This award was presented by the [Washington Council of the Blind](#) (WCB) at their annual convention for his continued work to support voting accessibility. Congrats!

*View previous editions of [Washington State Elections Weekly](#).*

. . . and just for some fun, check out these [Halloween photos](#).