

## **Mason County Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee Plan:**

In the interest of improving access to voting and voting materials to persons with disabilities, the County Auditor's office and the Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee shall take the following steps:

### **Polling Places, Accessible Voting Unit, and Ballot Drop Boxes thru-out the county:**

Mason County conducts all elections by mail. Based on current staffing levels and available resources, the Auditor's office will be designated as a polling place where ballots are issued and where the accessible voting device for the disabled will be available.

The eSlate accessible voting device will be located in the Auditor's office to increase the opportunity for citizens with disabilities to be able to fully participate in the voting process. The disability access voting equipment (eSlate) will be available at the Auditor's office during business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, beginning at least eighteen days prior to every election until 8:00 p.m. election night. The Auditor's office provides accessibility, privacy and voting independence. The Auditor's office meets HAVA and ADA requirements and is accessible to individuals with full-range disabilities.

When staffing allows, additional locations throughout Mason County may be considered as a polling place where voters can access the AVU. Any additional locations will be advertised, posted on our website, and provided to the local media.

Mason County currently has six ballot drop boxes installed throughout the county. All boxes are easily accessible by vehicle or Mason Transit.

#### **o Ballot drop-box locations:**

- Belfair – outdoor box available next door to Rite Aid; parking available and easy access
- Hoodsport – outdoor box available at the Hood Canal Chamber of Commerce; parking and ramp available
- Shelton - Timberland Regional Library; outdoor box with drive-by access
- Shelton - Auditor's office outdoor box available; parking and ramp available, ADA compliant.
- Shelton - Auditor's office inside box available; parking and ramp available, elevator, ADA compliant
- Allyn – Port of Allyn; parking available and easy access

The committee will continue to suggest and review future locations for installing additional ballot drop box locations throughout Mason County.

### **Education and Voter Outreach:**

- Provide information regarding our eSlate accessible voting device (AVU) by posting pertinent information on the Auditor's website and with the local media.
- Periodically send letters, brochures and visit appropriate organizations in Mason County informing and educating them of the availability of accessible voting for the disabled.
- Demonstrate the accessible voting device to appropriate organizations – to encourage participation.
- Man a booth at local events to demonstrate and provide information to the community on the AVU - Allyn Days, Mason Area Fair, Taste of Hood Canal, Farmers Market, etc..
- Provide additional opportunities to vote on the AVU during election time at the Senior Center, North Mason Resource Center, local Libraries, and Retirement Centers.
- Continue to research best practices on the best ways to reach individuals who may benefit from voting on the AVU.

### **Transportation**

- Mason County Transit will provide transportation to any voter with disabilities to the Auditor's office to ensure they have equal opportunity to vote independently and privately.
- In order to transport the eSlate voting device to a specific location in order to accommodate a voter with disabilities – two staff members in the Auditor's office will be responsible for the transportation.

Revised 10/03/2012

