

## **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 (AVU) 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.

Additional locations throughout Mason County may be considered as a polling place where voters can access the AVU. Committee members will continue to suggest and review future locations for installing additional ballot drop box locations throughout Mason County.

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

#### **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
- Kamilche Area, Fire District No. 4 Station, 3660 SE Old Olympic Hwy, Shelton WA 98584
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### **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.
- As staffing allows, staff 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.
- Address and recommend ways to better serve voters with cognitive issues and language barrier issues.
- Improve options for voting to those who are currently homeless or displaced.
- Continue to conduct registration drives throughout Mason County.
- Continue to research best practices to reach individuals who may benefit from voting on the AVU.
- Encourage others in our community to join the Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Provide large print ballots to voters who are visually impaired – when requested.
- Promote the State's accessible version of MyVote
- Continue to work with the local League of Women Voters on conducting voter registration drives.

## Transportation

- In order to provide transportation to and from the Auditor's office to ensure all voters with disabilities have equal opportunity to vote independently and privately, we will pursue opportunities with the following businesses:
  - The Patty Wagon
  - Mason County Taxi
  - Senior Center – using vans that transport meals on wheels.
  - Churches who may have accessible vans available
- The County will pick up the tab for any committee member using the Patty Wagon for transportation to a scheduled meeting.

### New Goals:

- Pursue creating a rubber stamp to mark election mail with: "Free Matter for the Blind or Physically Handicapped" so postage is not required by the sender.
- Designate July 11 – 15 as National Disability Voter Registration week. Deliver a Proclamation at the Commission meeting.
- Participate in the Secretary of State's Disability Advisory Committee meeting when possible in order to provide feedback on accessibility issues.

Revised: June 2016