TITLE OF DOCUMENT: Ordinance Designating All Vote by Mail Elections in Whatcom County

ATTACHMENTS:

SEPA review required? ( ) Yes ( x ) NO
SEPA review completed? ( ) Yes ( x ) NO
Should Clerk schedule a hearing? ( ) Yes ( x ) NO
Requested Date:

SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE: (If this item is an ordinance or requires a public hearing, you must provide the language for use in the required public notice. Be specific and cite RCW or WCC as appropriate. Be clear in explaining the intent of the action.)

Recent passage of state legislation now makes it possible for the county legislative authority to designate all vote by mail elections without having to re-precinct. This ordinance establishes Whatcom County as a vote by mail county.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

COUNCIL ACTION:
5/10/2005: Introduced
5/24/2005: Adopted 6-0, Caskey-Schreiber absent, Ord. #2005-050

Related County Contract #: Related File Numbers: Ordinance or Resolution Number: Ord. #2005-050

Please Note: Once adopted and signed, ordinances and resolutions are available for viewing and printing on the County's website at: www.co.whatcom.wa.us/council.
INTRODUCED BY: Consent
PROPOSED BY: County Auditor
INTRODUCTION DATE: May 10, 2005

ORDINANCE NO. 2005-050

AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING ALL VOTE BY MAIL ELECTIONS IN WHATCOM COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Council approved on January 11, 2005 Resolution # 2005-001 to designate the Auditor’s Office to re-precinct the county in order to have fewer than two hundred voters per precinct, thereby giving Whatcom County the ability to designate elections to be conducted by all mail balloting; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature has now adopted and Governor Christine Gregoire has signed an amendment to RCW 29A.48.010 to give the county legislative authority the option to conduct all vote by mail elections without having to re-precinct; and

WHEREAS, the same arguments made at the passage of Resolution #2005-001 still apply, namely the high absentee voter turnout already noted in recent elections and the high costs of replacing the punch card system at polling places with touch screen equipment, a requirement of the Help America Vote Act of 2002.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ESTABLISHED by the Whatcom County Council that Whatcom County be designated an all vote by mail county pursuant to RCW 29A.48.010.

ADOPTED this 24 day of May 2005.

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL,
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Laurie Caskey-Schreiber, Council Chair
( ) Approved ( ) Denied

Pete Kremen, County Executive
Date: 5-27-05

Randall J. Watts
Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

[Signature]
[Signature]