

**From:** Blinn, Katie

**Sent:** Thursday, August 28, 2008 12:51 PM

**To:** ADAMS - Nancy McBroom ; ASOTIN - Elaine Johnston; BENTON - Bobbie Gagner; CHELAN - Evelyn Arnold ; CLALLAM - Patty Rosand; CLARK - Greg Kimsey; COLUMBIA - Sharon Richter ; COWLITZ - Kristina Swanson ; DOUGLAS - Thad Duvall ; FERRY - Dianna Galvan; FRANKLIN - Zona Lenhart ; GARFIELD - Donna Deal ; GRANT - Bill Varney; GRAYS HARBOR - Vern Spatz ; ISLAND - Sheilah Crider; JEFFERSON - Donna Eldridge; KING - Sherril Huff; KITSAP - Walter E. Washington; KITTITAS - Jerry Pettit; KLUCKITAT - Brenda Sorensen; LEWIS - Gary Zandell ; LINCOLN - Shelly Johnston; MASON - Karen Herr; OKANOGAN - Laurie Thomas; PACIFIC - Pat Gardner ; PEND OREILLE - Marianne Nichols; PIERCE - Pat McCarthy ; SAN JUAN - Milene Henley; SKAGIT - Jeanne Youngquist; SKAMANIA - J. Michael Garvison ; SNOHOMISH - Carolyn Diepenbrock-Weikel; SPOKANE - Vicky Dalton ; STEVENS - Tim Gray ; THURSTON - Kim Wyman ; WAHKIAKUM - Diane Tischer; WALLA WALLA - Karen Martin ; WHATCOM - Shirley Forslof; WHITMAN - Eunice Coker ; YAKIMA - Corky Mattingly

**Cc:** Elections - Cert & Training; Murphy, Patty; Hamlin, Shane; Handy, Nick

**Subject:** Republican Party Resolution on PCO races

**Attachments:** Republican Resolution on PCO Elections 7-11-08.pdf

Dear County Auditors,

Under the Pick-a-Party Primary, a candidate for PCO had to receive enough votes to equal at least 10% of the votes cast for the candidate of the same political party who received the most votes in that precinct.

Under the Top 2 Primary, candidates running for a partisan public office are not appearing on the ballot as representatives of a political party. These candidates are on the ballot as individual candidates, not party candidates. Therefore, there is no denominator in the 10% equation.

When we adopted WACs to implement the Top 2 Primary, we clarified that there is no 10% minimum vote requirement for PCO races. [WAC 434-262-075](#) explains:

(2) RCW [29A.80.051](#) includes a requirement that, to be declared elected, a candidate for precinct committee officer must receive at least ten percent of the number of votes cast for a candidate of the same party who received the most votes in the precinct. This requirement for election is not in effect because candidates for public office do not represent a political party.

It is my understanding that the State Republican Party disagrees with this WAC. I have attached a portion of a resolution that, it is my understanding, was passed in July. This resolution states that the Party will not recognize any PCO candidate who does not receive at least 10% of the votes cast for the Party's nominated candidate who receives the most votes in that precinct.

State law requires County Auditors to place PCO elections on the public ballot, and to count the votes in those elections. Because the law on write-ins does not have an exemption for PCO elections, we have been forced to follow the write-in rules for PCO races. This lack of a minimum vote requirement has become especially troublesome in PCO races where no candidate filed.

With regards to the political party's resolution, County Auditors have neither the responsibility nor the authority to follow PCO election results beyond certification of the results of the election.

It will be up to each major party to decide whether to recognize the PCO candidates who receive the most votes. Any disputes that arise from these decisions will be between the Party and the candidate.

As you know, our office plans to request legislation in 2009 to implement the Top 2 Primary. Among other things, I expect that that legislation will include moving PCO races to the General Election, and implementing a new minimum vote requirement for PCO elections. Any feedback on an alternative minimum vote requirement is welcome.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you!

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