

## Voter Ballot Logic & Accuracy (L & A) Test Observation

Thursday October 29, 2009

Time: 3:00 – 4:15 PM

Observer: Mary LeDonne

“The Logic & Accuracy Test is a test of the tabulating system. The test is intended to verify that the ballot counting system will correctly count votes cast for all candidates and measures appearing on the ballot in any primary, special, or general election.”

*From Whatcom County Auditor’s Office Elections Division, Election Observer & Opening Board Training*

The observers for this test were Patty Murphy from the Office of the Secretary of State, Shirley Forslof, the county auditor, 3 representatives for the Democratic Party, and me, Mary LeDonne, representing the League of Women Voters.

The observers gathered in the lobby and were escorted to the tabulating room in the basement by the two county workers, Bill and Caroline, who run the test.

Each person entered the tabulating room by sliding their security badge through the electronic reader. The 5 observers sat at the end of the room while Bill and Caroline explained the process.

Caroline had previously marked 254 blank ballots to be used in the test. There are 3 tabulating machines, 98 ballots were placed in machine 1, 72 in machine 2 and 84 in machine 3. The ballots were run through the machines and none were rejected. Caroline went to one of the computers to print out the L & A Test results.

The printouts were given to the observers to confirm the machine results’ accuracy. The 4 citizen observers took turns reading the race results from the L & A test printout to Shirley and Patty who compared the results of the tally sheets to the vocally given results.

There were no discrepancies and the machines count was set at zero. The observers signed off on the printouts for their accuracy and for the machines counters being at zero.

We then checked out of the tabulating room by sliding our badges through the electronic reader at the door and left the room. The tabulating room was then sealed until the ballots are counted on Tuesday, 11/3/2009.