

Letter to the Editor, Justin Johnson

Shelton-Mason County Journal

To the editor:

Kudos to our local election's staff this year on their successful completion of the 2020 General Election!

Voter turnout was one of the highest in Mason County history with an impressive 85.3% of the 44,161 registered voters casting their ballot this year. The Auditor's outstanding staff proved up for the challenge.

Not only did they register voters, assist candidates, process ballots, and educate the public on the voting process, they also implemented substantial changes in order to accommodate the citizens during a pandemic. Talk to any one of the staff and you'll see why they are well suited for this most important task. They are accessible, impeccably trained, and passionate about informing voters.

In addition to conducting four elections this year, (see RCW 29A.8.110), the Elections staff unveiled a new Facebook site to keep citizens informed, register voters online, clarify misinformation, and track voters' ballots online.

They relocated to a new vote center with a secure entry to safeguard the citizens, installed two new drive-up ballot boxes to increase voter accessibility, and installed cameras to ensure the transparency and integrity of the election. Every step in the election process was either live-streamed or facilitated by zoom.

As an added bonus for the taxpayer, an independent grant source requested by and awarded to the Auditor's office paid for the majority of these improvements.

The League of Women Voters believes our democracy endures when informed citizens are able to fully participate in the process. We would like to recognize Auditor Paddy McGuire and his staff for a job well done.

Gratefully,

Cheryl Williams

Past President

League of Women Voters