

June 30, 2021

Garth Fell
Snohomish County Auditor
contact.auditor@snoco.org

Dear Mr. Fell:

The Everett Districts Now Ad Hoc Committee is concerned about the error on ballots that went out recently. They contained incorrect information for Everett City Council positions which went to over a thousand military and overseas voters. This error would have allowed voters to cast votes in districts in which they do not reside. Although the error was corrected promptly, there could be unintended consequences in this first election for councilmembers by districts. Voter confidence in the ballot could be undermined; voter confidence in the election process could be impacted. For these reasons we implore you to make a public statement, including to the military, admitting to the mistake, and stating what has been done to correct it. The voting public also needs to know what your office is doing, or will do, to prevent any recurrence of ballot design and proofing errors in the future.

Specifically we request that information on this incident be posted on your County webpage as well as making it available to the local press. That would also be the place to spell out the reasons for the error and the preventative steps that are being taken to ensure that this does not recur. We offer the suggestion of having an independent group, such as the League of Women Voters, do a quality test of ballots before they are printed and distributed.

In recent months we have heard about widespread distrust in election results nationwide. Transparency and accountability here in the Everett City Council elections is essential to maintaining trust in our election process.

We appreciate your prompt attention to our concerns and thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Yours truly,
Lois Wentink

Lois Wentink

Everett Districts Now Ad Hoc Committee Chair
lwentink@hotmail.com

cc: Mayor Cassie Franklin
Everett City Council
Office of Neighborhoods
Simone Tarver-Districting Commission Chair
The Daily Herald
Myeverettnews
KSER