OFFICE OF GOVERNOR
BOB FERGUSON

Sent on Behalf of Governor Bob Ferguson

Dear County Auditors,

As Election Day approaches, I am reaching out to offer a resource that you may find helpful.

I am prepared to activate the Washington National Guard to state active duty to serve as an Election Neighborhood Watch while voting takes place.

These National Guard personnel would inconspicuously monitor ballot drop boxes or other high-traffic areas where voting occurs to ensure that Washington voters can safely exercise their right to vote and that their ballots are secure. Election Neighborhood Watch personnel would not be in uniform and would not interact with voters dropping off their ballots. They would serve as eyes and ears on the ground and would be available to immediately coordinate with local authorities in the event of any issues.

As you know, in 2024, former Governor Inslee activated the National Guard to assist after a ballot box was targeted with an incendiary device in Vancouver, WA. Additionally, in recent days, letters containing white powder have been sent to several officials, including Washington's Secretary of State. Amid these recent developments and the highly charged atmosphere of this election, my administration is taking every precaution to ensure that every vote counts and that counties have the resources they need to monitor and respond to potential threats.

I understand that counties have been preparing for this election for months, and that the Election Neighborhood Watch may or may not be a helpful resource in your county in addition to the resources you are already mobilizing this election season. Whether to accept this offer is your decision. If you wish to opt in, I ask that you please notify my team in advance, as it will take time for our Guard personnel to mobilize and determine where best to focus our state resources.

For more information or to request the Election Neighborhood Watch's presence in your county, please contact my executive assistant, [redacted]

I am proud of Washington state's safe and secure elections. Thank you for your vital work to ensure that every Washington voter's voice is heard.

Sincerely,

Bob Ferguson

Governor