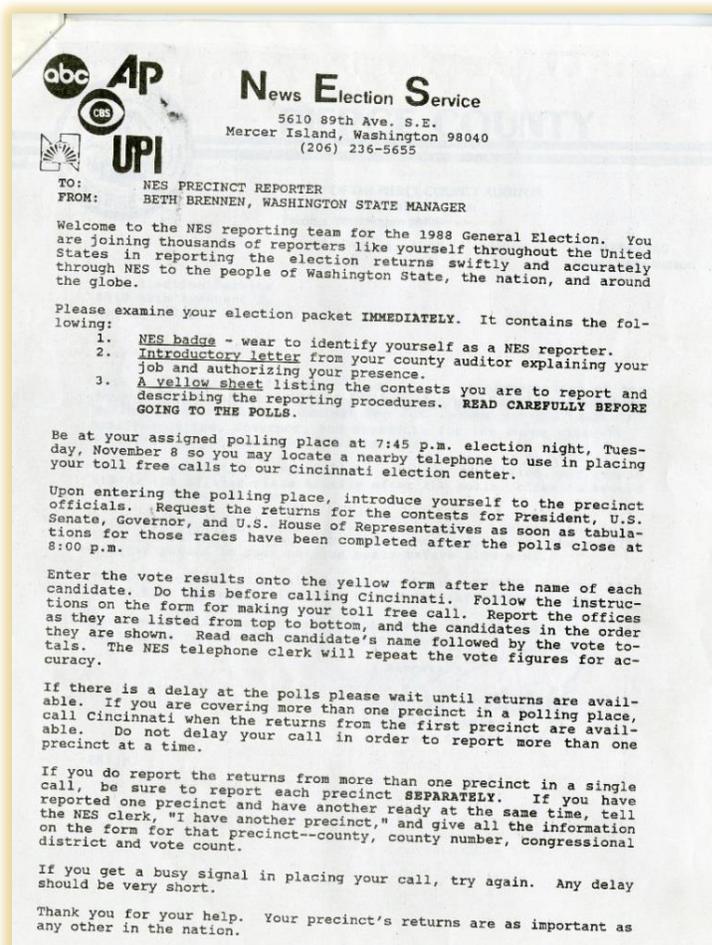


Election Results... 1988 Style!

Contributed by Amber Raney, Historical Records Project Coordinator

Dave Sullens' job is never dull. He never knows from one day to the next what location he will find himself in or what collection he will be accessioning. Typically, he verifies box lists and ensures that transmittals are filled out correctly. However as part of his cross-training recently he got to do every archivist's dream—sit and process a collection from start to finish! It's the thing that most of us really enjoy, but find we never have time to do in the real world of the Archives.

Dave found himself with a collection of records created by the Daughters of the American Revolution, Tacoma Chapter. It is not a stretch to say that this collection was less than what he had hoped for his first time processing. And to be fair, Dave's passion lies more in the organization of the boxes, themselves, than in their contents. Still, he accepted the challenge, intrigued by what he could learn and find. After countless folders of similar information, he became less enthused with the process. That is, until he discovered this:



You are looking at instructions on how to report election returns from Washington Precinct, Pierce County Number 27, Congressional District Number 6, for the November 8, 1988 Presidential Election between George Bush and Michael Dukakis. This information was gathered for the News Election Service, a consortium of news agencies that was created in 1964

What is fun about this piece of history is the information available that has nothing to do with the reason the document was created. It is interesting to see how the precinct fell along party lines, but what we found most entertaining were the instructions on how to proceed with this. Find the nearest telephone? A huge string of numbers to call in order to be able to dial toll free? Busy signals? The year 1988 doesn't seem so long ago to those of us who were alive then, but technologically speaking, it was another age.

If you're interested in how the News Election Service (now part of the Voter News Service) affects projected outcomes, here is one fascinating [study](#) of their role in the process, especially concerning the 2000 election.

In addition to the race for the Presidency, there were also important U.S. Senate races. You might recognize the names listed below, and also identify which of the two names listed became Washington's Governor that same year.

THE PRECINCT YOU ARE ASSIGNED IS: Tuesday, November 8, 1988

02-541 <i>6</i>	EVERGREEN ELEMENTARY 1311 172 ST E SPANAWAY
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INSTRUCTIONS

1. Be at the polling place election night at 7:45 p.m.
2. Bring a pencil and all contents of your envelope to the polling place.
3. Locate the nearest available phone to make this report. Bring coins for a pay phone if necessary.
4. Introduce yourself to the precinct official and say why you are there.
5. As soon as the returns are totaled, record the numbers on the NES Reporting Form below.
6. Report only those candidates NES has listed below.

NES REPORTING FORM

After filling in the vote totals, go to the nearest telephone. Dial **1-800-544-1741**.

If you are calling from a telephone that does not use AT&T as its long distance carrier, dial **10-288-1-800-544-1741**.

The NES clerk will answer: "NES, GO AHEAD PLEASE."

Then say: "THIS IS A WASHINGTON PRECINCT REPORT FROM PIERCE COUNTY, NUMBER 27, CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT NUMBER 6."
(Then read the following candidates and their vote totals in this order.)

315

Pierce County is # 27.

PRESIDENT

1A	BUSH	73 + 82	155
3A	DUKAKIS	87 + 66	153

U.S. SENATE

6A	GORTON	89 + 83	172
6B	LOWRY	88 68 + 56	124

GOVERNOR

8A	WILLIAMS	58 58 + 53	111
8B	GARDNER	99 99 + 89	188

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT #6

7A	COOK	52 + 48	100
7B	DICKS	89 + 84	173

Then say, "I REPRESENT GROUP CODE RED." This assures your group proper payment for your call.

If you get a busy signal, try again. Delays, if any, should be very short.

It's often the gems like these that are hidden among the records created during the course of daily life that are the most fun for archivists to uncover. We hope you enjoy these finds, too!



PIERCE COUNTY

OFFICE OF THE PIERCE COUNTY AUDITOR
Room 200, 2401 South 35th Street
Tacoma, Washington 98409

September 14, 1988

BRIAN SONNTAG
Pierce County Auditor

News Election Service
5610 89th Avenue S.E.
Mercer Island, Wa. 98040

Dear Inspector:

This is a letter of authorization for a representative of the News Election Service. This is a non-partisan organization that collects returns of the contest for U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives, Governor, and President for the three radio-TV networks and the two major news services.

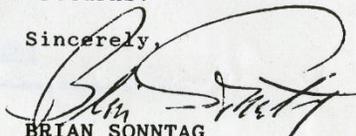
This representative, who will be properly identified, may remain inside the polling place briefly after the polls close to record the few figures desired.

This representative should obtain the counter numbers, involving the candidates of whom they are concerned, from the machine diagram posted in your polling place before 8:00 p.m..

The election board should complete their official duties, then the N.E.S. representative will record the information needed.

Your cooperation is requested, but please do not let this delay calling in your unofficial election returns.

Sincerely,



BRIAN SONNTAG
Pierce County Auditor

BS:jb