

U.S Senator Maria Cantwell
Press Conference on Mail-In Voting
September 2, 2026

Brenda Mann Harrison Remarks

Brenda Mann Harrison, President of the League of Women Voters of Snohomish County: Thank you. Good morning. I'm Brenda Mann Harrison, the president of the League of Women Voters of Snohomish County. Many, if not all, of you have heard the League of Women Voters works to protect and expand voting rights and ensure everyone in our democracy is represented.

You might also know that we are nonpartisan. We never support or oppose a political party or candidate. However, our bylaws enable us to advocate for and against issues, and we are bold and loud when democratic norms and voting access are threatened.

The league opposes the current administration's attacks on mail-in voting, and we're concerned that the manner in which the U.S. Postal Service now postmarks mail is leading to more ballots being rejected for late arrival.

According to the New York Times, the number of late-arriving mail ballots for the primary election in Washington State increased from about 16,000 two years ago to 20,000 this year. In Snohomish County, the number of mailed ballots rejected in the August primary for being late increased over previous years, while the percentage of ballots being sent through the U.S. Postal Service decreased.

So, what do those numbers really mean? They mean the voices of eligible voters, people who want to be a voter, are not getting heard. Our democracy works best when everyone has a voice.

But what if a voter must use the post office? For example, a voter who lives in a rural area and is not close to a ballot drop-off. What if a voter has limited mobility or limited access to transportation? What are they supposed to do?

Our league is proud to support our Snohomish County elections efforts to encourage voters to use a ballot drop box if they can, and if they must use the postal service to mail their ballot at least one full week or more in advance of election day.

We also encourage voters to track their ballots to see when their ballots are received by Snohomish County, and when they are accepted. Washington State voters can sign up for ballot tracker on votewa.gov.

The League of Women Voters of Snohomish County is also proud that our national league and partners are pushing back against U.S. Postal Service requirements related to ballot design, access to voter information, and approval processes. Eligible voters could potentially be unable to receive their mail ballots through the postal service.

These rules have been blocked for now. However, there are ongoing legal challenges, and the rules may change as those cases move through the courts, the League of Women Voters is closely monitoring these developments.

The constitution of the United States clearly gives states control over the administration of elections. The League encourages everyone to hold our federal administration accountable and make it clear that voters want to cast their mail-in ballot free from interference this November.

We applaud Senator Cantwell for her efforts to protect elections and voter rights, and please thank all of your county election workers who make voting possible.