



**Outstanding County Government Volunteer  
Award Nomination Form**

Name of Nominator Shawn Devine

County Department/Division or Agency Elections Division

Phone # 360-337-7280 E-mail Address sdevine@co.kitsap.wa.us

**Nominee - Tell us about your nominee:**

Name of Volunteer/s: Cindy Van Winkle

Volunteer Program or Position: Kitsap Voter Access Advisory Committee Member

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominee's Story:**

Please share your nominee's volunteer story. In 500 words or less please answer the following questions (attach a separate page to this form, please):

- ACTION:           What does your nominee do?
  
- NEED:            What county goal or community need does your nominee address?
  
- IMPACT:          What is different as a result of your nominee's service?
  
- INSPIRATION:    What makes your nominee unique or special?

**Submit your nomination:**

Please e-mail or mail this completed form along with your nominee's story of service to Kitsap County Volunteer Services at [rpirtle@co.kitsap.wa.us](mailto:rpirtle@co.kitsap.wa.us), 614 Division St. MS-4, Port Orchard, WA 98366 or call Rebecca Pirtle, Volunteer Services Coordinator, at (360) 337-4650 for more information.



## Kitsap County Auditor – Elections Division

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### Outstanding County Volunteer Award Nomination – Story

The switch to vote-by-mail and elimination of most polling places in 2005 caused challenges for some voters with disabilities in Washington state. As a result, county election departments were required to establish and maintain accessible voting committees. Cindy has been an indispensable member of our committee since its creation in 2007. Her feedback, input and support are a big part of why Kitsap County is viewed as a national leader in accessible voting.

In 2010 the Kitsap County Elections Division became one of the first counties in the nation to implement an Online Ballot Access system for military voters and voters with disabilities. Online Ballot Access allows voters to access their specific ballot from the internet. It provides many accessibility features including audio on all contests, close captioning on all candidate/committee videos and the ability to navigate without the use of a mouse.

Cindy's feedback and usability testing were critical in developing a system that truly meets the needs of voters with disabilities. Without her participation it is likely that development of Online Ballot Access would have taken longer and not been as effective when deployed.

As the president of the Washington Council of the Blind, Cindy is a vocal advocate of accessible voting and Kitsap County Elections. In 2012 she invited the Elections Division Manager to speak at the council's state conference to promote Online Ballot Access. Earlier that same year, we worked with editors of the council's newsletter to publish an article promoting Kitsap's Online Ballot Access system.

Today, Kitsap Elections serves on a steering committee that is working to make Online Ballot Access available nationally. The Elections Division also led a coalition of 16 Washington counties that received a \$750,000 federal grant to implement Online Ballot Access in other Washington counties.

Thanks to Cindy's advocacy Kitsap has one of the most active accessible voting committees in the state. She has helped recruit new members and test new systems whenever we've asked. It can be hard to find the time to devote to programs such as this. Those challenges are even greater for citizens with disabilities who must also navigate travel logistics and accessibility difficulties.

Cindy and the other members of our Accessible Voting Committee are inspiring not only because of the challenges they overcome but also for the energy, enthusiasm and service they provide.

Please accept our nomination of Cindy Van Winkle for the Outstanding County Government Volunteer Award.