

ADDRESSING HARASSMENT OF ELECTIONS OFFICIALS



Threats to the safety of election workers have impacted the ability of local election offices to retain and recruit. A lack of staff experienced in election procedures could threaten our system of free and fair elections. In 2022, the legislature made cyber harassment of election officials a class c felony. While a welcomed move, it failed to equally penalize other means of threat our officials are facing, such as written and mailed threats, and in-person stalking and harassment, which remain misdemeanors.

The Washington State Association of County Auditors (WSACA) are joined by all WACO members in seeking legislation to create parity in penalties for all forms of harassment of election officials.

Consistent penalties established by the legislature would send a clear message that all means of harassment are unacceptable, threaten our democracy, and risk the safety and peace of mind for election officials and their families.

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