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Subject: Auditor Year in Review 2025

December 31st, 2025

It has been an honor for your Kittitas County Auditor's Office to serve our residents throughout another productive year dedicated to providing effective and transparent governance. With 2025 coming to an end, I would like to reflect on recent successes and share our vision for the year ahead:

This year we:

- Successfully facilitated three secure, transparent, and accessible local elections. We continued leveraging extensive public outreach to enhance trust and confidence in our local elections process. In the November General Election, Kittitas County's voter turnout exceeded that of 70% of other counties in the state.
- Had the opportunity to recognize our very own Chief Administrator and Election Supervisor Sue Higginbotham as she was honored with the Election Administrator of the Year award from the Washington Secretary of State's office—a testament to her dedication and leadership.
- Completed the "Go Live" of our county financial software on time and without disruption to operations. The overall project came in approximately \$100,000 under budget, setting the stage for greater efficiency and long-term savings.
- For the third year in a row, submitted a complete and timely Annual Report to the State Auditor's Office resulting in a clean audit with zero findings and an unmodified opinion.
- Recognized by county leadership for facilitating an effective and efficient budget development process that emphasized accuracy and transparency to identify areas of opportunity to reduce the county's structural deficit.
- Processed approximately 20,000 transactions in our Licensing Division and 10,000 transactions in our Recording Division, demonstrating our ongoing commitment to providing essential services to our residents.

Next Steps: In 2026 we remain committed to fair and trustworthy elections while also identifying ways to enhance their security, transparency, and accessibility. We will continue to optimize business processes for our financial software, enabling us to reduce costs and improve workflows. Lastly, we will continue to identify and address public needs across our licensing and recording divisions as we work to index our digitized records and explore ways to protect residents from property deed fraud.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at (509) 899-3838 or bryan.elliott@co.kittitas.wa.us.

Sincerely,

Bryan Elliott
Kittitas County Auditor