

## **Security Issues-**

- Current design can be un-bolted, picked up and carried off.
- Mail chute is a security issue (gets wet, ballots stuck, calls regarding over-flowing ballot boxes).
- Gaps and openings even when boxes are securely locked voters can still insert a ballot because the box was not designed to be secure.
- Mail chute is too large allowing people to drop trash, needles, etc. inside. Someone could damage the ballots inside depending on what they drop down the chute.
- No good method for placing a proper seal on our boxes because we have multiple places that can be opened and need sealed.
- Doors are not flush, creating multiple “prying points” for tampering.
- Boxes are not designed with locks in place so padlocks must be used. These can easily be cut off and ballots can be tampered with.

## **Maintenance Issues –**

- The multiple welds seams and rivets in the current box lead to rusting, boxes are constantly in need of maintenance.
- Powder coat finish required to keep from rusting.
- Work must be outsourced and it’s an extreme hassle to haul the boxes to a paint shop, then reinstall.
- Each time they are painted, we would have to put new decals or “skins” on, adding additional cost and the inconvenience of delivering to another location and re-installing.
- Locks are out in the open getting rained on and rusty. Need constant maintenance and replacement.

## **Minimum specifications of new ballot boxes:**

- Made of a minimum 1/4” thick, heavy duty steel welded shell.
- 1 front drive up deposit slot designed for curbside ballot drop off access.
- One-handed operation for depositing ballots.
- Envelope slot should not be wider than 7” and not taller than ½”.
- 1 ballot retrieval door.
- Tag system somewhere on retrieval door set up for a numbered security seal.
- All doors designed flush to defend against prying or tampering.
- Front drive up deposit slot must be capable of locking in the open and closed positions.
- Weather resistant, high-performance powder coated, white finish inside and out.
- Drip edges designed to keep ballots, locks, and hinges dry.
- Flush security locks designed to be weather resistant.
- Durable steel security locks, all keyed alike, designed to be pickproof and tamper resistant.
- Estimated to hold a minimum of 2,000 ballots.
- Heavy duty, welded steel doors.
- No sharp corners or edges.
- Hand welded design, no spot welds and minimal to no rivets.
- Ballot box must not be accessible in locked position. All doors designed so that no ballot may be inserted into box while in closed position.

- Each ballot drop box designed to be installed in concrete on steel feet or t-post, in-ground with post bolted inside the ballot box so there is no break-away option from the outside.
- Each Ballot drop box will be embossed with Cowlitz County Elections Department insignia.
- Steel feet or t-posts must be weather resistant, high-performance powder coated, white finish matching the ballot boxes.