



Washington
Secretary of State
SAM REED



Participating in the Political Party Caucuses and the Presidential Primary in Washington State

To participate in the selection process for the Republican and Democratic candidates for United States President, Washington State will hold both political party caucuses and a Presidential Primary. Voters are encouraged to participate in both the caucus process and the Presidential Primary.

Registered voters do not need to register specifically for the Presidential Primary.

To participate in the Primary, voters must sign an oath on the Presidential Primary ballot stating they will not participate in the nomination process of any other party. A similar oath will be presented to voters at the caucuses.

The Republican Party will use the Presidential Primary results to allocate 51% of its delegates. The remaining 49% of the delegates will be allocated based on caucus results.

The Democratic Party will base 100% of its delegate selection on the results of the caucus system.

Caucuses

Caucuses for both the Republican and Democratic Parties will be on Saturday, February 9, 2008, starting at 1 pm. For local caucus locations, voters should contact the state parties.

- Washington State Republican Party: website: <http://www.wsrp.org/default.aspx>; phone: 206-575-2900
- Washington State Democrats: <http://www.wa-democrats.org/>; phone: (206) 583-4345

Primary

The Presidential Primary will be held on February 19, 2008. The Office of the United States President will be the only partisan race on the ballot.

With the exception of Garfield, Jefferson, and Whatcom Counties, each county will also have local non-partisan races on the ballot. Pierce and King Counties are the only counties that will not be voting entirely by mail.

Ballots will be in the mail by February 1, 2008.

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Voter Registration

The last day to submit voter registration applications by mail and on-line and to transfer registrations by mail is January 19, 2008. If a person wishes to register to vote and is not already registered in Washington State, he or she has until February 4, 2008 to register but must do so in person at the county elections department.

How to Vote a Mail Ballot

Voters receiving ballots in the mail will be asked to check a party oath on their ballot envelopes in addition to signing the traditional voter's oath, which lays out the requirements for voting in any election. Votes for President will only count if one party checkbox is marked and the signature is valid.

The oaths are as follows:

- Democratic Party: I declare that I consider myself to be a DEMOCRAT and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2008 Presidential election.
- Republican Party: I declare that I am a member of the Republican Party and I have not participated and will not participate in the 2008 precinct caucus or convention system of any other party.

If a voter wishes to vote only on local non-partisan races, he or she does not need to check a party oath. Only votes on non-partisan races will count.

As in a regular August Primary, counties will provide either separate or consolidated ballots.

Counties issuing separate ballots will provide the voter with three separate ballots: 1) one ballot for Republican presidential nominees and non-partisan local races; 2) one ballot for Democratic presidential nominees and non-partisan local races; and 3) one ballot that contains only non-partisan local races. If a voter has checked a party oath on the ballot envelope, he or she must vote that same party's ballot and return only that ballot.

Voters in other counties will receive consolidated ballots, or one ballot, which will include all ballots on one sheet of paper. If a voter has checked a party oath on the ballot envelope, he or she must vote only for presidential candidates of that same party and may also vote on non-partisan races.

Voters not participating in the Presidential Primary may vote on nonpartisan issues only.

How to vote a Poll-Site Ballot

Voters will be asked to sign a party oath if they wish to vote in the Presidential race. Voters who would like to vote only on non-partisan races will be asked to sign the regular poll book.

Pierce County will be using separate ballots at its poll-sites. Once the voter signs a party oath, the poll worker will issue only that party's ballot to the voter. If the voter does not want to participate in the Presidential Primary, he or she will receive a non-partisan ballot in order to vote on other issues on the ballot.

King County will be using a consolidated ballot at the polls. Upon signing a party oath, the voters will be instructed to vote only for a presidential candidate of that party. Non-partisan issues will also be listed on the consolidated ballot. A voter not signing a party oath may only vote on the non-partisan section of the ballot.