



Secretary of State

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Presidential Primary 2020 Advisory #03

Cure Form | Incomplete Declarations

December 6, 2019

Each registered **voter** wishing to participate in the Presidential Primary must return, mark **and** sign a political party declaration. ([WAC 434-219-230](#))

FWAB exception: A party selection on a federal write-in absentee ballot form substitutes for the political party declaration. ([WAC 434-219-230](#))

A second chance for voters.

When the voter does not select a party declaration on the return ballot envelope, we view this oversight as unintentional.

The County Auditor sends a **Presidential Primary Cure Form** and provides the voter with a second chance to participate. The Auditor must send one notice to the voter, and in some cases, follow up with a phone call.

An envelope with both party declarations marked is **not** unintentional and must be sent to the canvassing board for rejection.

The “Cure Form.”

The Presidential Primary Cure Form, also known as the “Missing Signature / Party Choice” form, is sent by the County Auditor to a voter who fails to mark a political party and/or sign the declarations. ([WAC 434-219-230\(2\)](#))

Similar to the return envelope, the Cure Form contains the standard ballot declaration and both political party declarations. The Cure Form does **not** contain a voter registration declaration and cannot be used to update signatures on the voter’s record.

Declarations on the Cure Form must comply with [WAC 434-230-015](#), [WAC 434-261-050](#) and [434-219-155](#). Please see the OSOS example form attached, *Missing Signature / Party Choice*.

The County Auditor sends one notice by mail or email explaining the correct procedures for completing the declarations.

The voter's first completed (returned, marked and signed) declaration qualifies a ballot for further processing. Previously received incomplete declarations (from the ballot envelope) cannot be combined with another incomplete declaration (from a Cure Form) to create a complete declaration. All elements of a completed declaration must be present on the same document.

The voter must complete the declaration and return the Cure Form no later than the day before certification of the Presidential Primary.

- March 19 – Deadline for voters to return Cure Forms.
- March 20 – County Auditor certifies results.
- March 27 – Secretary of State certifies final results.

Sort first.

Before signatures are validated on return envelopes, ballots are sorted according to the marked (or unmarked) political party declaration. The sorting process may vary somewhat depending upon the county's sorting plan.

For an illustration of the general process, see the *Presidential Primary Ballot Processing Flowchart*.

In addition to reviewing the marked party declarations for sorting purposes, it will be necessary to further examine all returned envelopes for **unsigned** declarations.

Is something missing?

Send the Cure Form whenever something is **missing** on the return envelope—a declaration mark and/or a signature.

Procedures for curing ballots.

The County Auditor's next step depends upon **why** the declaration is considered incomplete. The following procedures and reference table explain when County Auditors must send a Cure Form, make a phone call, or refer a ballot to the Canvassing Board.

- **Ready to process.** Did the voter mark one of the party declarations and sign? If so, the ballot declaration is complete and ready for signature verification.
- **Party box unmarked.** Did the voter fail to **mark** a party declaration? If so, the ballot declaration is incomplete. A Cure Form must be sent (once), and a phone call is not required. The signature supplied on the returned cure form is the signature used to check against the voter registration record.
- **Missing signature.** Did the voter fail to **sign** the declarations (with or without a party mark)? If so, the ballot declaration is incomplete. A Cure Form must be sent. If the voter

does not respond within 3 days before you certify the election, the County Auditor must also follow up with a phone call. ([RCW 29A.60.165](#))

- **Modified declaration.** Did the voter **modify** a party name or declaration of the political party marked? If so, the ballot declaration is considered unmarked and incomplete. A Cure Form must be sent. ([WAC 434-219-235\(2\)](#))
- **Corrected declaration.** Did the voter attempt to correct a political party mark? Corrections are resolved in the same manner as corrected marks made on a ballot. If the voter’s intent is unclear, the Canvassing Board will consider the voter’s intent. ([WAC 434-219-235\(3\)](#))
- **Both parties marked and signed.** Did the voter mark **both** political party declarations and sign? If so, the ballot must be referred directly to the County Canvassing Board. In this case only, the ballot is referred for rejection and a Cure Form is not sent. ([WAC 434-219-235\(1\)\(a\)\(i\)](#))

Procedures for incomplete declarations.	Send Cure Form	Call required (when no response from voter is received)	No call required	Refer directly to Canvassing Board
Missing signature (unsigned)?	•	•		
Missing party mark only?	•		•	
Missing both a signature and a party mark?	•	•		
Contains signature & both party boxes are marked?			•	•
Modified name or declaration of marked political party?	•		•	

For an illustration of curing incomplete declarations, see the *OSOS 2020 Presidential Primary Cure Forms Flowchart*.

When a signature does not match—follow normal procedures.

The elections department checks and verifies a signature after receiving the voter's completed declarations.

Follow normal procedures for signatures that do not match the voter's registration record. ([WAC 434-261-050](#))

The County Auditor's form for signature updates (no match/mismatch/miscompare) do not change for the Presidential Primary. Also known as the "Signature Update" form, it will **not** request the voter to sign and mark political party declarations.

- If the signature on the returned signature update form matches the signature on the declarations, accept the ballot and update the voter registration record.
- If the signature on the returned signature update form does not match the signature on the declarations, the ballot cannot be counted. Do not credit the voter.

Keeping a record.

[WAC 434-261-050\(8\)](#) requires the elections department to retain a record of all ballots with cure issues. The record must contain the date on which the voter was contacted or the notice was mailed, as well as the date the voter subsequently submitted a signature to cure the missing signature, mismatched signature, or incomplete declaration.

Visual aids and resources.

To help your elections department develop a plan for sorting and processing, we've provided these additional reference materials.

- Presidential Primary Cure Form ("Missing Signature / Party Choice")
- 2020 Presidential Primary Ballot Processing Flowchart
- 2020 Presidential Primary Cure Form Flowchart
- Practice Sort Activity (video, practice ballots, and practice envelopes)

Please visit our website for the Presidential Primary Advisory Program and the most recently updated [Resources & Training Materials](#). If you have questions about curing incomplete declarations, please contact the Certification and Training Program at (360) 902-4180 or CTsupport@sos.wa.gov.

Missing Signature / Party Choice

! Please complete and return this form.

instructions

- Fill out the form using a black or blue pen.
- Select one of the options below to return the completed form.
- For the Presidential Primary only, mark one party declaration box (required).

how to return this form

option 1: by email, fax, or mail

- Fill out and send this form to your county elections department.

option 2: in person

- Visit your county elections department to deliver this form.

For your vote to count, return this form to your county elections department no later than March 19, 2020.

Addresses are on the back of this form.

voter information (please print clearly)

last name first middle

date of birth phone number

voter registration number (if known)

ballot declaration

I do solemnly swear or affirm under penalty of perjury that I am: a citizen of the United States; a resident of the state of Washington and meet the requirements for voting mandated by state law; at least 18 years old on election day; voting only once in this election; not under the authority of the Department of Corrections for a Washington felony conviction; not disqualified from voting due to a court order; and not voting in any other jurisdiction in the United States for this election. It is illegal to forge a signature or cast another person's ballot. Attempting to vote when not qualified, attempting to vote more than once, or falsely signing this declaration is a felony punishable by a maximum imprisonment of five years, a maximum fine of \$10,000, or both.

mark one party declaration box (required)

Democratic Party

I declare that my party preference is the Democratic Party and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2020 Presidential election.

Republican Party

I declare that I am a Republican and I have not participated and will not participate in the 2020 precinct caucus or convention system of any other party.

sign & date

A signature stamp or Power of Attorney is not acceptable.

signature of voter (required)

date

optional: if you cannot sign

Make a mark above in the presence of 2 witnesses. The witnesses must then sign below.

signature of witness 1

date

signature of witness 2

date

Falta de Firma / Partido Político

! Por favor complete y devuelva este formulario.

instrucciones

- Llene el formulario usando un bolígrafo negro o azul.
- Seleccione una de las opciones a continuación para devolver este formulario completo.
- Solo para las Primarias Presidenciales, seleccione una casilla de la declaración del partido (requerido)

cómo devolver este formulario

opción 1: por correo electrónico, fax o por correo.

- Llene y devuelva este formulario al departamento electoral de su condado.

opción 2: en persona

- Visite el departamento electoral de su condado para regresar este formulario.

Para que su voto sea contado, devuelva este formulario al departamento electoral de su condado a más tardar el 19 de marzo de 2020.

Direcciones de los Departamentos Electorales están en la parte posterior del formulario.

información del votante (por favor escriba claro)

apellido nombre segundo nombre

fecha de nacimiento número de teléfono

número de registro de votante (si lo sabe)

declaración en la boleta

Yo solemnemente juro o afirmo bajo penalidad de perjurio que: soy ciudadano de los Estados Unidos; soy residente del estado de Washington y cumplo con los requisitos para votar exigidos por ley estatal; tendré por lo menos 18 años de edad el día de las elecciones; estoy votando una sola vez en estas elecciones; no estoy bajo la autoridad del Departamento Correccional por una condena de un delito grave en el estado de Washington; no estoy descalificado a votar debido a una orden judicial; y no estoy votando en otra jurisdicción de los Estados Unidos en estas elecciones. Es ilegal falsificar la firma o emitir una boleta de otra persona. Intentar votar cuando no es elegible, intentar votar más de una vez, o falsificar la firma en esta declaración es un delito grave castigable por un máximo de cinco años de encarcelamiento, un máximo de \$10,000 de multa, o ambos.

seleccione una casilla de la declaración del partido (requerido)

Partido Demócrata

Declaro que mi preferencia de partido político es el Partido Demócrata y que no participaré en el proceso de nominación de ningún otro partido para las Elecciones Presidenciales de 2020.

Partido Republicano

Declaro que soy un Republicano y que no he participado ni participaré en el caucus del recinto de 2020 o en el sistema de convenciones de ningún otro partido.

firma y fecha

No se acepta firma estampada o Poder Notarial.

firma

fecha

opcional: si no puede firmar

En presencia de 2 testigos haz una marca en la parte superior. Los testigos deben firmar debajo:

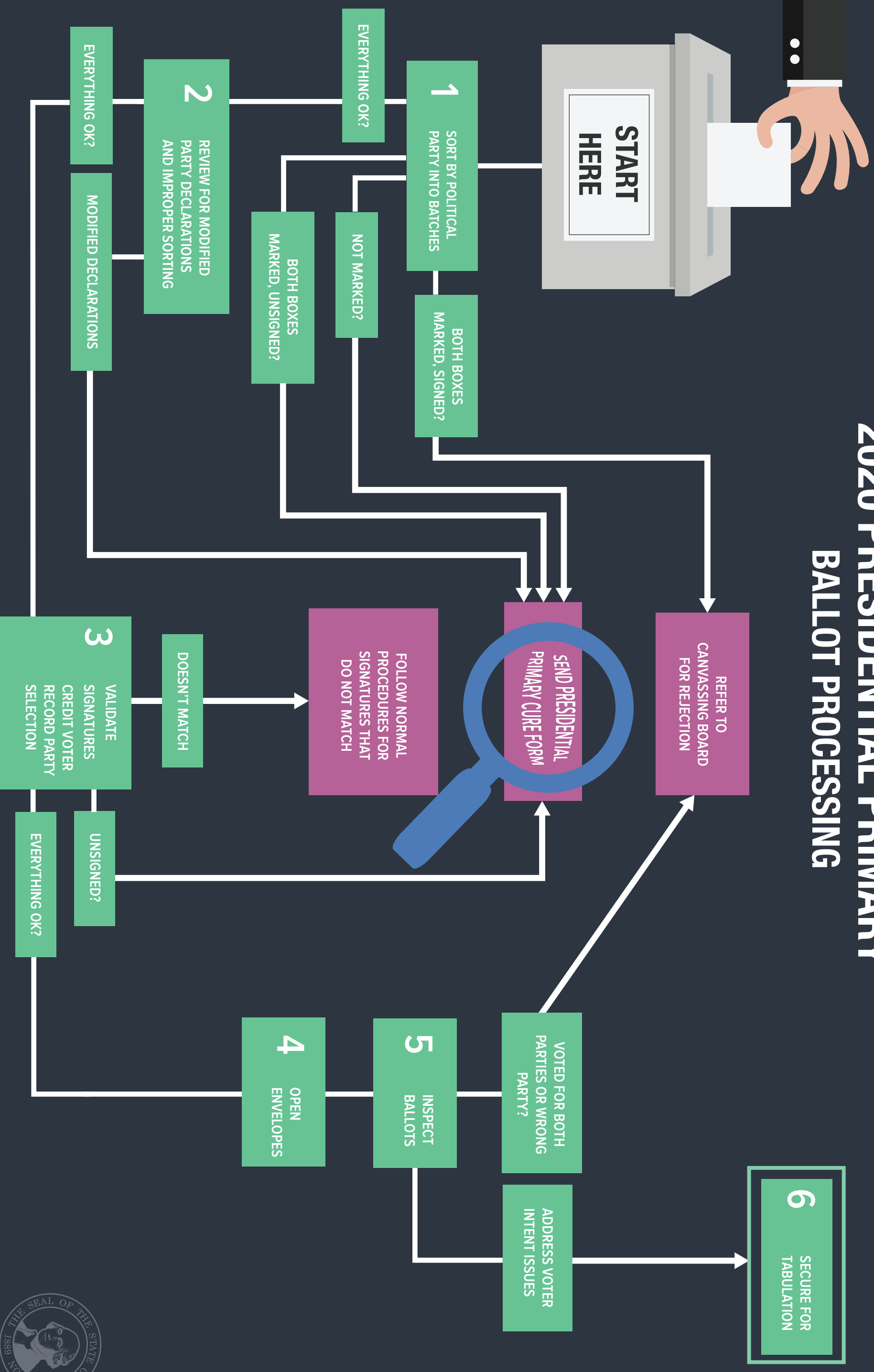
firma testigo 1

fecha

firma testigo 2

fecha

2020 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY BALLOT PROCESSING





2020 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY CURE FORM

Is something missing? A ballot declaration is complete only when it's signed AND marked by the voter.

The Presidential Primary Cure Form is also known as the "Missing Signature / Party Choice" form. It contains a ballot declaration and both political party declarations.

It does not contain the voter registration declaration. Follow your normal procedures for signature update forms.

