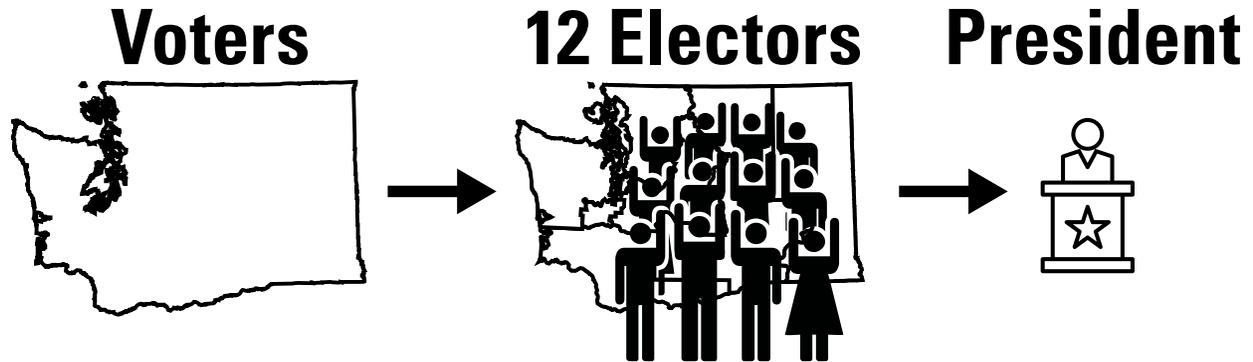


What is the Electoral College?



The Electoral College is a process, not a place

When you vote for President and Vice President, you determine a group of people called electors (also known as a slate) to represent Washington state in the Electoral College. The electors gather December 14, 2020 to cast votes for President based on the state's election results.

Each major political party chooses their own electors through the caucus and convention process.

Washington has 12 presidential electors

Every state starts with two because every state has two U.S. Senators. Based on population, each state receives an additional elector for every Congressional District.

$$\begin{array}{r} 2 \text{ U.S. Senators} \\ +10 \text{ Congressional Districts} \\ \hline =12 \text{ Total electors} \end{array}$$

The magic number

There are a total of 538 electoral votes in the nation. A presidential ticket needs at least 270 electoral votes nationwide to win. If no presidential ticket receives a majority of electoral votes, the U.S. House of Representatives elects the President and the U.S. Senate elects the Vice President.

How electoral votes are distributed

Washington state is one of 48 states that uses a "winner-take-all" system; the presidential ticket that wins the popular vote in the state is entitled to all 12 of Washington's electoral votes.

How do I register to vote in Washington?

Qualifications

You must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen, a resident of Washington, and not under Department of Corrections supervision for a Washington felony conviction. 16- and 17-year-olds can sign up as Future Voters and will be registered to vote when they turn 18.



How do I register to vote?

Online: Register at VoteWA.gov

By mail: Request a paper form be mailed to you or print your own at sos.wa.gov/elections

No internet access? Call (800) 448-4881.

In person: Visit a county elections office (listed at the end of this pamphlet).

Registration deadlines



By mail or online: Your application must be received no later than October 26.

In person: Visit a local voting center no later than 8 p.m. on November 3.

Moved? Update your voting address

Contact a county elections office to request a ballot at your new address.

By October 26: Have your application received by mail or updated online.

Or

By November 3: Visit a local voting center in person.



What if I'm not 18 yet?



If you are 16 or 17, become a Future Voter!

Future # Voter

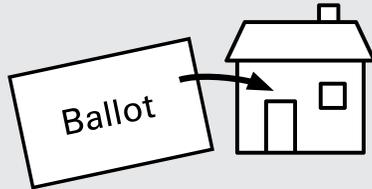
16- and 17-year-olds can use the Voter Registration form to sign up as Future Voters and be automatically registered to vote when they turn 18.

Every January on Temperance and Good Citizenship Day, high school students 16 and older are given the opportunity to complete a voter registration in class.

How do I cast a ballot?

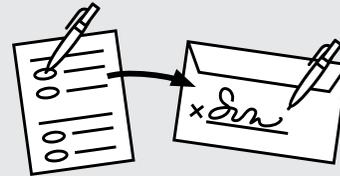
1

Your ballot will be mailed no later than **October 16** to the address you provide in your voter registration. If you need a replacement ballot, contact a county elections office listed at the end of this pamphlet.



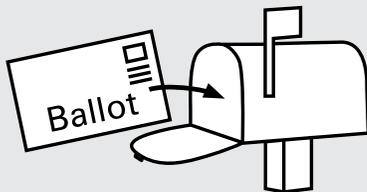
2

Vote your ballot and sign your return envelope. You are not required to vote every race on your ballot. We encourage using this pamphlet to help you decide.



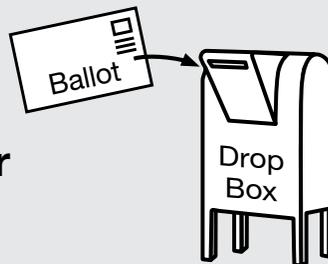
3

Return your ballot by mail, no stamp needed. If mailed, your ballot must be postmarked by **November 3**. A late postmark could disqualify your ballot. The USPS recommends that you mail a week before Election Day.



Or return your ballot to an official ballot drop box. Drop boxes are open until 8 p.m. on **November 3**. Find drop box locations at **VoteWA.gov**.

Or



If you cannot personally return your ballot, let only people you trust deliver it for you.

4

Check the status of your ballot on **VoteWA.gov** to see if it has been received by your county elections office.



Election staff will contact you before your ballot is processed if:

- Your signature is missing
- Your signature doesn't match your voter registration record

View election results online

After 8 p.m. on election night, tallied results from each county are posted at **sos.wa.gov/elections**

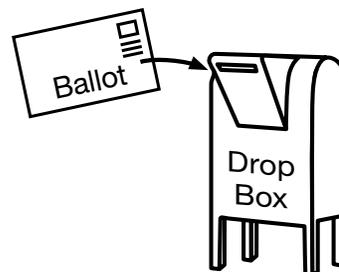
Results are updated as counties report and unofficial until certification.

How is my ballot counted?

1

Your county receives your ballot

Deposit your ballot in an official drop box by 8 p.m. on November 3, Election Day, or return your ballot by mail — postage paid — but make sure it's postmarked no later than Election Day! A late postmark could disqualify your ballot. The USPS recommends that you mail a week before Election Day.



Election staff will contact you before your ballot is processed if:

- Your signature is missing
- Your signature doesn't match your voter registration record

2

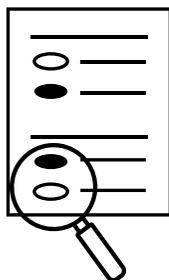
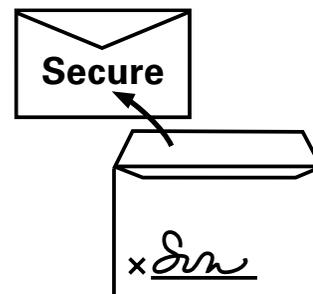
Your signature is verified

The signature on your return envelope is compared to the signature on your voter registration record. If the signature matches, your ballot is accepted and you are credited for voting to ensure only one ballot is counted for you.

3

Envelopes and sleeves are separated

The return envelope is opened and the security envelope or sleeve containing your ballot is removed. They are separated to ensure the secrecy of your vote.



4

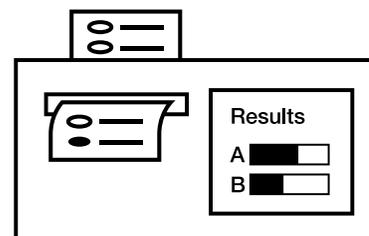
Your ballot is reviewed and scanned

The security envelope or sleeve is opened and election staff review your ballot to verify that it can be successfully scanned.

5

Your ballot is counted

After 8 p.m. on Election Day all scanned ballots are tallied. Ballots will be scanned and tallied over the next several days until all the votes are counted.

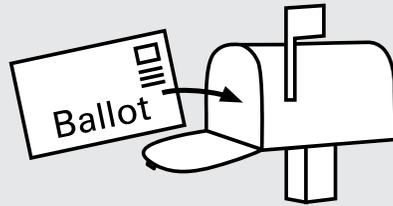


What is different about voting in Washington?

1

Vote by mail

Washington votes by mail, no stamp needed. We were the second state in the nation to adopt vote by mail and the first to provide all postage paid. A ballot is mailed no later than 18 days before each election, ensuring you have time to cast an informed ballot without waiting in line.



2

Online voter registration

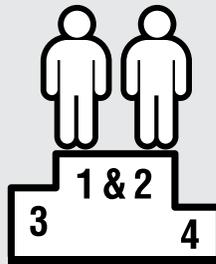
We offer online voter registration. Register to vote or update your address at **VoteWA.gov**



3

Top 2 Primary

Washington uses a Top 2 Primary system where the two candidates who receive the most votes in the August Primary Election advance to the November General Election, regardless of their party preference.



4

No party affiliation

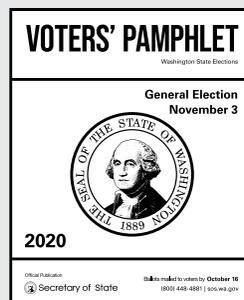


Washington voters do not register by party affiliation. Vote for any candidate regardless of their party preference.

5

Voters' Pamphlet

Only a few states produce a Voters' Pamphlet like this one. A pamphlet is mailed to every household before each General Election.



6

Same day registration



Citizens can register and vote a ballot until 8 p.m. on Election Day.

How do I vote as a...

Military or overseas voter

Register to vote anytime on or before Election Day. You may receive your ballot by mail, email, or fax. Spouses and dependents also away from home have the same voting rights.



New Washington resident

Welcome! Register to vote online, by mail, in person, or when you get your new driver's license or ID at the Department of Licensing. You may not vote in more than one place, so cancel your previous voter registration.



College student

Register to vote using either your home or school address, but you may not vote in more than one place. Your ballot can be mailed to you anywhere in the world; however, your residential address must remain in Washington.



Non-traditional address voter

Use any physical location you consider your residence such as a shelter, park, or marina. Your mailing address can be general delivery at a local post office, a PO Box, or an address of a trusted friend or relative. A federally recognized tribe may designate tribal government buildings to serve as residential or mailing addresses for voters living on tribal lands.



Seasonal resident

Vote in Washington even if you're away during an election. To ensure you receive your ballot, update your mailing address at VoteWA.gov or with a county elections office. Your ballot can be mailed to you anywhere in the world; however, your residential address must remain in Washington. You may not vote in more than one place.



Convicted felon

If you were convicted of a felony in Washington, your right to vote is restored when you are no longer under Department of Corrections supervision. You must register to vote in order to receive a ballot.



What are ballot measures?

Initiatives and referenda are used by the people to create state laws

Initiative

Any voter may propose an initiative to create a new state law or change an existing law.

Initiatives to the People are proposed laws submitted directly to voters.

Initiatives to the Legislature are proposed laws submitted to the Legislature.

Before an **Initiative to the People** or an **Initiative to the Legislature** can appear on the ballot, the sponsor must collect...



259,622

Voters' signatures

8% of all votes in the last Governor's race

Referendum

Referendum Bills are proposed laws the Legislature has referred to voters.

Referendum Measures are laws recently passed by the Legislature that voters have demanded be referred to the ballot.

Any voter may demand that a law proposed by the Legislature be referred to voters before taking effect.

Before a **Referendum Measure** can appear on the ballot, the sponsor must collect...



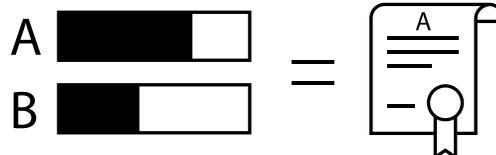
129,811

Voters' signatures

4% of all votes in the last Governor's race

Initiatives and referenda become law

with a simple majority vote



Important dates

Mark your calendar for these upcoming dates:

Oct. 26, 2020 – Deadline to register online or for mailed voter registration to be received.



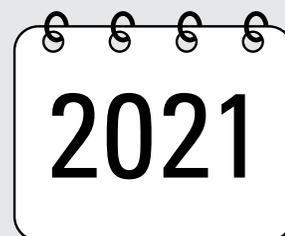
Oct. 27, 2020 – USPS recommends mailing your ballot a week before Election Day.

Nov. 3, 2020 – Deadline to vote, register, or update information in person at a voting center by 8 p.m.

Nov. 3, 2020 – Election Day. Deadline for ballot to be postmarked. Ballot drop boxes are open until 8 p.m.

Dec. 14, 2020 – Electoral College casts votes.

Jan. 15, 2021 –
Temperance and Good Citizenship Day

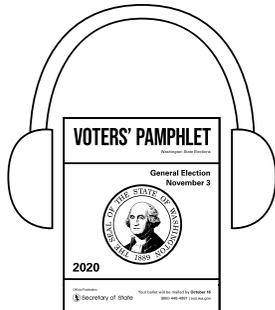


Feb. 9, 2021 –
Special Election, only in some counties.

April 27, 2021 –
Special Election, only in some counties.

Look for this in July 2021 –
National Disability Voter Registration Week

Are accessible voting options available?



Audio and plain text voters' pamphlets available at www.sos.wa.gov/elections

No internet access? To receive a copy on a USB drive, call **(800) 448-4881**.

Contact a county elections office to find an **accessible voting unit** near you.

Are language services available?

Los votantes del estado de Washington pueden acceder a un folleto electoral para las elecciones generales y a un formulario de inscripción electoral en español en Internet en www.sos.wa.gov/elections/.

Ingrese a VoteWA.gov para consultar su guía electoral personalizada en Internet o para inscribirse y actualizar su información electoral.

Los votantes de los condados de Yakima, Franklin y Adams reciben materiales electorales bilingües.

Para solicitar una edición impresa del folleto electoral o de un formulario de inscripción electoral en español, llame al **1 (800) 448-4881**.

華盛頓州的選民可以由線上取得中文版普選選民手冊以及選民登記表，網址為www.sos.wa.gov/elections/。

請瀏覽VoteWA.gov以查看您的個人化線上選民指南，或登記及更新您的選民資料。

金郡的選民可以索求中文版投票資料。

如欲索取中文選民手冊印刷本或選民登記表，請致電 **1 (800) 448-4881**。

Cử tri tại tiểu bang Washington có thể truy cập trực tuyến Sách Hướng dẫn Cử tri cho cuộc Tổng tuyển cử và mẫu đơn đăng ký cử tri bằng Tiếng Việt tại địa chỉ www.sos.wa.gov/elections/.

Truy cập VoteWA.gov để xem trực tuyến hướng dẫn dành cho cử tri được cá nhân hóa của quý vị hoặc đăng ký và cập nhật thông tin cử tri của quý vị.

Cử tri tại Quận King có thể yêu cầu tài liệu bỏ phiếu đã được dịch sang Tiếng Việt.

Để yêu cầu bản in của sách hướng dẫn cử tri hoặc mẫu đơn đăng ký cử tri bằng Tiếng Việt, xin quý vị vui lòng gọi số **1 (800) 448-4881**.



Federal Qualifications & Responsibilities

Except for the President and Vice President, all federal officials elected in Washington must be registered voters of the state. Only federal offices have age requirements above and beyond being a registered voter.

President & Vice President

The President must be at least 35 years old and a natural born U.S. citizen. Voters indirectly elect the President through the Electoral College. The President is elected to a four-year term and cannot serve more than two elected terms.

The chief duty of the President is to ensure the laws of the nation are faithfully executed. This duty is largely performed through appointments for thousands of federal positions, including secretaries of cabinet-level agencies and federal judges (subject to confirmation by the Senate). The President is the commander in chief of the U.S. armed forces, has the power to sign and veto (reject) laws passed by Congress, and makes treaties with foreign governments (with Senate approval).

The Vice President serves as the presiding officer of the Senate. The Vice President becomes President if the office is vacated.



The order of major political parties is determined by the number of votes cast in this state for the President of the United States at the last presidential election. In 2016, the Democratic Party received the highest number of votes in Washington state and must appear on the ballot first.

Independent and minor party candidates follow major parties in the order of their qualification with the Secretary of State. (RCW 29A.36.161)

Congress

The United States' Senate and House of Representatives have equal responsibility for declaring war, maintaining the armed forces, assessing taxes, borrowing money, minting currency, regulating commerce, and making all laws and budgets necessary for the operation of government.

United States Senator

Senators must be at least 30 years old and citizens of the U.S. for at least nine years. Senators serve six-year terms. The Senate has 100 members; two from each state.

The Senate has several exclusive powers, including consenting to treaties, confirming federal appointments made by the President, and trying federal officials impeached by the House of Representatives.



In 2020 there are no United States Senators up for election in Washington state. The next scheduled election will be 2022.

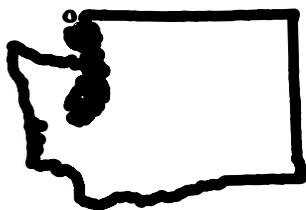
United States Representative

Representatives must be at least 25 years old and citizens of the U.S. for at least seven years. Representatives are not required to be registered voters of their district, but must be registered voters of the state. Representatives serve two-year terms.

The House of Representatives has 435 members, all of whom are up for election in even-numbered years. Each state has a different number of members based on population. After the 2010 Census, Washington was given a 10th Congressional District.



Candidate statements are printed exactly as submitted. The Office of the Secretary of State does not make corrections of any kind or verify statements for truth or fact.



Executive Qualifications & Responsibilities

Statewide-elected executives must be registered Washington voters and are elected to four-year terms.

Governor

The Governor is the chief executive officer of the state and makes appointments for hundreds of state positions, including directors of state agencies (subject to confirmation by the Senate). The Governor has the power to sign or veto (reject) legislation, and annually submits a budget recommendation and reports on state affairs to the Legislature.

Lieutenant Governor

The Lieutenant Governor is elected independent of the Governor, and serves as the presiding officer of the state Senate. The Lieutenant Governor is first in line of succession and becomes Acting Governor whenever the Governor leaves the state or is otherwise unable to serve.

Secretary of State

The Secretary of State leads the state Elections Division, Corporations and Charities Division, state Archives and Library, and other programs and services. The Office of the Secretary of State manages corporation and charity filings, collects and preserves historical state records, and governs the use of the state flag and seal. The Secretary of State is second in line of succession for Governor.

State Treasurer

As the state's finance officer, the Treasurer manages the cash flow, investments, and debt of all major state accounts. The Treasurer serves on the State Investment Board, providing guidance for the management of long-term debt and investments, and Chairs the Public Deposit Protection Commission, ensuring the safety of public deposits in qualified banks.

State Auditor

The Auditor works with state and local governments to conduct independent financial and performance audits. The Auditor publicly investigates state employee whistleblower claims about agencies and reports of fraud, waste, and abuse of taxpayer money received through its citizen hotline.

Attorney General

The Attorney General serves as legal counsel to the Governor, members of the Legislature, state officials, and more than 200 state agencies, boards, commissions, colleges, and universities. The Office of the Attorney General protects the public by upholding the Consumer Protection Act and provides public information about consumer rights and scams.

Commissioner of Public Lands

The Commissioner of Public Lands is the head of the Department of Natural Resources, overseeing management of more than 5 million acres of state forest, agricultural, range, aquatic, and commercial lands. The Commissioner manages the state's largest on-call fire department, preventing and fighting wildfires on 13 million acres of private, state and tribal-owned forest lands.

Superintendent of Public Instruction

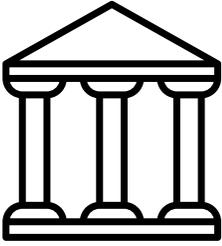
The Superintendent heads the state education agency and is chief executive officer of the state Board of Education. The Superintendent is responsible for the administration of the state's kindergarten through twelfth grade education program. The office certifies teaching personnel, approves and accredits programs, and distributes state and local funds.

Insurance Commissioner

The Insurance Commissioner regulates insurance companies doing business in Washington, licenses insurance agents and brokers, reviews policies and rates, examines the operations and finances of insurers, and handles inquiries and complaints from the public.



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Legislative Qualifications & Responsibilities

Legislators must be registered voters of their district.

Legislature

Legislators propose and enact public policy, set a budget, and provide for the collection of taxes to support state and local government.

State Senator

The Senate has 49 members; one from each legislative district in the state. Senators are elected to four-year terms, and approximately one-half the membership of the Senate is up for election each even-numbered year. The Senate's only exclusive duty is to confirm appointments made by the governor.

State Representative

The House of Representatives has 98 members; two from each legislative district in the state. Representatives are elected to two-year terms, so the total membership of the House is up for election each even-numbered year.



Candidate statements are printed exactly as submitted. The Office of the Secretary of State does not make corrections of any kind or verify statements for truth or fact.



Judicial Qualifications & Responsibilities

Washington judges are nonpartisan. Judges must be registered Washington voters.

Judges

Judicial candidates must be in good standing to practice law in Washington and are prohibited from statements that appear to commit them on legal issues that may come before them in court.

State Supreme Court Justice

The Washington Supreme Court is the highest judiciary in the state. State Supreme Court justices hear appeals and decide cases from Courts of Appeals and other lower courts. Nine justices are elected statewide to serve six-year terms.

Court of Appeals Judge

Court of Appeals judges hear appeals from Superior Courts. A total of 22 judges serve three divisions headquartered in Seattle, Tacoma, and Spokane. Court of Appeals judges serve six-year terms.

Superior Court Judge

Superior Courts hear felony criminal cases, civil matters, divorces, juvenile cases, and appeals from the lower courts. Superior Courts are organized by county into 30 districts. Superior Court judges serve four-year terms.



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