

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.

If you're 16 or 17 years old, you can sign up as a Future Voter and be automatically registered to vote when you qualify.



How do I register to vote?

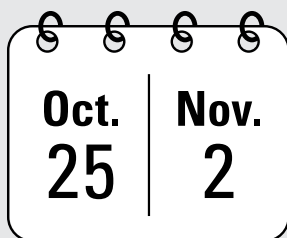
Online: Register at **VoteWA.gov**

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

No internet access? Call 1 (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 25.

In person: Visit a local voting center no later than 8 p.m. on November 2.

Check your registration info at **VoteWA.gov**.

Moved? Update your voting address

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



By October 25: Have your application received by mail or updated online.

Or

By November 2: 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

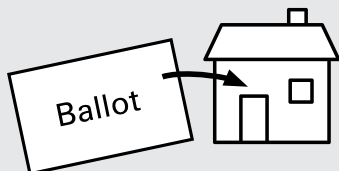
Sign up online at **VoteWA.gov** with your Washington state driver's license or ID. Or you can fill out a paper registration form using the last four digits of your Social Security number and mail it in. You'll be automatically registered to vote when you qualify.

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

How do I vote and return my ballot?

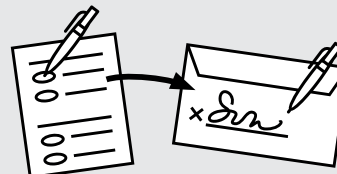
1

If you're registered to vote, there is no need to request a ballot. Your ballot will be mailed **October 15** 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.



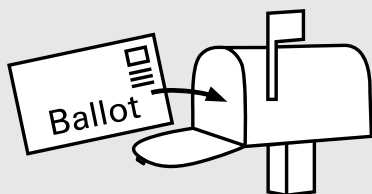
2

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



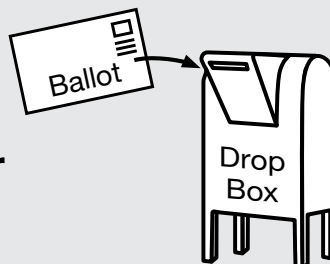
3

Return your ballot by mail, no stamp needed. If mailed, your ballot must be postmarked by **November 2**. Don't let a late postmark disqualify your ballot. The USPS recommends that you mail a week before Election Day.



Or

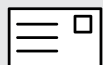
Or, return your ballot to an official ballot drop box. Drop boxes are open until 8 p.m. on **November 2**. Find drop box locations at **VoteWA.gov**.



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.

When reviewing online or printed information, think about:

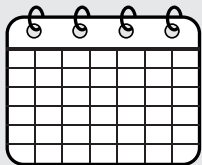
Who made this, and who is it for?

Was it a company, or an individual person? Who is the intended audience?



Why did they make it?

Think about the purpose. Is it to inform, entertain, or persuade?



When was this made?

Is the information relevant today?



What makes it believable?

Is there evidence from a reputable source or expert?

How might other people read this message?

Consider how someone with a different background might interpret it.



Ask the experts

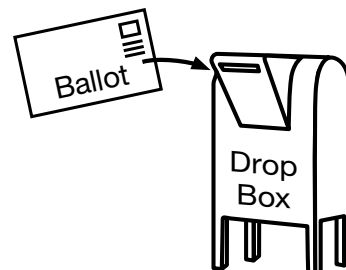
Consult a fact-checking site or ask an official source. Get trusted info from your county auditor or elections office.



1

Your county receives your ballot

Deposit your ballot in an official drop box by 8 p.m. on November 2, Election Day, or return your ballot by mail — postage paid — but make sure it's postmarked by Election Day! Don't let a late postmark 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

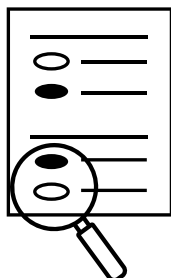
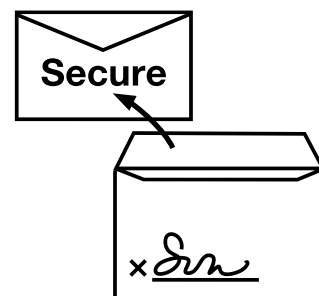
Your signature is verified

We need your signature to accept your ballot. 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

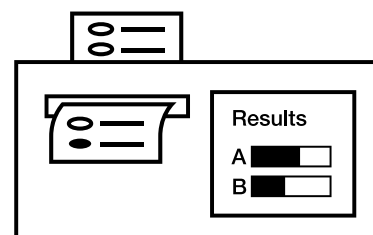
Your ballot is reviewed and scanned

The security envelope or sleeve is opened and election staff review your ballot to verify that it can be successfully scanned. Each voting system is certified and tested before every election.

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.



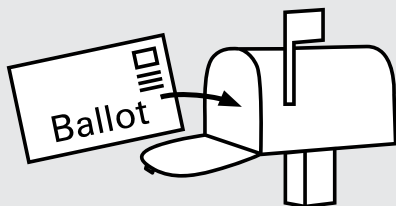
1

Vote by mail

Washington votes by mail every election.

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 at least 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.

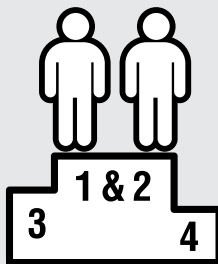
Register to vote or update your address at **VoteWA.gov**



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

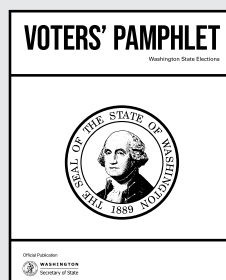
No party affiliation

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. The state 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.

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.

**Coming January 2022**

New law changes how voting rights are restored after a felony conviction (ESHB 1078). Visit **app.leg.wa.gov/billinfo** for details.

Mark your calendar for these upcoming dates:

Oct. 25, 2021 – Deadline to register online or for mailed voter registration to be received.

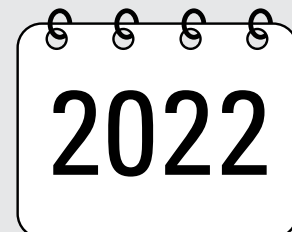


Oct. 26, 2021 – USPS recommends mailing your ballot a week before Election Day.

Nov. 2, 2021 – Deadline to vote, register, or update information in person at a voting center by 8 p.m.

Nov. 2, 2021 – Election Day. Deadline for ballot to be postmarked. Ballot drop boxes are open until 8 p.m.

Jan. 14, 2022 –
Temperance and Good Citizenship Day



Feb. 8, 2022 –
Special Election, only in some counties.

April 26, 2022 –
Special Election, only in some counties.

August 2, 2022 – Primary Election

November 8, 2022 – General Election

VoteWA

Use VoteWA to:



Register to vote

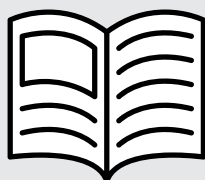
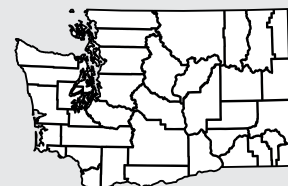


Check or update your voter registration information

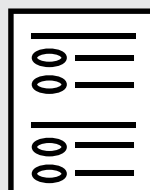
View a list of your elected officials



Contact your county elections office

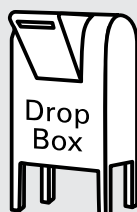


View your online Voter Guide



Fill out or print a replacement ballot

Find an official ballot drop box



Check the status of your ballot



Login to **VoteWA.gov** to access your customized voting information.

VoteWA is a collaboration between the Office of the Secretary of State and all 39 Washington counties to create an advanced, centralized system for both voter registration and election management.