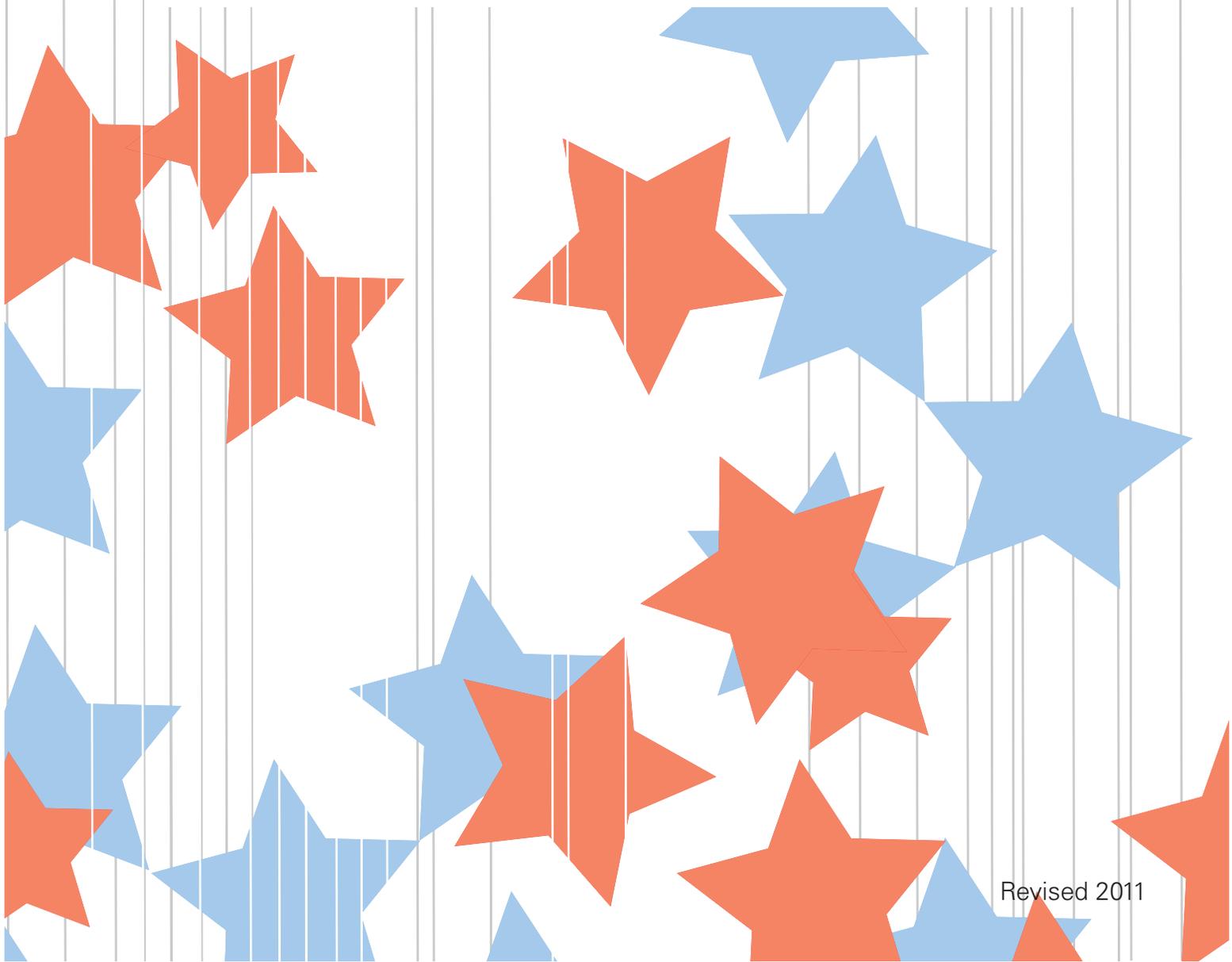


Appearing on the Presidential Ballot in Washington State



Revised 2011

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Contents

A message from Washington's Secretary of State	3
Additional assistance	3
Overview	4
Definitions	5
Washington State General Election	6
Write-in candidates	9
Certificate of Nomination packet	10
Examples of required document	19

**A message
from
Washington's
Secretary of
State**

In Washington, we enjoy a unique tradition of promoting citizen involvement in our political system. The procedures for running for President and Vice President are grounded in our heritage of encouraging citizens to participate in our political process.

This publication explains the major features of state election law relating to appearing on the 2012 Presidential ballot. Please note that it is not intended to be a substitute for the statutes governing this process; rather, the publication should be read in conjunction with them.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact the Secretary of State's Elections Division. We will be happy to assist you.



SAM REED
Secretary of State

**Additional
assistance**

After you have read this document, if you have questions, please contact us.

Washington State Elections Division
Office of the Secretary of State
PO Box 40229
Olympia, Washington 98504-0229

Phone: (360) 902-4180
Fax: (360) 664-4619
E-mail: elections@sos.wa.gov
Internet: www.vote.wa.gov

Overview

Election

According to Washington State law, two opportunities are usually provided for candidates to appear on a Presidential ballot in Washington State: the Presidential Primary and the State General Election.

The state of Washington implemented the Presidential Primary for major political party candidates in 1989 to afford the maximum opportunity to reflect the will of the people, while reserving the political parties' right to conduct their delegate selection for President and Vice President. The law does not require parties use the results of the Presidential Primary for this purpose.

For the year 2012 only, due to the state budget, the Presidential Primary has been cancelled. The Presidential Primary process will resume in 2016.

Nomination

In 2012, major political parties will caucus for the purpose of selection their delegates as prescribed by party rules.

Candidate names for the President and Vice President of the United States appear on the 2012 General Election ballot by nomination of the political parties. Political organizations, other than major political parties, nominate candidates for the offices of President and Vice President by following a nominating convention process specific to Washington State.

The Secretary of State processes all applications and documents submitted on behalf of candidates for the offices of President and Vice President of the United States.

Reference RCW 29A.56

Definitions

Ballot	<p>A ballot is, as the context implies, either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Issues and offices to be voted upon at a particular primary, general election, or special election.• Facsimile of the contents of a particular ballot produced on paper or as part of a voting machine or voting device.• Physical or electronic record of the choices of an individual voter.• Document on which the voter's choices are to be recorded.
Certificate of nomination	<p>The document declaring the official nominee of a party organization, or as an independent candidate, for the offices of President and Vice President of the United States.</p>
Convention	<p>An organized assemblage, or multiple assemblages, of registered voters supporting a political party or independent candidate for President and Vice President.</p>
Declaration of candidacy	<p>The form required from a candidate officially filing as a write-in for the offices of President and Vice President of the United States.</p>
Filing officer	<p>The filing officer for federal office is the Secretary of State.</p>
General election	<p>Statewide election held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. In 2012, the General Election is scheduled for November 6.</p>
Independent candidate	<p>Any Presidential candidate not affiliated with a political organization.</p>
Major political party	<p>A political party that had at least one nominee for President in the last applicable general election in an even-numbered year (2008) receiving at least 5% of the total votes cast.</p>
Minor political party	<p>Any political organization other than a major political party.</p>
Nominating petition	<p>A document signed by voters supporting a nomination made at a minor party or independent candidate convention.</p>
Primary	<p>A winnowing process reducing the number of candidates for public office, other than President and Vice President of the United States, to a final list of two.</p>
State Voters' Pamphlet	<p>A publication of the Office of the Secretary of State providing information about candidates, ballot measures, and other material related to the General Election.</p>

Qualifying for Washington State's General Election

Presidential candidates do not submit a Declaration of Candidacy form and do not pay a filing fee.

Major political party candidates

In order to appear on the Washington State General Election ballot, major political parties submit the names of nominees selected at the national conventions.

Minor parties and independent candidates

Any candidate for President or Vice President, other than of a major political party, must begin the qualification process by holding a nominating convention.

Conventions

Political organizations, other than major political parties, and independent candidates for President and Vice President of the United State must demonstrate voter support by holding a Washington State nominating convention and submit all required documents.

No convention may nominate more than one candidate for President or Vice President.

When to hold conventions

Conventions may only be held during two periods

- from the first Saturday in May through the second Saturday in May; and
- from the first Saturday in June through the fourth Saturday in July.

Reference RCW 29A.20.121

Requirements

Notice of Convention

To be valid, a nominating convention must publish a notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the convention is to be held.

Publication must be at least ten days before the date of the convention and must include

- the date, hour, and place the convention; and
- the mailing address of the person or organization sponsoring the convention.

Reference RCW 29A.20.131

Voter support

A valid convention must be attended by at least 100 Washington registered voters.

In order to nominate candidates for President and Vice President, a political organization or independent candidate must obtain the signatures of at least 1,000 registered voters of the state of Washington.

Reference RCW 29A.20.141 and 29A.20.151

Multiple sessions and conventions

More than one convention may be held at different times and/or locations. The signatures from each convention may be added together to equal the one thousand (1,000) signatures requirement.

All sessions of the convention must meet statutory requirements.

Reference RCW 29A.20

 **Certificate of Nomination**

Where to file

Certificates of Nomination for President and Vice President must be filed with the Office of the Secretary of State. *Templates and examples of Certificates of Nomination are located in the appendix of this booklet and available online at www.vote.wa.gov.*

Requirements

A certificate of nomination must:

- be in writing;
- identify the political organization or independent candidate on whose behalf the convention was held;
- contain the name of each person nominated, his or her residence, and the office for which he or she is named;
- include a sworn statement from nominees, both President and Vice President, giving their consent to the nomination;
- be verified by the oath of the convention presiding officer and secretary;
- be supported by nominating petitions bearing the signatures and addresses of no fewer than 1,000 registered Washington voters; and
- contain proof of publication of the notice calling the convention.

A nominating petition submitted to the filing officer must:

- clearly identify the name of the independent or party candidate as it appears on the Certificate of Nomination,
- contain a statement that the person signing the petition is a registered voter of the State of Washington,
- have a space for the voter to sign his or her name, and print his or her name and address.

No person may sign more than one nominating petition for the same office.

Reference RCW 29A.20.161

Filing deadline

A completed Certificate of Nomination must be submitted to the Secretary of State's Election Division not later than one calendar week (7 days) following adjournment of the convention.

Reference RCW.29A.20.161

Determination of Sufficiency**Verification of signatures**

Upon receipt of the Certificate of Nomination, the filing officer checks the certificate for completeness and verifies that there are at least one thousand signatures of registered voters of the state on the accompanying nominating petition.

Reference RCW 29A.20.141 and 29A.20.191

The filing officer is required to notify the convention's presiding officer, and any other persons requesting notification of the decision, regarding the sufficiency of the certificate and the nominating petition.

The filing officer's determination of a nominating petition's sufficiency may be appealed in the Superior Court of Thurston County no later than five days after the determination is made.

The Secretary of State will notify County Auditors of the names and designations of all minor party and independent candidates who have filed valid certificates and nominating petitions.

Nominating petitions are not available for public inspection or copying.

Reference RCW 29A.20.191

➔ Presidential Electors

Within ten days of nomination of candidates for President and Vice President by a minor political party or independent candidate convention, a list of Washington presidential electors must be submitted to the Office of the Secretary of State. The list, verified by the presiding officer of the convention, must contain the names and mailing addresses of the persons selected.

Reference RCW 29A.20.181

➔ State Voters' Pamphlet**Sharing your message**

Nominees for the office of President and Vice President are eligible for inclusion in the Washington State Voters' Pamphlet published by the Office of the Secretary of State.

Candidate statements and photographs must be submitted to the Office of the Secretary of State with the Certificate of Nomination. Specific information

regarding fees, space, photographs, and statement specifications may be found on the Secretary of State's website at www.vote.wa.gov.

Candidates may learn more about the official State Voters' Pamphlet by going to www.vote.wa.gov or by contacting the Elections Division of the Office of the Secretary of State.

The Office of the Secretary of State also provides candidate information through electronic media, including the internet. Information regarding electronic voter guides is available to candidates on the Secretary of State's website at www.vote.wa.gov.

Reference RCW 29A.32

Write-in candidates

The names of write-in candidates for President and Vice President will not be printed on the General Election ballot or in the State Voters' Pamphlet.

How to file

Persons desiring to be a write-in candidate for President or Vice President may file a Declaration of Write-in Candidacy with the Secretary of State. No one already appearing as a candidate on the ballot may file a write-in declaration.

The Declaration of Write-in Candidacy form is available from the Office of the Secretary of State and the Secretary of State's website www.vote.wa.gov.

Filing deadline

Declarations of write-in candidacy must be filed with the Secretary of State no later October 19, eighteen days before the 2012 General Election.

Voting for write-in candidates

Declared write-in candidates. Voters wishing to cast a write-in vote for a candidate who filed a Declaration of Write-in Candidacy with the Secretary of State need only write the name of the candidate in the appropriate location on the ballot.

Undeclared write-in candidates. Voters must write-in the candidate's name and political party fully and completely when casting write-in votes for candidates not having filed a Declaration of Write-in Candidacy with Washington's Secretary of State.

Tallying write-in votes

Write-in votes will tally for individual candidates only when the total number of write-in votes cast in a race may change the outcome of the election.

Reference RCW 29A.24.311, 29A.24.320, 29A.60.021

Minor Party or Independent Certificate of Nomination

Forms and Documents

The following forms comprise the official Certificate of Nomination Packet

- Certificate of Nomination
- Verification of Convention
- Consent of Presidential Nominee
- Consent of Vice Presidential Nominee
- Supporting documentation
- Affidavit of Presiding Officers
- List of Electors

All nominations must be supported with at least one thousand (1,000) signatures of Washington State registered voters submitted on signature sheets similar to the example provided:

- Example of Notice of Convention
- Example of Affidavit of Publication
- Sample page of a nominating petition for U.S. President / Vice President

How to file

Submission requirements

The Certificate of Nomination is a signed affidavit containing:

- the name of the minor political party or independent candidate holding the convention(s)
- contact information for the convention organizer, including mailing address
- names and residences of the nominees selected at the convention for President and Vice President
- verification of the validity of nominating conventions under RCW 29A.20.131 and 29A.20.141
- sworn and notarized statements of consent by the nominees
- affidavits of publication of convention(s) notices
- statement that persons petitioning are registered voters of Washington State
- nominating petitions in support of the nominees signed by at least 1,000 persons registered to vote in Washington State

Multiple conventions

Every convention must be supported by a separate Verification of Convention. The printed names, residences, phone numbers, and email addresses of the presiding officer and secretary for each of the conventions should be included.

Petitions

Petitions must accompany the Certificate of Nomination.

The same header must appear on every petition sheet offered as support to a Certificate of Nomination.

Only signatures of valid Washington State registered voters are admissible.

When signing a nominating petition, signers

must list the address where he or she is registered to vote.

Deadlines for certificates of nomination

All certificates and supporting documents must be filed no later than seven days after adjournment of the last convention.

Deadlines for list of electors

By the tenth day after the adjournment of the convention, independent or political party candidates must provide the names and addresses of the twelve electors selected at the convention.

Where to file

Submit the Certificate of Nomination with supporting documents, and the list of electors to:

*Office of the Secretary of State
Elections Division
P.O. Box 40229
Olympia, WA 98504-0229*

Notification of sufficiency

Upon receipt of the Certificate of Nomination, the Secretary of State shall verify that the signatures on the nominating petition meet the requirements of RCW 29A.20.141.

The officer of the political organization or the independent candidates listed on the Certification of Nomination will be notified as to the sufficiency of the signatures. Notice will also be sent to any other interested persons requesting this information.

Certificate of Nomination

We, the undersigned, certify that:

The attached documents are submitted in support of nominations for the offices of President and Vice President of the United States made at a convention for

print name of political party or independent candidate

The following candidates for the offices of President of the United States and Vice President of the United States were nominated at convention(s) conducted in accordance with the Revised Code of Washington, Title 29A Chapter 20 Section 121.

President:

name

residence

city, state

Vice President:

name

residence

city, state

Washington State Certificate of Nomination

Verification of Convention

The attached documents are submitted in support of nominations for the offices of President and Vice President of the United States made at a convention held by

print the name of political party or independent candidate

The nominees were selected by convention held on the following date(s) and in the following location(s).

	Date	Location
1)	_____	_____
2)	_____	_____
3)	_____	_____
4)	_____	_____
5)	_____	_____
6)	_____	_____
7)	_____	_____

Convention organizer's contact information

name

mailing address

phone number

email

Washington State Certificate of Nomination

Nominee Consent - President

Presidential nominee

name

residence

city / state

I consent to my nomination as an independent candidate or as a nominee of

name of minor political party

for the office of President of the United States.

I further consent to having my name placed on the 2012 General Election ballot in the state of Washington in conjunction with the Vice Presidential nominee listed.

nominee's signature

Notary certification

State of

County of

Signed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me on _____ date

by _____ person making statement

Signature of notary _____

Title _____

Seal or stamp

My appointment expires _____

Washington State Certificate of Nomination

Nominee Consent - Vice President

Vice Presidential nominee

name

residence

city / state

I consent to my nomination as an independent candidate or as a nominee of

name of minor political party

for the office of Vice President of the United States.

I further consent to having my name placed on the 2012 General Election ballot in the state of Washington in conjunction with the Presidential nominee listed.

nominee's signature

Notary certification

State of

County of

Signed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me on _____ date

by _____ person making statement

Signature of notary _____

Title _____

My appointment expires _____

Seal or stamp

Washington State Certificate of Nomination

Supporting documentation

We further attest that:

The convention(s) convened for the purpose of selecting nominees for the offices of President and Vice President were within the statutory periods prescribed by the Revised Code of Washington.

Each convention contributing to the collection of nominating petition signatures and determination of the nominees was attended by at least one hundred (100) individuals who are registered to vote in the state of Washington.

The following are attached in support of the Certificate of Nomination:

- Affidavit(s) of publication for notice of convention from the newspaper(s) of record located in the county or counties where the convention(s) were held. The affidavit certifies the date of publication to be no less than ten days prior to the meeting.
- Petitions of nomination, signed by at least one thousand (1,000) registered voters who were present at the convention(s) conducted by the independent candidates or the _____ Party. Petitions include the registered voting addresses of all signers.

All documentation are complete and presented in accordance with the Revised Code of Washington Title 29A Chapter 20 Section 161.

Adjournment of the final convention was _____ AM / PM on _____.

time date

Washington State Certificate of Nomination

Affidavit of Presiding Officers

Certificate of Nomination certified by

Party Chairperson or Presiding Officer

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Party / Convention Secretary

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

STATE OF WASHINGTON)
COUNTY OF) ss

signature of party chair or presiding officer and signature of party chair or presiding officer

Each being first duly sworn, on oath individually deposes and says, each for himself or herself that:
They are respectively the presiding officer and secretary of the convention described above. He or she has read the foregoing portion of this certificate together with all the attachments and believes them all to be true.

Dated: Notary's signature

Notary Public in and for the state of Washington, residing at

SEAL

My commission expires

Washington State Certificate of Nomination

List of Electors

The names and addresses of presidential electors for the state of Washington selected by convention for _____.
name independent candidate or political party.

Name of Elector

Address of Elector

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

List of Electors is due no later than 10 days after the last convention.

Examples of Supporting Nomination Documents

- Example of Notice of Convention
- Example of Affidavit of Publication
- Sample page for nominating petition for U.S. President / Vice President

All nominations must be supported with at least one thousand signatures of Washington State registered voters.

Signatures must be submitted on petition sheets similar to the example provided.

Example - Notice of Convention

The _____ *name of party or independent candidate* _____ Party of Washington State, pursuant to RCW 29A.20.131, hereby calls a convention to be held _____ *day of week, month and date of convention* _____, 2012, at _____ *address and building name* _____ *city and county* _____, Washington, beginning at _____ *meeting time* _____ for the purpose of nominating candidates for the offices of President and Vice President of the United States of America, and to select presidential electors.

Said convention shall continue to such time and date and place as necessary until the convention business is completed.

Convention sponsors: _____ *name of convention organizers* _____
_____ *contact information, including mailing address* _____.

Example - Notice of Publication

The insert name of independent candidate or party of Washington State hereby calls, pursuant to RCW 29A.20.131, a convention to be held day of week, month and year at location including street address and building name, city, and county, Washington, beginning at time of convention for the purpose of nominating candidates for the offices of U.S. President and Vice President and selecting presidential electors. Said convention shall continue to such time, date, and place as necessary until the convention business is completed. Sponsored by sponsor's name or organization, sponsor's mailing address.

Example - Affidavit of Publication

IN THE MATTER NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

Ad Number 256982

JOHN DOE

PUBLIC OFFICE

STATE OF WASHINGTON
COUNTY OF _____

JANE SMITH being duly sworn says that she is the CHIEF CLERK of THE DAILY NEWS. And that THE DAILY NEWS, published in _____ County, has been approved as a Legal newspaper by order of the Superior court of the State of Washington of _____ County, and that the Annexed printed copy is a true copy of the notice in the above entitled matter as it was printed in the regular entire issue of said paper for a period of one insertions commencing June 15, 2005 and ending on June 15, 2005 and that said newspaper was regularly distributed to its subscribers during all of said period, and that said notice was published in said paper and not in a supplement form. That the full amount of the fee charged for said forgoing publication is the sum of \$27.75 at the rate of \$1.110 per line for the first insertion and \$1.010 per line for each subsequent insertion. There is also an additional charge of \$10.00 for every additional affidavit copy over two copies.

JANE SMITH

Jane Smith

Subscribed and sworn to before me this
29th day of June, 2005

JOHN QUINCY PUBLIC

John Q. Public

Notary Public for the State of Washington residing in _____ County

**PUBLIC OFFICE
NOMINATING
CONVENTION**

The Libertarian Party of Washington State hereby calls, pursuant to R.C.W. § 29A.20.110 et seq., a convention to be held Saturday, June 25, 2005, at 3715 Ocean Beach Hwy, Longview, Cowlitz County, Washington, beginning at 9:00 AM, for the purpose of nominating a candidate for the office of State Representative, Pos. 1, 19th Legislative District, the said convention continuing, subject to adjournment to such time, date or place as necessary, until the convention business is completed. Sponsored by: LP-WS, c/o Brett Wilhelm, Vice Chair, PO Box 940, Freeland, WA 98249
Publish: 6/15/05

Nominating Petition for U.S. President / Vice President (RCW 29A.20.151)

I, the undersigned, hereby declare under penalties of law that I am a registered voter of the State of Washington and I personally attended the nominating convention held by _____ party/candidate, convened in the city of _____, in Washington State on the date of _____, 2012.

I request that this declaration be considered part of the nominating petition for _____ as candidate for President of the United States and for _____ as candidate for Vice President of the United States nominated at the above named convention for whom I am legally entitled to vote.

Provide all information as you are registered to vote. Election officials will use this information to verify your registration status. A mistake in your address could cause your declaration to be disqualified.				
Print voter's name	Voter's signature	Residential Address	City	County
1)				
2)				
3)				
4)				
5)				
6)				
7)				
8)				
9)				
10)				

This booklet is designed to inform those interested learning how presidential and vice presidential nominees appear on the ballot in Washington State. The Secretary of Washington State welcomes your comments and edits. Please submit suggestions to: Washington State Elections Division, Certification and Training Program, PO Box 40229, Olympia, WA 98504-0229.

