



SIMPLY WASHINGTON



Secretary of State

Kim Wyman

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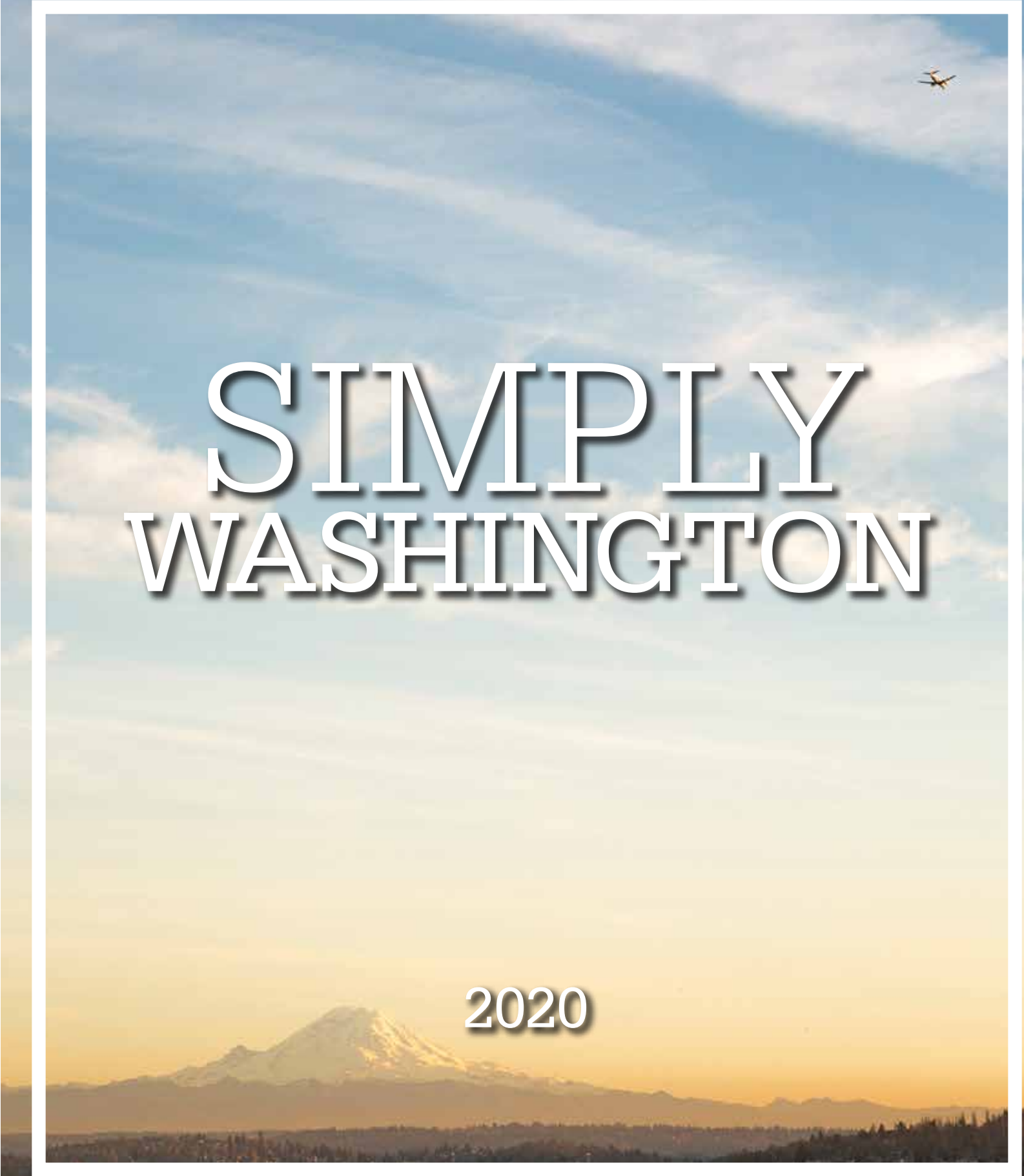
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Front cover, left to right:
Cape Flattery in Neah Bay, EB Adventure Photography
Mt. Rainier National Park, DonLand
Fall colors in Washington state, Suzi Pratt
Washington vineyard in fall, ARSimonds
Wheat fields in Palouse, Bill Perry
Opposite page:
Mt. Rainier, VDB Photos
All images from Shutterstock.com.





Welcome to Washington sign, Joseph Sohm, Shutterstock.com.

Welcome to Simply Washington, your guide to the many wonderful features of Washington state — the beauty, the bounty, and the people who make this such a remarkable place to live.

Explore a timeline of events, the history and heritage of our First Citizens, and how Washington became the 42nd state of the United States of America. Read about some trailblazing Washingtonian women in our state's elected offices and dive into the details of our vibrant system of self-government through initiative and referendum.

Along with some fun state facts, see glimpses of our natural scenic wonders and peruse endless opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Learn about world-famous Washington industries and companies headquartered here; from software and aerospace to fashion and online entrepreneurs. Our tech-savvy residents are quite ingenious and we have leaders in biomedical research and health care, among many other fields. We are also one of the most trade-dependent states in the nation, particularly for agricultural products and transportation equipment.

From sports stars, singers, artists, and celebrities to world-class schools, fragrant flower festivals, and internationally coveted farm products, our state is really amazing.

I hope you will enjoy Simply Washington and find this guide to be as great a resource as I do.



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Mt. Rainier National Park, DonLand, Shutterstock.com.

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TIMELINE

1543	1834	1856	1914	1979	2005
Explorers from Mexico reach the Oregon Coast	Missionaries from New York City arrive in Willamette Valley	First ferry route established across the Columbia River at Chinookville (now Chinook)	First Voters' Pamphlet is distributed in Washington state	Microsoft moves headquarters from Albuquerque, NM, to Bellevue, WA	King County officially renamed to honor Martin Luther King, Jr.
1579	1843	1864	1916	1979	2008
Sir Francis Drake sails along the coast and claims it for England	Start of the Migration of 1843 where 700–1,000 individuals rush to the West along the Oregon Trail	First transcontinental telegraph transmitted from Governor William Pickering in Olympia to President Abraham Lincoln in Washington, D.C.	Boeing is founded by William E. Boeing	Seattle SuperSonics win National Basketball Association Championship title	Seattle Storm purchased by four local women after SuperSonics are sold to a group of Oklahoma investors
1774	1847	1871	1923	1980	2008
First recorded trading happens between Europeans and Native Americans	Beginning of industry in Washington — first sawmill established in Puget Sound	Construction of the Northern Pacific Railroad from Kalama to Puget Sound begins	Brown & Haley creates Almond Roca, named by Tacoma Public Library librarian Jacqueline Noel	A magnitude 5.1 earthquake causes a major landslide and volcanic eruption of Mount St. Helens, killing 57 people	Washington State holds first-ever Top-Two Primary
1778	1850	1873	1941	1985	2009
Captain James Cook explores and charts the coast from Cape Flattery to Alaska	Olympia established by Edmund Sylvester	Northern Pacific Railroad chooses Tacoma as its western terminus	Grand Coulee Dam is completed	Cinnabon is created by Rich and Greg Komen, opening the first store at SeaTac Mall (now The Commons at Federal Way)	Seattle P-I publishes last print edition after 146 years
1790	1851	1883	1949	1989	2010
Nootka Sound Treaty between England and Spain affirms England's claims to the Pacific Northwest	First settlers of the Denny Party arrive at Alki Point, naming it after Chief Sealth (Duwamish) in 1852	Transcontinental Northern Pacific Railroad is completed	Seattle Seafair Pirates founded by members of the Washington State Press Club's Ale & Quail Society	Washington celebrates its centennial	Seattle Storm wins second WNBA title
1792	1852	1889	1952	1996	2013
British Captain George Vancouver's expedition creates the first maps of much of Puget Sound, named after his lieutenant, Peter Puget	The Columbian, Washington's first newspaper, is published	Washington enters the Union as the 42nd state	Helen Malsed submits drawings for Slinky Dog and other toys to James Industries, a company in Pennsylvania	Washington State History Museum opens in Tacoma	President Obama signs a proclamation designating some 1,000 acres of the San Juan Islands as a national monument
1805	1853	1899	1955	2000	2014
Lewis and Clark Expedition covers over 4,000 miles to reach the Pacific Ocean	President Millard Fillmore signed the act establishing Washington Territory	Washington enters the Union as the 42nd state	Dr. Karl William Edmark creates the portable heart defibrillator	The Kingdome in Seattle is demolished in a controlled implosion	Seattle Seahawks win Superbowl XLVIII
1818	1853	1910	1962	2001	2016
Treaty between the U.S. and Britain allows joint occupation and settlement of a region of the Pacific Northwest	President Franklin Pierce appoints Isaac Stevens first governor of Washington Territory, who then proclaims Olympia as the capital	President McKinley signs legislation creating Mount Rainier National Park	The Seattle World's Fair brings nearly 10 million visitors, the Space Needle, and an Alweg Monorail	Magnitude 6.8 Nisqually earthquake hits	Seattle Sounders win first Major League Soccer (MLS) Cup in franchise history
1833	1854	1910	1971	2001	2018
First school is started in what would become Washington	First election in Washington Territory	Sonora Dodd garners support for the first statewide Father's Day celebration, which later becomes a federal holiday in 1972	Starbucks opens first store in Seattle's Pike Place Market	Seattle Mariners tie for most season wins in Major League Baseball (MLB) history	Seattle Storm wins third WNBA title and Seattle Seawolves win inaugural Major League Rugby (MLR) Championship
	1854	1910	1976	2004	2019
	First meeting of the Washington Territorial Legislature is held	Women are granted suffrage (the right to vote in political elections) in Washington	Dixy Lee Ray, first woman governor of Washington, is elected	Seattle Storm wins Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) Championship title	Seattle Seawolves win second MLR Championship and Seattle Sounders win second MLS Cup

HISTORY

Pre-Territorial Years

In June 1579, Sir Francis Drake sailed along the Oregon coast and possibly reached the coast of present-day Washington. He named the sighted land New Albion and claimed it for Queen Elizabeth I of England.

In 1775, a Spanish expedition led by Bruno de Heceta and Bodega y Quadra landed near present day Point Grenville on the Olympic Peninsula, claiming it for Spain. British explorer Captain James Cook sailed up the Washington coast from Hawaii in 1778, spotting and naming Cape Flattery before stopping along the west coast of Vancouver Island. In 1787 and 1788, Captains Charles William Barkley and John Meares explored what would later be named the Strait of Juan de Fuca. In 1790, a sailing expedition led by Spain’s Francisco de Eliza charted the San Juan Islands. He sent navigators Alvarez Manuel Quimper and Gonzalo Lopez de Haro to explore the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

British Captain George Vancouver led an expedition in 1792 that charted waterways and provided familiar names to many landmarks, including Puget Sound, Hood Canal, Admiralty Inlet, Whidbey Island, and Deception Pass.

In 1804, President Thomas Jefferson authorized Captain Merriwether Lewis and his friend Lieutenant William Clark to explore the uncharted West, newly acquired by the Louisiana Purchase in 1803.

They left from St. Louis, Missouri, on May 14, 1804. On October 10, 1805, their “Corps of Discovery” entered land that would become Washington state, reaching the Pacific Ocean on November 15, 1805.

First Peoples

Before European explorers came to the region, Washington was populated by many Native American tribes.

As of the 2012–2016 American Community Survey, the estimated American Indian and Alaska Native population in the state is 94,026, or 1.3%. Washington state currently has 29 federally recognized tribes.

Federally Recognized Washington State Tribes

Chehalis	Nisqually	Snoqualmie
Colville	Nooksack	Spokane
Cowlitz	Port Gamble S’Klallam	Squaxin Island
Hoh	Puyallup	Stillaguamish
Jamestown S’Klallam	Quileute	Suquamish
Kalispel	Quinault	Swinomish
Lower Elwha Klallam	Samish	Tulalip
Lummi	Sauk-Suiattle	Upper Skagit
Makah	Shoalwater Bay	Yakama
Muckleshoot	Skokomish	

Historical Tribes (*Pending Federal Recognition)

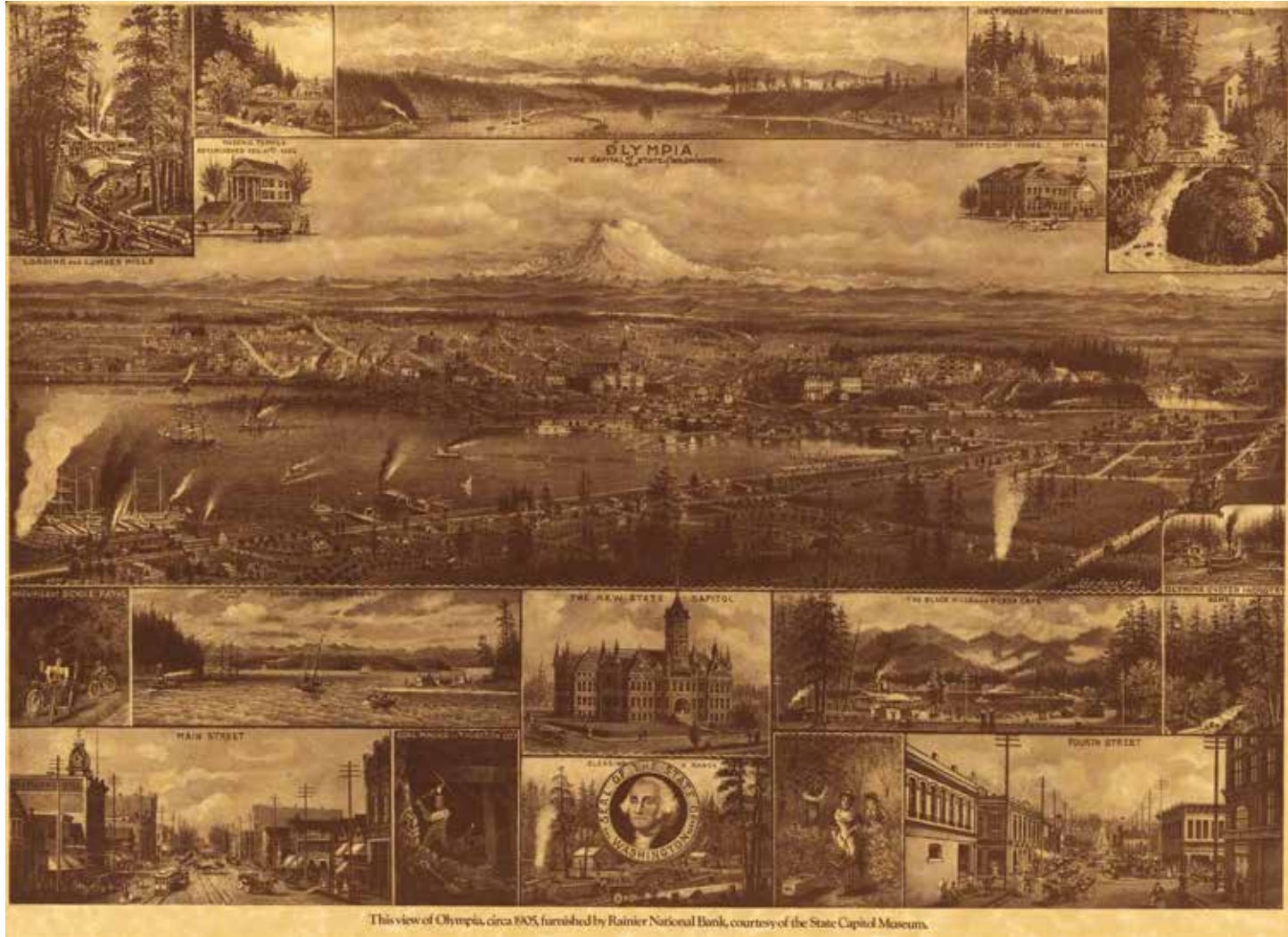
Cathlamet	Kwaiailk	Senijextee
Cathlapotle	Kwalhioqua	Sinkaietk
Cayuse	Marietta Nooksack	Skagit
Chelan	Methow	Skilloot
Chilluckittequaw	Neketemeuk	Snohomish
Chimakum	Nez Perce	Snoqualmoo
*Chinook	Okanagan	*Steilacoom
Clackamas	Ozette	Thompson Salish
Coeur D’Alene	Palouse	Twana
Columbia	Pshwanwapam	Umatilla
Copalis	Queets	Walla Walla
*Duwamish	Sahehwamish	Wanapum
Humptulip	Sanpoil	Wasco
Kikiallus	Satsop	Wenatchee
Klickitat	Semiammoo	Wishram



Native Origins

Chief Seattle, also known as Sealth, was born around 1786. Washington’s largest city, Seattle, is named after him. Chief Seattle was the son of the Suquamish chief Schweabe and Duwamish tribal member Scholitza. Growing up speaking both dialects of Lushootseed, he built a strong alliance between the nations of his parents. As a young adult, his military success and partnerships with numerous groups distinguished him as a leader, and his ideas on environmentalism and ethics continue to influence policymakers today. There are several public artworks depicting Chief Seattle, the most notable being a life-size sculpture from 1912 by James Wehn in Tilikum Place, near the Space Needle in Seattle.

Chief Seattle, Fifth and Denny, 1936. Item 10654, Engineering Department Negatives (Record Series 2613-07), Seattle Municipal Archives. Retrieved from <http://archives.seattle.gov/digital-collections/index.php/Detail/objects/34350>.



Olympia, the capital of the state of Washington, ca. 1900–1910, General Subjects Photograph Collection, 1845–2005, Washington State Archives, Digital Archives, <http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov>.

Territorial Years

Until 1853, what is now Washington state was part of Oregon Territory. That year, Oregon Territory’s delegate to Congress, Joseph Lane, delivered a petition from settlers living north of the Columbia River asking that a new territory be established. Congress agreed to the request. Between the names “Columbia” (rejected to avoid confusion with the District of Columbia) and “Washingtonia,” Congress passed on February 8, 1853, “An Act to establish the

Territorial Government of Washington.” President Millard Fillmore signed the act establishing Washington Territory on March 2, 1853.

On March 17, 1853, President Franklin Pierce appointed Isaac Ingalls Stevens as the first governor of Washington Territory. On November 28, 1853, Stevens issued a proclamation establishing the government of Washington Territory and

designating Olympia as the territorial capital at which the first assembling of the Legislature should meet.

On July 13, 1857, Stevens was elected Washington Territory’s delegate to Congress. Although territorial delegates to Congress could not vote, they could still partake in debates and lobby other members of Congress.

Washington Becomes a State

On November 11, 1889, Washington became the 42nd state of the United States of America. That same day, Elisha Peyre Ferry took office as the state’s first governor. Ferry had previously served as governor of Washington Territory from 1872 to 1880. The state’s first lieutenant governor was Charles Laughton.



Elisha Peyre Ferry, 1870–1880, Portraits of Territorial Governors, 1853–1889, Washington State Archives, Digital Archives, <http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov>.



Inauguration of Governor Ferry, 1889, Rogers, A.D., Inauguration of Governor Ferry Photographs, 1889, Washington State Archives, Digital Archives, <http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov>.

GOVERNMENT



Joint session of the Washington State Legislature, January 11, 2017.

Our Leaders

Washington state government is based on a system of checks and balances created by having three branches of government.

The **Legislative branch** passes laws and state budgets. It is composed of the State Senate and House of Representatives. Senators are elected every four years; state representatives are elected every two.

State Senate

- 49 members, one for each legislative district
- Elected to four-year terms, with one-half of districts elected every two years
- The lieutenant governor acts as presiding officer
- Proposes legislation, including bills, budgets, and constitutional amendments

House of Representatives

- 98 members, two per legislative district
- Elected to two-year terms, with entire assembly elected in even-numbered years
- The speaker of the house acts as presiding officer
- Proposes legislation, including bills, budgets, and constitutional amendments

In the **Judicial branch**, the judges on the District, Superior, Appeals, and Supreme Court levels hear appeals and resolve disputes by interpreting the law. The Supreme Court is the highest court in the State of Washington and acts as the head of the Judicial branch.

Supreme Court

Nine justices are each elected statewide to six-year terms, usually in a class of three justices every two years. All judges in Washington are elected, with the governor sometimes making the initial appointment until the following General Election.

Superior Court

Washington has 31 judicial districts, each with one or more judges, handling both civil and criminal cases.

Court of Appeals

Washington has three Appeals Court divisions, headquartered in Seattle, Tacoma, and Spokane, that review lower court decisions.

District and Municipal Courts

All Washington counties have district courts with jurisdiction over a number of civil and criminal cases. Many areas also have municipal courts.

Finally, the **Executive branch** is in charge of carrying out the duties of the laws. This branch is headed by the governor and eight other statewide elected officials.

Governor

Jay Inslee

- Elected to a four-year term
- Proposes and signs or vetoes the budget and other legislation, carries out administration of state government; appoints key officials, college trustees, and cabinet directors; fills judicial vacancies; promotes international trade and tourism; and serves on a number of boards and commissions

Lieutenant Governor

Cyrus Habib

- Separately elected from governor to a four-year term, and need not be from the same political party
- Presides over the state Senate, serves on state boards, serves as acting governor when the governor is out of state, and takes over as governor if he or she resigns or dies in office

Secretary of State

Kim Wyman

- Elected to a four-year term
- Heads the state Elections Division, State Archives, State Library, Corporations and Charities Division, and other programs and services; and is second in line of succession to the governor

State Treasurer

Duane Davidson

- Elected to a four-year term
- Acts as the state's banker, helping manage state debt and selling state bonds to finance a variety of state infrastructure; also serves on the state Finance Committee and advises the governor and the Legislature on fiscal matters

Attorney General

Bob Ferguson

- Elected to a four-year term
- Represents state agencies and the voters in legal matters, operates the state's Consumer Protection Division, advocates for state government and access to public records, and acts as a law-enforcement leader

State Auditor

Pat McCarthy

- Elected to a four-year term
- Conducts financial and performance audits on state and local governments and programs, and is an advocate for government transparency and accountability

Superintendent of Public Instruction

Chris Reykdal

- Elected to a four-year term
- Oversees the education agency and supports the work of 295 school districts and nine educational service districts, serving over 1 million students

Commissioner of Public Lands

Hilary Franz

- Elected to a four-year term
- Heads the Department of Natural Resources, which manages 5.6 million acres of forest, range, agricultural, aquatic, and commercial lands; provides recreational opportunities; and helps develop policy

Insurance Commissioner

Mike Kreidler

- Elected to a four-year term
- Heads an agency that oversees the regulation of a variety of insurance companies, advises the governor and Legislature on health care reform and other insurance issues, and acts as a consumer advocate

LADIES LEAD

Since its earliest days Washington has been a state of opportunity for women in government, business, sports, education, the arts, community, family life, and just about every other endeavor.

After male voters in Washington approved women’s suffrage (the right to vote in political elections) in 1910, a full decade ahead of the country, women began a rise to power in the Legislature and statewide office.

When Seattle elected Bertha Landes as mayor in 1926, she became the first female mayor of a major American city. The city’s next female mayor would be Jenny Durkan, elected in 2017. Two women have served as governor, Dixy Lee Ray from 1977 to 1981, and Christine Gregoire from 2005 to 2013. There have been other statewide elected officials, starting with Superintendent of Public Instruction Josephine Corliss Preston in 1913 and Secretary of State Belle Reeves in 1940, to Secretary of State Kim Wyman, State Auditor Pat McCarthy, and Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz today. Both of the state’s U.S. Senators are women, Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell; and our U.S. House delegation includes five women, Suzan DelBene, Jaime Herrera Beutler, Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Pramila Jayapal, and Kim Schrier.

The state Legislature's percentage of women legislators is regularly one of the highest in the nation, including many in powerful leadership posts. In addition, the State Supreme Court currently has a female majority.



Governor Ray at the State Library, 1978, State Library Photograph Collection, 1851–1990, Washington State Archives, Digital Archives, <http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov>.



Governor Gregoire tours Boeing facility, 2012, Washington State Patrol, Digital Photographs of Governor Gregoire's Administration, 2005–2012, Washington State Archives, Digital Archives, <http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov>.



Female Washington Supreme Court Justices in what Chief Justice Mary Fairhurst (center) calls the "Joy pose" with (left to right) Sheryl McCloud, Susan Owens, Barbara Madsen, Debra Stephens, and Mary Yu, 2019. Fairhurst retired from the court in January 2020. Photo courtesy of Laura Mott.

VOTING

Who

To vote in Washington, you must be a U.S. citizen, be at least 18 years old by Election Day, have lived in the state at least 30 days before Election Day, and have a Washington state driver license or ID card, or Social Security number. Convicted felons under the supervision of the Department of Corrections cannot vote in Washington. There is no registration by political party in Washington.

How

Register to Vote

You may register to vote at any time, but there are registration deadlines prior to each election. If you register either by mail or online, submissions must be received at least eight days before an election. In 2008, Washington became only the second state in the nation (Arizona was the first) to allow online voter registration. Prospective voters can visit **www.VoteWA.gov** to register online. You may update information or register and vote in person at your county elections office until 8 p.m. on Election Day. In addition, 16- and 17-year-olds may sign up to be a Future Voter, which will automatically register them when they turn 18.

Vote by Mail or Drop Box

Counties in Washington began moving to vote by mail in 1996 and by 2011, the entire state had transitioned. Washington is also the first state to provide everyone with pre-paid postage ballot-return envelopes. Washington’s statewide vote-by-mail system is a more convenient and secure alternative to poll sites. Every registered voter is mailed a ballot at their address on record 18 days before each election. Completed ballots must be postmarked by Election Day or submitted to an official ballot drop box by 8 p.m. on Election Day.



Above, top to bottom: Elections buttons and voter at an official ballot drop box.

PEOPLE SPEAK

Washington has a long, proud tradition of allowing its citizens to play an active role in state government through the use of initiatives and referendums. In 1912, Washington became one of the first states to adopt the initiative and referendum process. These ballot measures give citizens the right to make and remake their laws, and to provide a check over measures approved by the state Legislature.



Initiative 207 petitions, 1960, Merle Junk, General Subjects Photograph Collection, 1845–2005, Washington State Archives, Digital Archives, <http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov>.

Initiatives

There are two types of initiatives used in Washington: initiatives to the people and initiatives to the Legislature. If an initiative to the people is certified to have enough signatures, it is placed on the ballot for the next statewide General Election. If an initiative to the Legislature is certified, it is submitted to the Legislature at its next regular session in January. The Legislature can then do one of three things:

- 1) It can adopt the initiative as proposed, which means it becomes law without a vote of the people; or
- 2) It can reject or refuse to act on the proposed initiative, in which case the initiative must be placed on the ballot at the next statewide General Election; or
- 3) It can approve an alternative to the proposed initiative, in which case both the original proposal and the Legislature's alternative must be placed on the ballot at the next statewide General Election.

Referendums

Our state uses two kinds of referendum petitions:

- 1) Referendum measures are laws recently passed by the Legislature that are placed on the ballot because of petitions signed by voters; and
- 2) Referendum bills are proposed laws referred to the voters by the Legislature. Through 2018, there were 79 referendum measures and 52 referendum bills.

BILLS & LAWS

Passing a Bill

The Legislature meets for 60 days in even-numbered years and 105 days in odd-numbered years. In that time, they can propose, analyze, edit, debate, and agree on hundreds of laws and bills. In the 2019 session, the Washington Legislature had 449 bills signed into law. The governor vetoed two bills and partially vetoed 19 bills.

1) Introduce

A bill is introduced in the Senate or the House of Representatives by a legislator who sponsors it. Only a legislator can propose a bill.

2) Listen

Next, a House or Senate committee studies the bill and often holds public hearings on it.

3) Check

A committee report is read in open session of the House or Senate, and the bill is then referred to the Rules Committee. The Rules Committee decides which bills will be sent to the floor for further consideration and which bills won't.

4) Edit

At the second reading, a bill is subject to debate and amendment before being placed on the third reading calendar for final passage.

5) Repeat

The bill now goes through the same process in the other chamber. If edits are made in one chamber, the other chamber must agree.



Gov. Jay Inslee signs Senate Bill 5683 on March 22, 2018 to increase access to health care for Pacific Islanders residing in Washington under a compact of free association. The bill's primary sponsor was Sen. Rebecca Saldaña. Photo courtesy of WA Legislative Support Services.

6) Sign

When a bill is accepted in both houses, it is signed by the respective leaders and sent to the governor.

The governor signs the bill into law or may veto all or part of it. If the governor fails to act on the bill, it becomes law without a signature.

STATE SEAL

When Washington became a state in 1889, an official seal was needed, so a committee was appointed and a design was brought before the Talcott brothers, local jewelers in Olympia. The design was very intricate with wheat fields, grazing sheep, the Port of Tacoma, and Mount Rainier.

Charles Talcott looked at the design and said it was too complicated and would quickly become outdated as the state grew. He picked up an inkwell and drew a circle around it. Next, he placed a silver dollar in the circle and drew an inner circle. He then printed the words, "The Seal of the State of Washington, 1889," between the two circles. Finally, he took a 2-cent stamp featuring a profile of our first president, George Washington, licked it, and placed it in the center. The design was unanimously adopted on August 21, 1889. For the final version, the Talcott brothers used George Washington's picture from a packing box of "Dr. D. Jayne's Cure for Cough & Colds." Over the years, more than two dozen variations of the Talcott design were used.

In 1967, Seattle graphic designer Richard Nelms was commissioned to create a new insignia. He selected a Gilbert Stuart portrait of George Washington, which the Legislature made the official state seal.

By law, the secretary of state is the custodian of the state seal, which is attached to official documents and certificates issued by the state. Now more than 100 years old, the original state seal press is still used to impress seals on official documents.

Use of the state seal on commemorative and souvenir items requires authorization from the secretary of state. The state seal is never to be used in any form of endorsement or political campaign, and violations of use are considered misdemeanors.



STATE FLAG

When Washington became a state in 1889, it did not have an official flag of its own. At the turn of the century, many cities and towns flew a military flag bearing a gold profile of George Washington on blue bunting in honor of our first president.

Washington adopted an official design for its state flag in 1923, more than 30 years after the state was admitted to the union.

According to state law, “The official flag of the state of Washington shall be of dark green silk or bunting and shall bear in its center a reproduction of the seal of the state of Washington embroidered, printed, painted or stamped thereon. The edges of the flag may, or may not, be fringed. If a fringe is used the same shall be of gold or yellow color of the same shade as the seal. The dimensions of the flag may vary.”

To purchase official flags, visit **www.sos.wa.gov/store**.

Displaying the Flag

When the Washington state flag is displayed within the state, it should occupy the position of honor (to the flag’s own right, or the observer’s left) after the United States flag and the flag of any other nation, and before the flags of other states, Washington counties and cities, municipalities, and public or private organizations.

When the U.S. flag and Washington state flag are flown from a single flagstaff, the U.S. flag is displayed on top, with the Washington state flag immediately below it. The Washington state flag should be approximately the same size as, but never larger than, the U.S. flag.

If displayed on different flagpoles, all flags should be at the same height.

The Washington state flag should be dipped (lowered or tilted slightly) as a mark of honor to the U.S. flag, or to the national anthem if the U.S. flag is not being displayed. When the Washington state flag is dipped, care must be taken that it does not touch the ground or floor.



Flag Regulations

All manufacturers of the state flag must be approved by the Office of the Secretary of State. Official identical seals need to be centered on both sides of the flag, and proportioned at a ratio of 1:3 for the diameter of the seal to the length of the flag. There are also set colors for both print and textile that must be adhered to.

For storage, the flag should not be folded in the same manner as the U.S. flag, but in a normal square pattern so it may fit in a box.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Washington state flag is the only state flag with a green field, and it’s the only state flag that displays an image of an actual person. Washington is also the only state to be named after a United States president.

STATE SYMBOLS



Fish

Steelhead trout

Adopted as the state fish in 1969, steelhead trout is one of the most popular fish for recreational fishing. They can live up to 11 years and grow to nearly 55 pounds. Like salmon, steelhead trout are an anadromous fish, which means they return to freshwater rivers to spawn.



Oyster

Olympia oyster

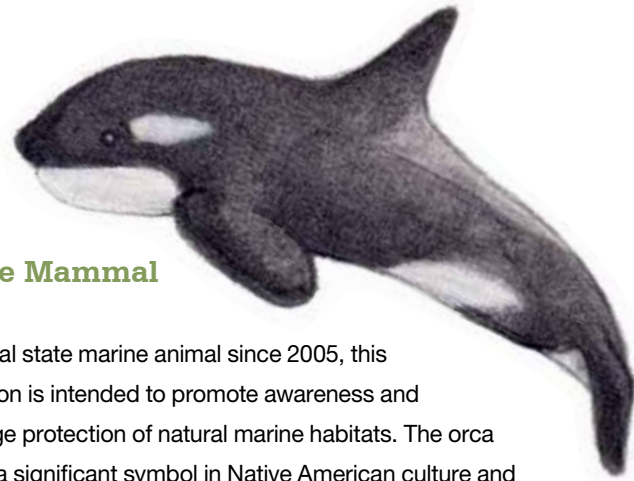
Consumed by humans for thousands of years and named state oyster in 2014, the Olympia oyster is the only oyster native to Washington. Wild populations are threatened by pollution and overharvesting, so conservation laws are in place to help protect their numbers.



Bird

Willow goldfinch

Designated the official state bird in 1951, these are active and acrobatic little birds. Also known as the American goldfinch, it is also the state bird of Iowa and New Jersey.



Marine Mammal

Orca

The official state marine animal since 2005, this recognition is intended to promote awareness and encourage protection of natural marine habitats. The orca whale is a significant symbol in Native American culture and pods of orcas migrate annually through Puget Sound.



Insect

Green darner dragonfly

Named state insect in 1997 after statewide support from countless children, this dragonfly species can be found throughout Washington and is beneficial to the ecosystem because it consumes pest insects.



Endemic mammal

Olympic marmot

In 2009, the Olympic marmot was designated as the state endemic (native) mammal. Inhabiting the Olympic Peninsula in western Washington, they are highly social and spend their time feeding and sunbathing during summer months.



Amphibian

Pacific chorus frog

Named state amphibian in 2007, this frog is also known as the Pacific tree frog, and is found in every county of the state. They produce their sound by puffing up their throat sacs to three times the size of their heads and are beneficial by eating insects such as mosquitoes.



Grass

Bluebunch wheatgrass

Unique to Eastern Washington, Bluebunch wheatgrass was designated as the official state grass in 1989. The grass plays a major role in the state's cattle and livestock industries.



Flower

Coast rhododendron

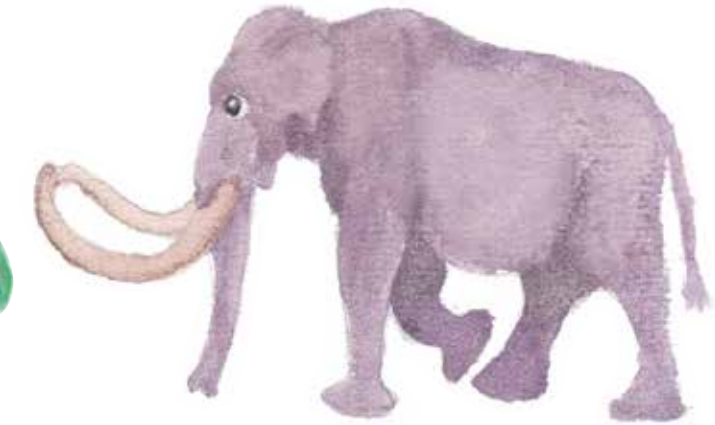
In 1892, before women could vote in political elections, Washington women throughout the state selected the rhododendron as the state flower to enter in a floral exhibit at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago.



Tree

Western hemlock

Designated the official state tree in 1947, the western hemlock is the largest species of hemlock, averaging 150–210 feet tall, with a trunk diameter of up to nine feet. Western hemlocks can grow to be over 1,200 years old.



Fossil

Columbian mammoth

Named the state fossil in 1998, these extinct prehistoric woolly elephants roamed the North American continent during the last ice age. They became extinct over 10,000 years ago but fossilized remains have been found on the Olympic Peninsula.



Vegetable

Walla Walla sweet onion

Over a century ago, a retired French soldier found a sweet onion seed on the island of Corsica and brought it to the Walla Walla Valley. In 2007, the Walla Walla sweet onion was designated as the official vegetable of the state.



Fruit

Apple

Designated the state fruit in 1989, many varieties of apple are grown in Washington and represent the top agricultural product we export worldwide.

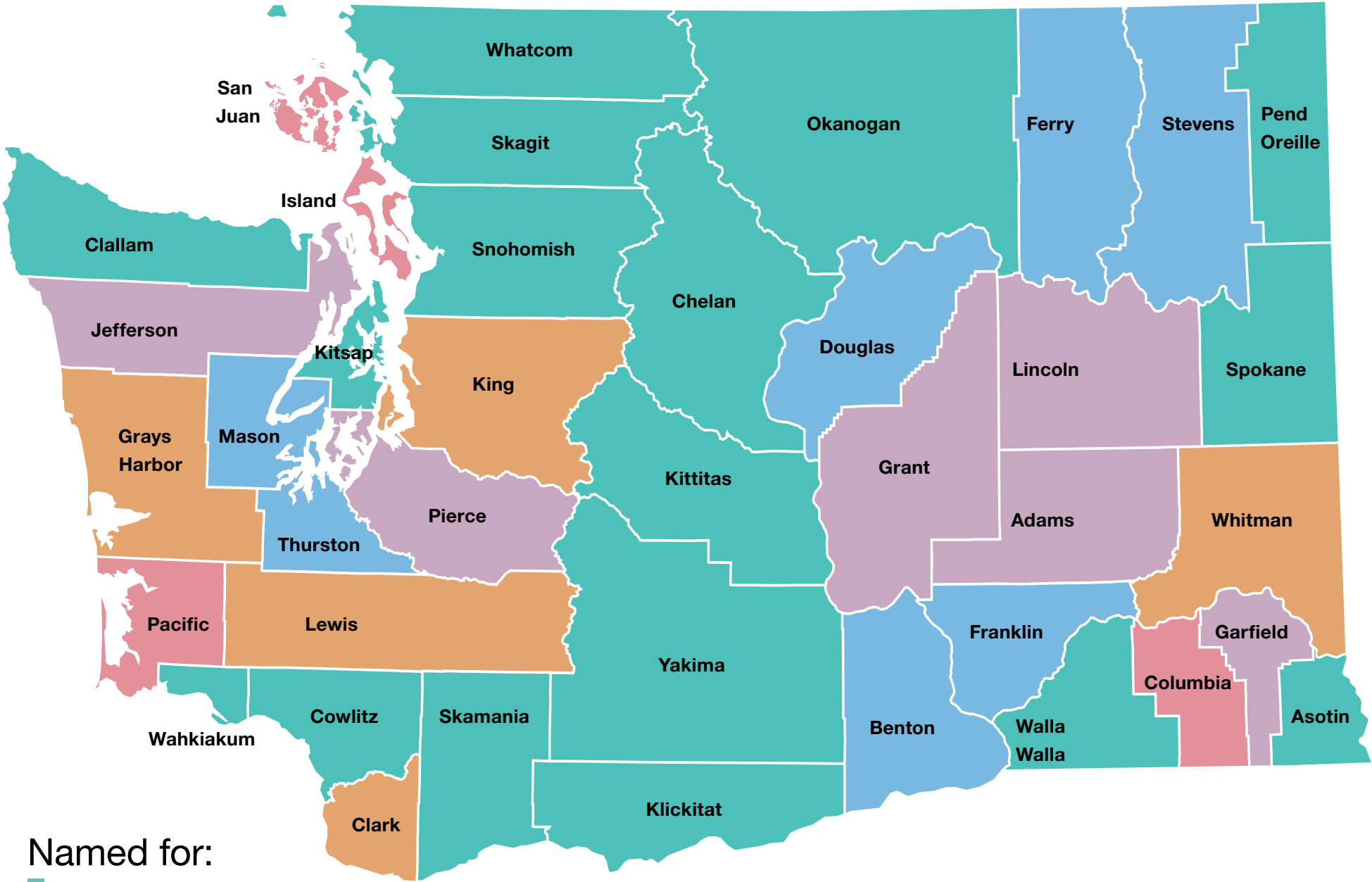


Gem

Petrified wood

Adopted as the state gem in 1975, petrified wood is best seen in the Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park in Vantage. Other sites in Washington with petrified wood include Umtanum Petrified Forest and the Saddle Mountain Petrified Forest.

COUNTY NAMES

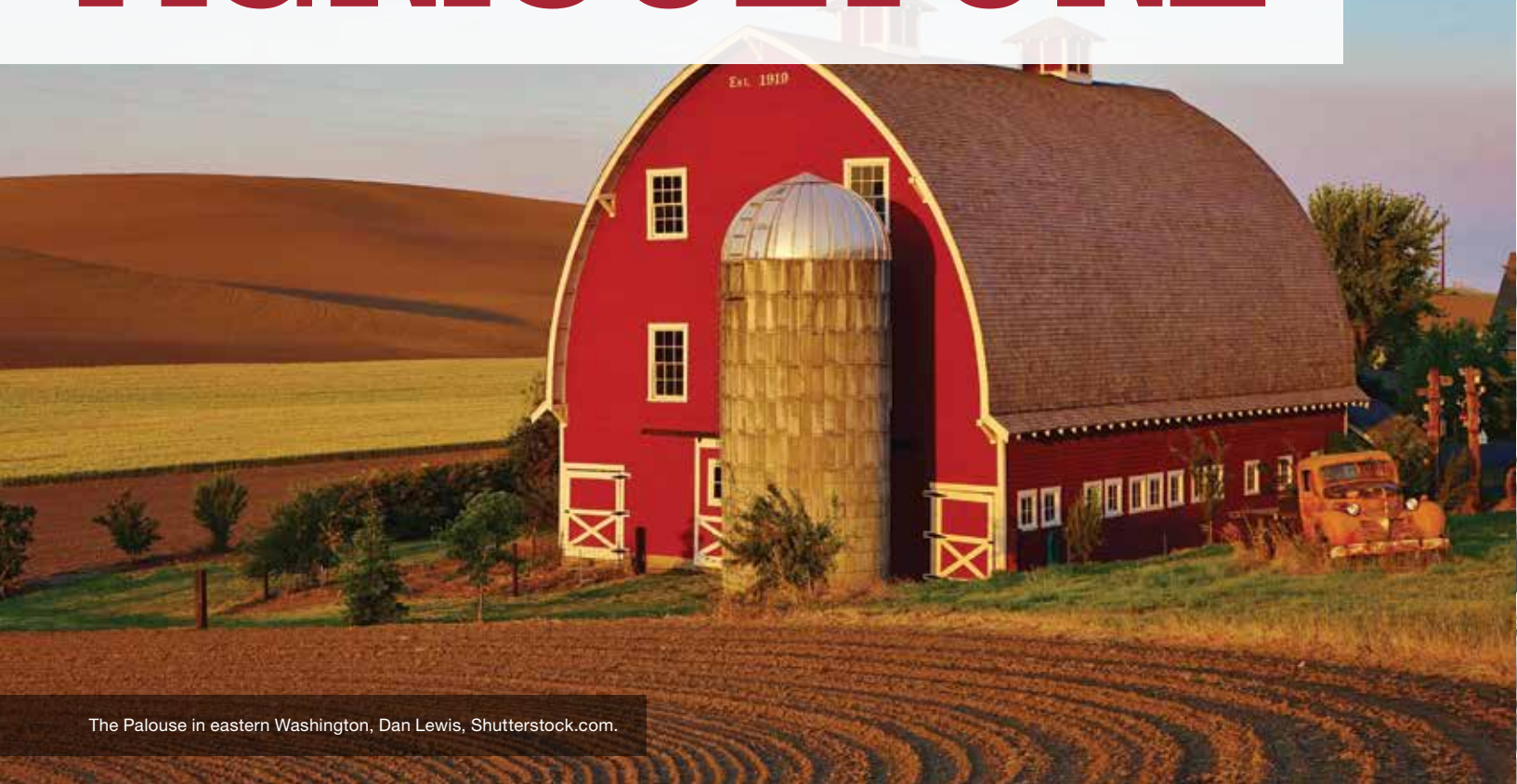


Named for:

- Native groups or words
- U.S. Presidents
- Political figures
- Explorers and other historical figures
- Natural landmarks

Adams	John Adams, second U.S. president
Asotin	The Nez Perce tribal name for Eel Creek
Benton	Thomas H. Benton, a U.S. Senator from Missouri
Chelan	A Native American word meaning “deep water”
Clallam	A Klallam Native American word meaning “the strong people”
Clark	William Clark, co-captain of the Lewis and Clark Expedition
Columbia	The Columbia River
Cowlitz	Two Native American groups; by some accounts means “spiritual seeker”
Douglas	Stephen Arnold Douglas, the statesman and rival of Abraham Lincoln
Ferry	Elisha P. Ferry, the first governor of Washington state
Franklin	Benjamin Franklin; the founding father, statesman, and scientist
Garfield	James A. Garfield, 20th U.S. president
Grant	Ulysses S. Grant, 18th U.S. president
Grays Harbor	Robert Gray, explorer and merchant sea captain
Island	Named for its two islands, Whidbey and Camano
Jefferson	Thomas Jefferson, third U.S. president
King	William King, first U.S. vice president; renamed after Martin Luther King Jr. in 2005
Kitsap	Chief Kitsap, leader of the Suquamish tribe
Kittitas	A Native American word possibly meaning “shoal people” or “land of plenty”
Klickitat	Klickitat Native American tribe
Lewis	Meriwether Lewis, co-captain of the Lewis and Clark Expedition
Lincoln	Abraham Lincoln, 16th U.S. president
Mason	Charles H. Mason, first Washington Territory Secretary of State
Okanogan	A Salish Native American word meaning “rendezvous”
Pacific	Pacific Ocean
Pend Oreille	Pend d’Oreille Native American tribe
Pierce	Franklin Pierce, 14th U.S. president
San Juan	San Juan Islands
Skagit	Skagit Native American tribe
Skamania	A Chinookan word meaning “swift water”
Snohomish	Snohomish Native American tribe
Spokane	Spokane Native American tribe
Stevens	Isaac I. Stevens, first Washington Territory Governor
Thurston	Samuel Thurston, Oregon Territory’s first delegate to the U.S. Congress
Wahkiakum	Chief Wahkiakum of the Chinook Native American tribe
Walla Walla	Walla Walla Native American tribe and possibly means “many waters”
Whatcom	Nooksack Native American word meaning “noisy water”
Whitman	Marcus Whitman, methodist missionary
Yakima	Yakama Native American tribe

AGRICULTURE



The Palouse in eastern Washington, Dan Lewis, Shutterstock.com.

The Bread Basket

Washington's Palouse region in the southeast corner is one of the largest wheat-producing areas in the nation with over 2.2 million acres dedicated to the crop. Our farmers grow five classes of wheat: Soft White, Hard White, Hard Red Winter, Hard Red Spring, and Durum.

The major class grown in Washington is Soft White, which is used for pastries, cakes, cookies, cereals, and crackers. Hard Red Spring is excellent for use in the bread-making industry, and Washington farmers are growing more of this type every year.

Winter wheat is planted in the fall and harvested the following summer. Spring wheat is planted in the spring and harvested in midsummer to early fall.

About 60% of Washington's wheat travels by barge along the 360-mile Snake-Columbia River system to Portland where it is off-loaded into storage elevators before being inspected and loaded onto ocean freighters for export to nations around the world. The Philippines, Japan, and South Korea were Washington's top three markets in 2017-2018.

All About Apples

In 1830, Clark County harvested its first apple crop — one apple. Planted near Fort Vancouver in 1826, the Old Apple Tree is considered the oldest in the Northwest and the matriarch of Washington state's apple industry. The city of Vancouver celebrates the Old Apple Tree Festival each year on the first Saturday in October to commemorate this historic tree.

Apples are the largest single agricultural product grown in Washington. In fact, over half of all apples grown in the United States for fresh eating come from orchards in Washington. The top varieties of apples grown in Washington (by percent of total crop) are Red Delicious (34%), Gala (19%), Fuji (13%), Granny Smith (12%), Golden Delicious (10%), Braeburn (3%), Cripps Pink (3%), Honeycrisp (3%), and other varieties (3%).

More than 12 billion apples are handpicked in Washington each year. Side-by-side, they would circle the Earth 29 times. The harvest of Washington apples begins in August and continues until early November, producing over 100 million boxes annually. Washington apples are sold in all 50 states and in more than 60 countries. A third of Washington's apple crop is exported yearly, with major markets in Asia, Canada, and Mexico.

Washington's apple industry has been working to reduce pesticide use and increase organic acreage in recent years. All of the top eight state apple varieties are available as organic.

DID YOU KNOW?

About 2,500 known varieties of apples are grown in the United States; more than 7,500 worldwide.

Joseph A. Richartz's orchard, Yakima, 1930, State Library Photograph Collection, 1851–1990, Washington State Archives, Digital Archives, <http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov>.





Wine Country

In 1825, the first grape vines in the state were planted at Fort Vancouver by the Hudson's Bay Company. By 1910, immigrant growers from France, Germany, and Italy had brought wine grapes to many areas of the state, and today Washington is the second largest wine producer in America. Home to more than 970 wineries with over 350 growers, there are 14 American Viticultural Areas (AVAs) or wine grape-growing regions recognized by the government. The state produces nearly 70 varieties of wine grapes, about 41% whites and 59% reds.

The Columbia Valley is Washington's largest AVA at a full third of the state's land mass. It encompasses several smaller AVAs and contains 99% of the wine grapes grown in Washington state. Over 58,000 acres are in use statewide, with an annual production of approximately 17.5 million cases. In 2018 alone, 261,000 tons of grapes were harvested.

Washington producers focus on the premium wine market (wines sold for at least \$8), and our fine wines are found in all 50 states and exported around the world.



Grape picking, 1920–1930, State Library Photograph Collection, 1851–1990, Washington State Archives, Digital Archives, <http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov>.

Dairy

The first substantial herd of cattle arrived in the future Washington at Fort Vancouver in the 1820s. In the 1880s dairy farmers brought the first purebred dairy cattle herds into the region. In 1892, the Washington State Dairy Federation was formed, the first dairy trade association in the nation.

Today, the experienced and innovative dairy farmers of Washington utilize the gifts of our temperate climate and abundant natural resources, sustaining a legacy of responsible animal husbandry, comprehensive environmental protections, and a commitment to serving the communities their industry helped to build.

With approximately 400 dairy farms and 280,000 cows, Washington ranks 10th in total milk production among the 50 states. Dairy products constitute the second-largest agricultural commodity produced in Washington, their total value to the state's economy easily exceeding \$1 billion annually.

DID YOU KNOW?

It takes 21.2 pounds of whole milk to make one pound of butter and 12 pounds for one gallon of ice cream.

Carl Funseth Painting of Broadview Dairy, Spokane City Historic Preservation Office Photographic Collection, Office of the Secretary of State, Washington State Archives, Digital Archives, <http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov>.



Opposite page: Queen of Rhododendron Festival, (2nd Annual) at far left, her name is Maria McIlroy, 1937, State Library Photograph Collection, 1851–1990, Washington State Archives, Digital Archives, <http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov>.

DID YOU KNOW?

Archibald Menzies discovered the Coast Rhododendron in 1792 when he and George Vancouver landed near present day Port Discovery.

Flower Festival Facts

Washington’s flower festivals boast beautiful blooms that span across the state. These festivals run during the spring and summer after much of the state’s renowned rainy season. Our abundance of rain provides Washington with stunning flowers and greenery year-round. Washington comes alive with color, from yellow daffodils to lavender to all varieties of the state flower, the coast rhododendron.

Since 1936, the Rhododendron Festival, locally known as “Rhody Fest,” has been the only festival featuring Washington’s state flower. Rhody Fest is held annually in Port Townsend for a week in mid-May.

The Daffodil Festival has been in existence since 1933. Floats are decorated with thousands of fresh-cut daffodils and paraded through the cities of Tacoma, Puyallup, Sumner, and Orting in the Grand Floral Parade each April.

The annual Washington State Apple Blossom Festival is held in Wenatchee, the self-proclaimed “Apple Capital of the World.” More than 100,000 visitors come to the oldest major festival in Washington, which runs from the last weekend in April to the first weekend in May.

The Sequim Lavender Festival is the largest lavender event in North America. Farm tours and a street fair celebrate the abundance of lavender from the Sequim-Dungeness Valley. The annual Sequim Lavender Festival runs in mid-July.

The Skagit Valley Tulip Festival based in Mount Vernon entices visitors to numerous towns throughout the area with acres of beautiful daffodils, tulips, irises, and lilies. The flower-viewing season begins with dainty yellow daffodils in mid-to-late-March and a rainbow of tulips take the stage in April. Irises and lilies follow, providing color well into the month of May.

The Spokane Lilac Festival has been a “Lilac City” tradition since 1938. It was an effort originated by the Associated Garden Clubs and the Spokane Floral Society to promote the area’s beautiful spring lilacs.

Although open year-round, the Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens in Woodland hosts Lilac Days for three weeks leading up to and concluding on Mother’s Day. During this period, visitors are able to visit the historic Victorian era farmhouse, built in 1889, and purchase specialty lilacs. The state and national historic site features many rare and unusual trees and shrubs along with unique hybridized lilacs.



Skagit Valley Tulip Festival, Marina Poushkina, Shutterstock.com.

ENERGY

We’ve Got the Power

As of 2019, our state has 1,233 dams. They range in purpose from flood control and water quality to irrigation and hydroelectricity production, such as the Grand Coulee Dam.

Washington is the top U.S. producer of electricity from hydroelectric sources. The state has 82 hydroelectric dams; 11 of which are on the Columbia River, the state’s longest river. Washington’s largest dam and the United States’ largest concrete structure is the Grand Coulee Dam, about 90 miles west of Spokane. At 550 feet high, it is taller than the Great Pyramid of Giza, and its hydraulic height of 380 feet is more than double the height of Niagara Falls. It is almost a mile long at 5,223 feet. Grand Coulee Dam’s reservoir, Lake Roosevelt, covers 125 square miles, making it the sixth largest reservoir in the country. Grand Coulee Dam features an evening laser light show that runs from Memorial Day Weekend in May through September 30.

The other Washington dams on the Columbia are Chief Joseph, Wells, Rocky Reach, Rock Island, Wanapum, Priest Rapids, McNary, John Day, The Dalles, and Bonneville.

The Snake River in Washington has four dams: Lower Granite, Little Goose, Lower Monumental, and Ice Harbor.

At 606 feet high, Mossyrock Dam, on the Cowlitz River, is the 7th highest dam in the country.



Pictured above, around 1947, Joe Hodgkin and his 2,600 sheep crossed the top of the Grand Coulee Dam to reach their summer grazing pastures in the forests of Northeastern Washington.

Galloway, E. Sheep crossing the Grand Coulee Dam [photograph]. Washington State Historical Society Digital Collection, 2006.0.269. Retrieved from <http://www.washingtonhistory.org/collections/item.aspx?irn=78626&record=93>.



Wild Horse Wind and Solar Facility, photo courtesy Puget Sound Energy.

Keeping Green

Washington is unofficially nicknamed “The Evergreen State” for its dense forests that stay emerald colored all year-round, but it’s also establishing itself as another sort of green. With some of the nation’s cleanest water, Washington is hard at work promoting energy efficiency and good air quality as we set out to grow a greener economy.

Washington produces more electricity than it consumes, and exports its surplus power to Canada and 13 other western states. Puget Sound Energy (PSE) has three wind farms in Washington state: the Wild Horse Wind and Solar Facility in Kittitas County, the Hopkins Ridge Wind Facility in Columbia County, and the Lower Snake River Wind Facility in Garfield County. Combined, they make PSE the third-largest utility owner of wind power in the U.S.

Through new and ongoing statewide policies, government initiatives, and alternative energy sources, the state is dedicated to finding sustainable solutions for generations to come.

DID YOU KNOW?

Washington is among the top twenty states in terms of cumulative wind capacity. At the end of 2018, Washington had 3,076 megawatts (MW) of wind power generation capacity. This is enough electricity to power around 2.4 million homes at once.

BUSINESS

Capital of Innovation

Washington's reputation as an innovative state is due in part to its intense entrepreneurial spirit, vibrant research community, and wide range of emerging industries. At 10.6% of the workforce, Washington ranks third in the nation in technology-based employment. Governor Jay Inslee often cites Washington's spirit of innovation that's changing the world, from aerospace to software to e-commerce.

With thousands of patents filed each year in the state, it's not surprising that some of the world's best ideas have come out of Washington. While our state is one of the leaders in software development and information technology with more than 14,000 information and communication technology companies, it is also a solid contributor for biomedical solutions, breakthrough surgical technology, and telecommunications.

Washington Giants

Washington companies have changed the world with cutting-edge technologies, breakthrough aerospace developments, and lifestyle branding; not only defining the state's identity, but setting global industry standards. Among Fortune Magazine's top 25 most-admired companies in the world, five have roots in Washington.

Amazon

Seattle-based Amazon.com launched in 1994 with the idea of selling books on the Internet, but it was more than just a bookstore on the Web. Amazon.com has expanded its merchandise and has become an e-commerce giant, maintaining more than 175 fulfillment centers and warehouses and employing over 750,000 people worldwide.

Boeing

In 1916 Seattle, American timber merchant William E. Boeing and Naval Aeronautical Engineer George Conrad Westervelt developed a single-engine, two-seat seaplane, the B&W. Today, the Boeing Company is among the world's largest manufacturers of commercial jetliners and military aircraft. Now headquartered in Chicago, Boeing employs more than 150,000 people — with around 69,000 based in Washington.

Costco

Based in Issaquah, Costco is the second-largest retailer in the country. Costco opened its first retail warehouse club in 1983 in Seattle to serve small business owners as well as non-business members. As of 2019, there are more than 750 warehouses worldwide employing around 254,000 people. About 98 million people carry Costco membership cards and spend over \$150 billion per year.

Microsoft

In 1975, a time before most people knew how to use a computer, Bill Gates and Paul Allen started what would become the largest software company in the world. Today, Redmond-based Microsoft employs almost 54,000 people in the Puget Sound area, with its worldwide workforce around 151,000 and a 2019 revenue of over \$120 billion.

Nordstrom

One of the world's best-known fashion retailers started as a simple shoe shop in downtown Seattle in 1901 by John W. Nordstrom, who was looking to invest his new gold mining earnings. Nordstrom, Inc. now employs over 74,000 people, has more than 370 store locations including 115 full-line stores and 250 Nordstrom Rack locations, and boasts annual revenue of more than \$15 billion.

REI

Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI) was started in 1938 by Lloyd and Mary Anderson as a cooperative of 23 mountain climbing adventurers, with a lifetime membership of \$1. Today, headquartered in Kent until a 2020 move to Bellevue, REI has more than 13,000 employees in over 162 stores nationwide and has placed in Fortune Magazine's list of the "100 Best Companies to Work For" every year since the rankings began in 1998.

Starbucks

Lattes weren't always the morning staple of Americans. Starbucks began in 1971 as a hole-in-the-wall coffee and tea store located in Seattle's Pike Place Market. As of 2019, Starbucks has more than 30,000 stores in 80 countries and employs around 300,000 people worldwide, bringing in over \$24 billion in annual revenue.

Weyerhaeuser

In 1900 Tacoma, Frederick Weyerhaeuser and 15 partners purchased 900,000 acres of timberland from the Northern Pacific Railway. Over a century of growing and harvesting timber, manufacturing and selling forest products, and real estate construction and development, Weyerhaeuser continues to grow. In 2019, the company employed around 9,300 people and annual revenue topped \$7.5 billion.

Opposite page: Aerial view of Amazon's growing Seattle campus, including The Spheres conservatories. Courtesy of Amazon.

TRADE

With a prime location along the Pacific Rim, Washington is a key economic export center for the U.S. to Asia. As one of the nation's top exporters to China, international trade fuels Washington's economy and contributes to the success of local businesses, along with providing significant employment opportunities throughout the state.

Top 10 Washington Export Partners by Value of Exports, in Millions (2018)

1	China	16,001
2	Canada	9,065
3	Japan	6,089
4	South Korea	4,582
5	United Kingdom	4,045
6	Taiwan	2,298
7	Mexico	2,140
8	United Arab Emirates	2,081
9	India	1,839
10	Ireland	1,820

Top 10 Washington Agricultural Commodities by Value of Production, in Millions (2017)

1	Apples	2,430
2	Milk	1,187
3	Potatoes	888
4	Cattle	704
5	Wheat	680
6	Hay	510
7	Hops	489
8	Cherries	479
9	Grapes	318
10	Pears	246

Top 10 Washington Non-Agricultural Commodities by Value of Exports, in Millions (2018)

1	Civilian aircraft & parts	41,796
2	Petroleum oils	1,229
3	Ultrasonic scanning equipment	871
4	Light oils	557
5	Untreated wood	531
6	Scrap iron and steel	464
7	Telephone equipment	392
8	Liquid propane	300
9	Petroleum coke	297
10	Nonelectrical graphite or stone	280

Top 10 Washington Imported Products by Value, in Millions (2018)

1	Crude petroleum oils	5,011
2	Mid-sized automobiles	3,639
3	Video game consoles	2,487
4	Natural gas	2,112
5	Modems and similar devices	1,457
6	Solid-state storage devices	1,063
7	Tricycles, scooters, and similar devices	973
8	Petroleum oils	969
9	Miscellaneous aircraft parts	900
10	Broadcast transmission equipment	464

Top 10 Facts

- 1 Value of Washington exports topped \$77.7 billion in 2018.
- 2 Washington ranks fourth in total exports behind Texas, California, and New York.
- 3 Washington exports have grown at an average annual rate of 3.6% since 2007.
- 4 While Washington represents only 2% of the nation's population, its ports handle 7% of all U.S. exports and 6% of all imports.
- 5 Washington's two largest ports, Seattle and Tacoma, handled \$75.2 billion in two-way trade in 2016.
- 6 There are 75 port districts across 33 counties in Washington, directly employing more than 71,000 workers with an average annual compensation of \$76,000.
- 7 In 2018, Washington exported \$10,310 per capita, the national average was \$7,640.
- 8 Nearly 21% of jobs in Washington is trade-supported, an increase of 107% from 1992 to 2017.
- 9 Products shipped through Washington state reach more than 200 countries worldwide.
- 10 In 2016, over 12,000 companies exported from Washington locations, of which 90% were small- and medium-sized enterprises with fewer than 500 employees.

PEOPLE

The 2010 census shows the population of Washington state at 6,724,540. In 2018, Washington’s population was estimated to be 7,535,591, split evenly between males and females. The average Washingtonian is about 37 years old, and the average personal income in 2018 was \$60,781. Those who work spend about 27 minutes commuting to or from their place of work. About 35% of Washingtonians over 25 years old have a college degree.

Income

\$15

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2014, the City of Seattle adopted a minimum wage ordinance to increase wages to \$15 an hour by 2021, one of the highest rates in the country.

In 1860, the average day laborer in Washington state earned \$2.92 a day while the U.S. average was \$1.11 a day.

Gender Breakdown

50%

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1860, almost 73% of Washington’s population was male.

Today, the statewide gender balance is evenly split between males and females.

Top 10 Populated Cities in Washington (2019)

Seattle 747,300	Spokane 222,000	Tacoma 211,400	Vancouver 185,300	Bellevue 145,300
Kent 129,800	Everett 111,800	Renton 104,700	Federal Way 97,840	Spokane Valley 96,720

Bean pickers getting on their bus, ca. 1947, General Subjects Photograph Collection, 1845–2005, Washington State Archives, Digital Archives, <http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov>.

1860 census

- White 96%
- Indian (tax paying*) 3.7%
- Free Colored 0.3%

*Those who renounced tribal rule and were under state/territory laws. Those living on reservations or roaming on unsettled tracts of country were not counted.

1940 census

- White 97.8%
- Asian (Chinese or Japanese) 0.98%
- Indian 0.66%
- Negro 0.43%
- Other (e.g., Filipino, Hindu, Korean) 0.13%

2018 estimate

- White 78.9%
- Asian 9.3%
- Two or More Races 4.8%
- Black or African American 4.3%
- American Indian or Alaska Native 1.9%
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander 0.8%

All census racial classifications are named as they were during that particular census.

33

HIGHER ED

Washington is a pretty brainy place. We have six public universities, 34 community and technical colleges, and dozens of private schools, many of which appear on national top-ranked lists and tout internationally-renowned faculty.

The state's metropolis, Seattle, has one of the highest rates of college education among U.S. cities, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Over 61% of people in Seattle's 25-and-over population have earned at least a bachelor's degree. The percentage of graduates throughout Washington is also higher than the national rate.

Four-Year Public Universities

University of Washington, Seattle. Est. 1861

Washington State University, Pullman. Est. 1890

Central Washington University, Ellensburg. Est. 1891

Eastern Washington University, Cheney. Est. 1892

Western Washington University, Bellingham. Est. 1893

The Evergreen State College, Olympia. Est. 1967

Top Private Universities

Whitman College, Walla Walla. Est. 1882

Gonzaga University, Spokane. Est. 1887

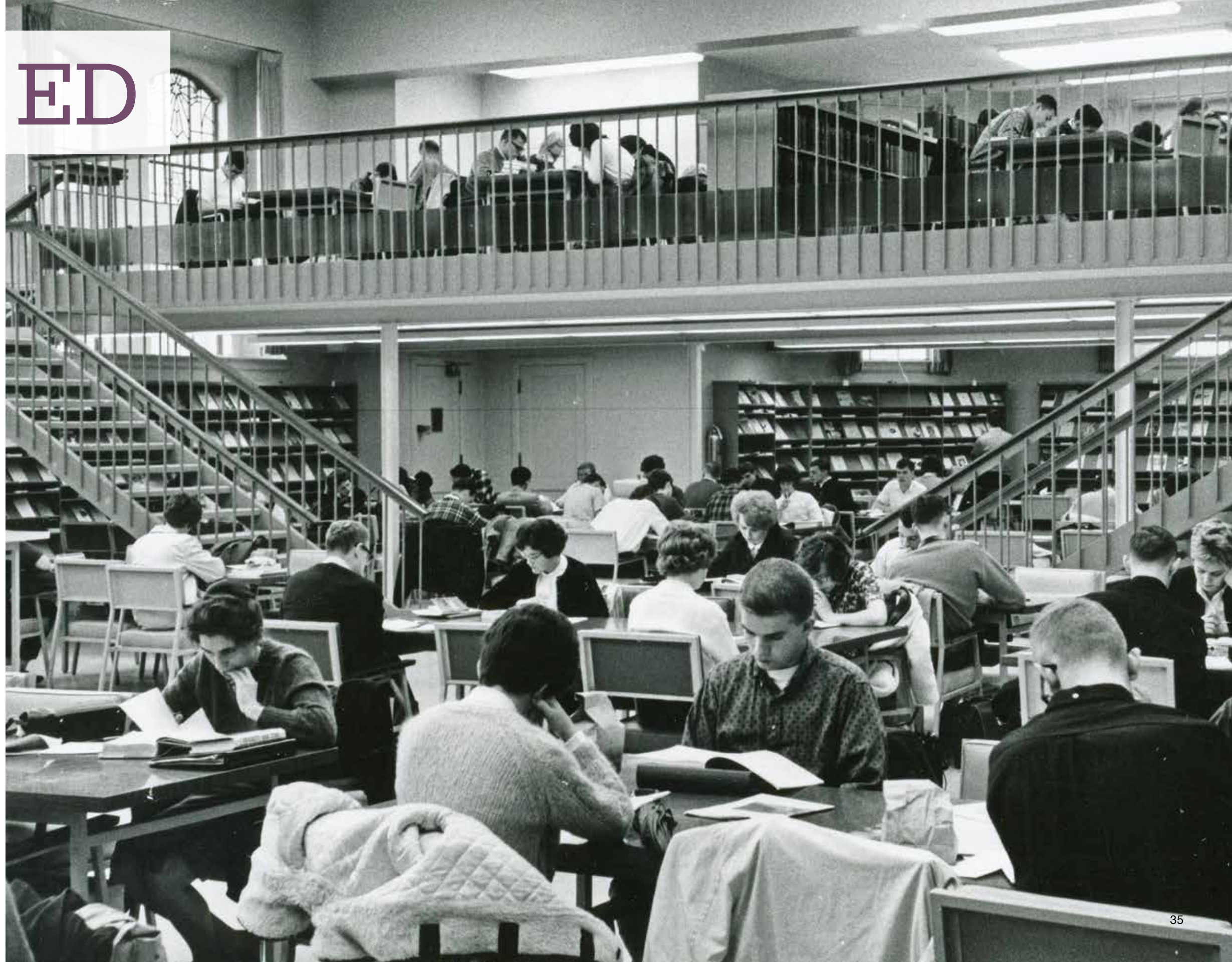
University of Puget Sound, Tacoma. Est. 1888

Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma. Est. 1890

Whitworth University, Spokane. Est. 1890

Seattle Pacific University, Seattle. Est. 1891

Interior of library, University of Washington, 1950–1980, James O. Sneddon, State Library Photograph Collection, 1851–1990, Washington State Archives, Digital Archives, <http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov>.



ART & CULTURE



The arts have always been an integral part of Washington state's culture and history, with the arts community growing more vibrant and diverse every day. This is due in part to the government's commitment to creating an environment where the arts contribute to the social, educational, and economic growth of the state. Established in 1961, the Washington State Arts Commission advances the role of the arts, as well as manages the State Art Collection.

Performing Arts

Washington has numerous performing venues, many of which are located in Seattle. Symphony goers can head to Benaroya Hall, which occupies an entire block in the heart of downtown Seattle, or go to McCaw Hall to experience the acclaimed Pacific Northwest Ballet and Seattle Opera. Jazz lovers can walk down Jackson Street, where the careers of jazz legends Ray Charles, Quincy Jones, and Ernestine Anderson were established.

For Broadway and theater lovers, the historical Paramount, 5th Avenue, and Seattle Repertory Theatres present everything from timeless musicals to newly-developed works by up-and-coming artists.

Pacific Northwest Ballet principal dancer Lindsai Dec and company dancers in George Balanchine's *Jewels*. Photo © Angela Sterling.



Museums

From botanical gardens, zoos, and cultural centers to art galleries, historical societies, and science museums, Washington has over 400 such institutions all across the state.

When it comes to visual arts, the presence of nationally- and internationally-renowned artists such as Dale Chihuly, Chuck Close, Mark Tobey, Morris Graves, Kenneth Callahan, Paul Horiuchi, Camille Patha, Cappy Thompson, and George Tsutakawa firmly cement Seattle's place in the spotlight. The Frye and Henry families put on public display the collections that would become the core of the Frye Art Museum and Henry Art Gallery. The Seattle Art Museum and Olympic Sculpture Park feature pieces by world-famous artists, and Seattle visitors can also experience the Museum of Pop Culture (MoPOP) for interactive exhibitions that exemplify the ideas and risk-taking that fuel the popular culture of our time.

The City of Tacoma features the Tacoma Museum District with six museums in its downtown core. From art, glass, and history to cars, boats, and hands-on play, there is something for everyone at the Tacoma Art Museum, Museum of Glass, Washington State History Museum, LeMay–America's Car Museum, Foss Waterway Seaport, and Children's Museum of Tacoma. The Chihuly Bridge of Glass, a 500-foot long walkway, connects the history museum with the glass museum.

Above: Downtown Tacoma.

Music

Washington state has produced a number of musical artists and entertainers who have left an indelible mark on the world. Music pioneer and guitarist Jimi Hendrix — considered one of the most innovative musicians of his time — let the world know Washington had talent. Bands like Pearl Jam, Nirvana, Foo Fighters, Alice in Chains, Queensrÿche, and Soundgarden have kept the Washington music scene on the map.

Notable musicians and groups include Kurt Cobain, Chris Cornell, Macklemore, Sir Mix-a-Lot, Quincy Jones, Mary Lambert, Merrilee Rush, The Ventures, fiddler Mark O'Connor, saxophonist Kenny G, along with singers Mildred Bailey, Patrice Munsel, Kenny Loggins, and Bing Crosby.

MOVIES & TV

CELEBRITIES

Set or filmed in Washington

Movies

- 10 Things I Hate About You

50/50

Agent Cody Banks

A Guy Thing

Always

An Officer and a Gentleman

Battle in Seattle

Bennie & Joon

Captain Fantastic

Dante’s Peak

Enough

Free Willy

Georgia

Harry and the Hendersons

I Love You to Death

Into The Wild

It Happened at the World’s Fair

Life or Something Like It
- McQ

Men Of Honor

Practical Magic

Red Dawn (2012)

Say Anything

Singles

Sleepless in Seattle

Snow Falling on Cedars

Stakeout

The Fabulous Baker Boys

The Hand that Rocks the Cradle

The Postman

The Ring

Three Fugitives

This Boy’s Life

Twilight Saga

Vision Quest

WarGames

Television Shows

- Almost Live!

Dark Angel

Dead Like Me

Dirk Gently’s Holistic Detective Agency

Grey’s Anatomy

The Bachelorette (2003)

Northern Exposure

Frasier

iCarly

iZombie

Kyle XY

Once Upon a Time (2017)

Station 19

The 4400

The Killing

Twin Peaks

Here Come The Brides

Z Nation

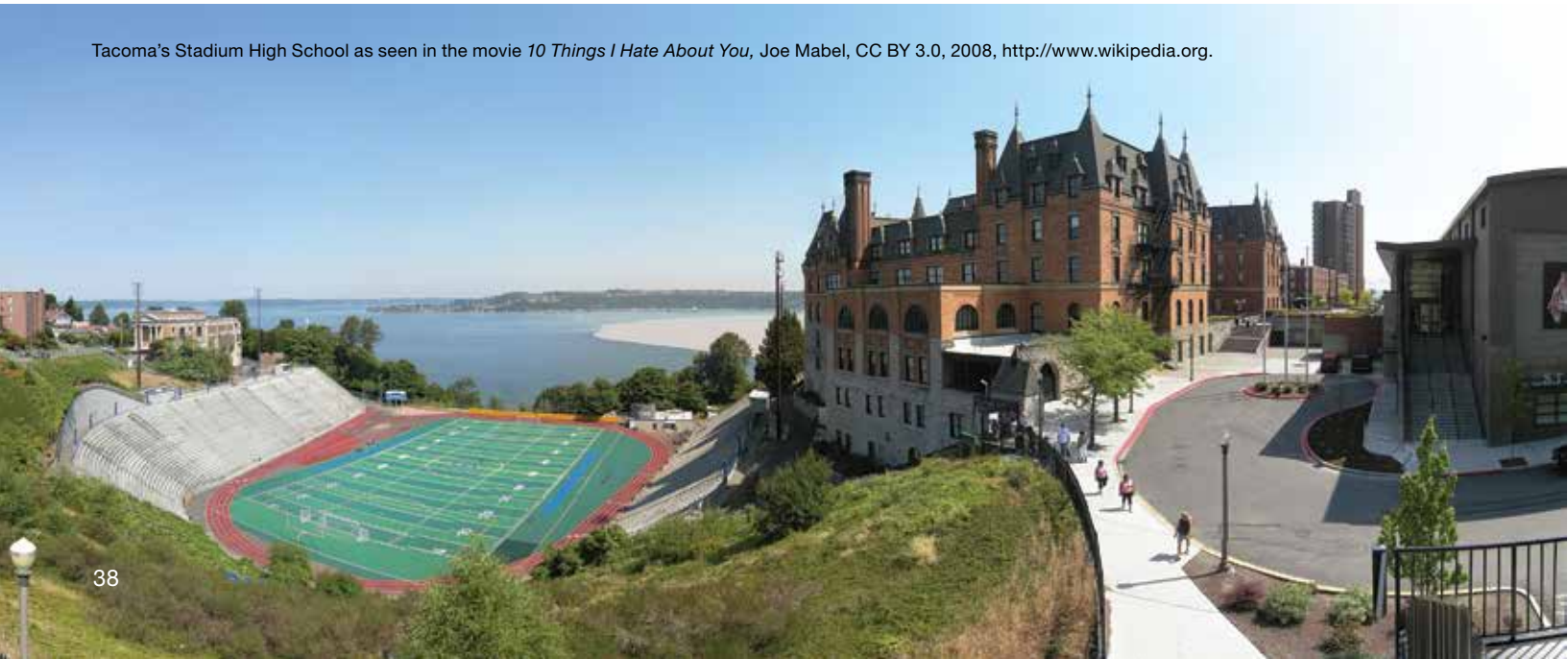


Actors

Plenty of actors and entertainers have ties to the Evergreen State, including game show host Bob Barker, Academy Award-winning actress Hilary Swank, and Golden Globe winner Kyle MacLachlan. There also are fellow actors and actresses Josie Bissett, Karan Brar, Billy Burke, Dove Cameron, Dyan Cannon, Jim Caviezel, Carol Channing, Erika Christensen, Bing Crosby, Garret Dillahunt, Anna Faris, Frances Farmer, Nathan Gamble, Cam Gigandet, Megan Hilty, Peter Horton, Richard Karn, Bruce Lee, Darren McGavin, Jeffrey Dean Morgan, Craig T. Nelson, Chris Pratt, Megyn Price, Pamela Reed, Ann Reinking, Ryan Stiles, Julia Sweeney, Misty Upham, Blair Underwood, Maiara Walsh, Adam West, Rainn Wilson, Michael Winslow, and Constance Zimmer.

Pictured left: Rainn Wilson was born in Seattle, attended the University of Washington, and played Dwight Schrute in the U.S. television series The Office (2005–13), a role for which he won two Screen Actors Guild awards for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Comedy Series. Rainn Wilson in a still from The Office, photo courtesy IMDB.

Tacoma’s Stadium High School as seen in the movie *10 Things I Hate About You*, Joe Mabel, CC BY 3.0, 2008, <http://www.wikipedia.org>.



Writers

The list of renowned novelists, writers, and cartoonists include Sherman Alexie (Flight), Matt Groening (The Simpsons), David Guterson (Snow Falling on Cedars), Kristin Hannah (The Nightingale), Frank Herbert (Dune), Gary Larson (The Far Side), Debbie Macomber (Cottage by the Sea), Ijeoma Oluo (So You Want to Talk About Race), Chuck Palahniuk (Fight Club), Annie Proulx (Brokeback Mountain), Tom Robbins (Even Cowgirls Get the Blues), Phoebe Wahl (Sonya’s Chickens), Jess Walter (Beautiful Ruins), and Lindy West (Shrill: Notes from a Loud Woman).

DID YOU KNOW?

Matt Groening, creator of the television series *The Simpsons*, is a Pacific Northwest native. He started his career at The Evergreen State College in Olympia where he served as editor and cartoonist for the campus newspaper.

The Simpsons image (CC BY-NC 4.0), logo is public domain.



SPORTS

DID YOU KNOW?

When the Seattle Seahawks won Super Bowl XLVIII (48) in 2014, the victory parade drew a record-breaking crowd of 700,000 people. According to Seattle Public Schools, more than 25% of their students were absent that day.

Our state has been home to many of the world’s best athletes. From football, baseball, and soccer to skiing, mountain climbing, and various forms of racing.

Major professional team championships include:

- 1916–17 Seattle Metropolitans (Pacific Coast Hockey Association/National Hockey Association)
- 1978–79 Seattle SuperSonics (National Basketball Association)
- 2004, 2010, & 2018 Seattle Storm (Women’s National Basketball Association)
- 2014 Seattle Seahawks (National Football League)
- 2016 and 2019 Seattle Sounders (Major League Soccer)
- 2018 and 2019 Seattle Seawolves (Major League Rugby)



Athletes with Washington connections



Football: Drew Bledsoe, Bryan Braman, Mark Bruener, Nate Burleson, Chris Chandler, Erik

Coleman, David DeCastro, Corey Dillon, Dan Doornink, Turk Edwards, John Elway, Steve Emtman, Justin Ena, Rick Fenney, Russ Francis, Garrett Grayson, James Hasty, Jason Hanson, Mel Hein, Ray Horton, Jermaine Kearse, Senio Kelemete, Shiloh Keo, Jon Kitna, Michael Koenen, Max Komar, Jake Locker, Travis Long, Dane Looker, Ray Mansfield, Steve Pelluer, Cory Procter, Ahmad Rashad, Laurent Robinson, Alex Smith, Isaiah Stanback, Jonathan Stewart, brothers Marcus, Isaiah, and Desmond Trufant, Brian Urlacher, and Bryan Walters



Baseball: Earl Averill, Tony Barnette, Jeremy Bonderman, Michael Brantley, Travis Buck,

Ron Cey, Hank Conger, Jeff Conine, Colin Curtis, Ryan Doumit, Jason Hammel, Mark Hendrickson, Fred Hutchinson, Travis Ishikawa, Keone Kela, Mick Kelleher, Ed Kirkpatrick, Jake Lamb, Jon Lester, Rommie Lewis, Brent Lillibridge, Tim Lincecum, Trevor May, Randy Myers, Billy North, Eric O’Flaherty, John Olerud, Tyler Olson, Lyle Overbay, Ryne Sandberg, Ron Santo, Grady Sizemore, Travis Snider, Steve Souza, Robert Stock, Mel Stottlemire, Earl Torgeson, Sammy White, and Sean White



Basketball: Angie Bjorklund, Avery Bradley, Jon Brockman, Jamal Crawford, James

Edwards, Spencer Hawes, DeJounte Murray, Blair Rasmussen, Luke Ridnour, Nate Robinson, Brandon Roy, Brian Scalabrine, Detlef Schrempf, Tre Simmons, Doug Sisk, John Stockton, Rodney Stuckey, Jason Terry, Isaiah Thomas, Courtney Vandersloot, Martell Webster, Marcus Williams, Marvin Williams, and Terrence Williams

Opposite page: CenturyLink Field Sounders layout, Jeff Wilcox, CC BY 2.0, 2011, <http://www.wikipedia.org>.



Hockey: Tyler Johnson and T.J. Oshie



Volleyball: Courtney Thompson



Soccer: Jeff Durgan, Kasey Keller, Hope Solo, and DeAndre Yedlin



Skiing: Debbie Armstrong, Will Brandenburg, Holly Brooks, Gretchen Fraser, Libby Ludlow, Scott Macartney, Rosalyn Sumners, and twins Phil and Steve Mahre



Speed skating: K.C. Boutiette, J.R. Celski, and Apollo Anton Ohno



Swimming: Nathan Adrian, Rick and Lynn Colella, Megan Jendrick, Dana and Tara Kirk, Ariana Kukors, and Jill Penner



Racing: Greg Biffle, Kevin Hamlin, Chip Hanauer, Kasey Kahne, Chad Little, and Tom Sneva



Bowling: Earl Anthony



Golf: JoAnne Carner, Fred Couples, Joel Dahman, Andres Gonzales, Ken Still, and brothers Michael and Andrew Putnam



Boxing: Al Hostak, Ray Seales, Freddie Steele, Pete Rademacher, and Leo Randolph



Cycling: Logan Owen



Mountain climbing: Fay Fuller and twins Jim and Lou Whittaker

PARKS & REC

Washington has over 150 scenic state and national parks. They're where Washingtonians go to appreciate nature's stunning beauty, hike, camp, and partake in other recreational activities. Pictured below, Tacoma-born Gretchen Kunigk Fraser was the first American to win an Olympic gold medal in skiing in 1948.



Spring skiing at Mount Rainier, Miss Gretchen Kunigk of Tacoma gracefully navigates between the poles in the slalom race, 1930–1950, A.N. Nickols, State Library Photograph Collection, 1851–1990, Washington State Archives, Digital Archives, <http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov>.



Olympic National Park

Located in the heart of the Olympic Peninsula between the Pacific Ocean and Hood Canal, this national park is famous for the Hoh Rain Forest on its west side and its hot springs to the north. The park encompasses nearly a million acres and also features several spectacular peaks, topped by 7,980-foot Mt. Olympus, and over 70 miles of wild coastline.



Cape Disappointment State Park

Located on the Long Beach Peninsula where the Pacific Ocean meets the Columbia River, this 2,023-acre park features two lighthouses, year-round campgrounds, hiking trails, a boat ramp, and ocean tidelands.

Image credits on page 51.



Mount Rainier National Park

With its 14,410-foot mountain as the main attraction, this park in the central Cascades draws people from around the world. The 35 square miles of permanent snow fields and 25 glaciers make Mount Rainier the most heavily glaciated peak in the lower 48 states. The park has old-growth forests and meadows full of wildflowers during the summer.



Sun Lakes-Dry Falls State Park

Carved by Ice Age floods, the former waterfall in Central Washington was once four times the size of Niagara Falls. Today, the 400-foot-high, 3.5-mile-wide cliff overlooks deep gorges and reflective lakes.



North Cascades National Park Service Complex

From the Canadian border south to Lake Chelan, this 684,000-acre complex includes jagged peaks, waterfalls, deep valleys, and over 300 glaciers; more than any other U.S. park outside Alaska. The complex has three parks: North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Areas.



Palouse Falls State Park

This 94-acre park in the Palouse region of Eastern Washington features the state waterfall. Carved more than 13,000 years ago, the falls on the Palouse River drop 200 feet before flowing down into the Snake River.



ACTIVITIES

From hiking to bicycling, skiing to fishing, and horseback riding to whale watching, Washington has year-round attractions for anyone who loves the outdoors. The Evergreen State is graced by two major mountain ranges, five active or dormant volcanoes, countless trails, rainforests, islands, and endless rivers, lakes, and streams.

Bicycling

Our two largest cities, Seattle and Spokane, are bicycle-friendly cities featuring many miles of bike lanes and paved bike trails. Touring bicyclists and off-roaders are especially attracted to the hundreds of miles of scenic back roads and unpaved trails.

Horseback Riding

Washington has it all for those who love horseback riding: mountains, meadows, ranches, forests, beaches, and plains. Trails crisscross the state with horses for hire at stables and equestrian centers throughout.

Water Sports

Vast stretches of beautiful beaches envelop the state's Pacific coastline, through the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Puget Sound. Washington is also home to hundreds of lakes and rivers. Water lovers can enjoy water skiing, parasailing, boating, rafting, surfing, swimming, kayaking, scuba diving, fly fishing, sunbathing, and exploring tide pools.

Hiking, Climbing, and Camping

Hiking trails and camping facilities stretch across the state and provide options for hikers, climbers, RV enthusiasts, and campers alike. The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT) stretches 2,650 miles from the Mexican border in California up to several miles into Canada. In Washington, the PCT starts in the Columbia River Gorge and goes through the Cascades to Monument 78 on the Canadian border.

Winter Sports

When temperatures drop, the Cascade, Olympic, Blue, and Selkirk mountains are great locations for all types of winter activities. Hundreds of lifts, trails, and runs dot Washington's mountains for cross-country and downhill skiing, snowboarding, snowmobiling, sledding, skjoring, and tubing.

STATE SERVICES



Thea Foss Waterway, Tacoma.

Department of Agriculture
serves the people of Washington by supporting the agricultural community and promoting consumer and environmental protection.
www.agr.wa.gov

Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
advocates for the preservation of Washington’s irreplaceable historic and cultural resources as assets for the future.
www.dahp.wa.gov

Washington State Arts Commission
is a catalyst for the arts, advancing the role of the arts in the lives of individuals and communities throughout the state.
www.arts.wa.gov

Department of Children, Youth, and Families
helps Washington’s children and youth grow up safe and healthy — thriving physically, emotionally, and academically, nurtured by family and community.
www.dcyf.wa.gov

Department of Commerce
is the lead agency charged with enhancing and promoting sustainable communities and economic vitality in our state.
www.commerce.wa.gov

Department of Corrections
is responsible for administering adult corrections programs operated by the state of Washington.
www.doc.wa.gov

Department of Ecology
protects, preserves, and enhances Washington’s environment for current and future generations.
www.ecy.wa.gov

Employment Security Department
helps Washington’s workers and employers succeed in the global economy.
www.esd.wa.gov

Department of Enterprise Services
is a central services agency delivering excellence in strengthening government’s ability to achieve results efficiently and effectively.
www.des.wa.gov

Department of Financial Institutions
regulates and examines a variety of state-chartered financial services and provides education and outreach to protect consumers from financial fraud.
www.dfi.wa.gov

Department of Fish and Wildlife
is dedicated to preserving, protecting, and perpetuating the state’s fish and wildlife resources.
www.wdfw.wa.gov

Department of Health
collaborates with many partners to help people in Washington lead healthier and safer lives.
www.doh.wa.gov

Department of Labor and Industries
is dedicated to the safety, health, and security of Washington’s 3.2 million workers.
www.lni.wa.gov

Department of Licensing
is responsible for everything from highway safety and consumer protection to vehicle and driver fraud, including licensing and regulating over 30 professions and businesses.
www.dol.wa.gov

Military Department
minimizes the impact of emergencies and disasters on people, property, environment, and the economy of Washington state.
www.mil.wa.gov

Department of Natural Resources
protects and manages 5.6 million acres of publicly-owned land.
www.dnr.wa.gov

Department of Retirement Systems
serves as the administrator of all public retirement systems and the Deferred Compensation program.
www.drs.wa.gov

Department of Revenue
collects revenues, administers programs to fund public services, and advocates sound tax policy.
www.dor.wa.gov

Department of Services for the Blind
provides training, counseling, and support to help Washington residents of all ages who are blind or visually impaired, pursue employment, education, and independent living.
www.dsb.wa.gov

Department of Social and Health Services
is a helping hand and lifeline for one out of every four Washington residents. Children, families, vulnerable adults, and seniors go to DSHS for protection, comfort, food assistance, financial aid, medical care, and other services.
www.dshs.wa.gov

Department of Transportation
is the steward of a large and robust transportation system, and is responsible for ensuring that people and goods move safely and efficiently.
www.dot.wa.gov

Department of Veterans Affairs
helps connect veterans and their family members to benefits and services earned through military service.
www.dva.wa.gov



Capitol Campus, Olympia.

STATE OFFICES

Office of the Attorney General

is the chief legal office for the state of Washington with attorneys and staff in 27 divisions across the state providing legal services to more than 230 state agencies, boards, and commissions.

www.atg.wa.gov

Office of the Auditor

provides citizens with independent and transparent examinations of how state and local governments use public funds, and develops strategies to make government more efficient and effective.

www.sao.wa.gov

Office of Financial Management

provides vital information, fiscal services, and policy support that the governor, Legislature, and state agencies need to serve the people of Washington state.

www.ofm.wa.gov

Office of the Governor

oversees all domestic programs within the state. The Governor's Office also sets policies, appoints department heads, prepares and administers a budget, recommends legislation, and signs bills into law.

www.governor.wa.gov

Office of the Insurance Commissioner

regulates insurance companies, advocates for consumers, and maintains a statewide network of volunteer health-coverage advisors.

www.insurance.wa.gov

Office of the Commissioner of Public Lands

oversees all Department of Natural Resources (DNR) operations and maintains the state's largest on-call fire department to protect 13 million acres of private, state, and tribal-owned lands.

www.dnr.wa.gov

Office of the Lieutenant Governor

serves as the President of the Senate and also functions as acting governor in the absence of the governor.

www.ltgov.wa.gov

Office of Public Defense

implements the constitutional and statutory guarantees of counsel and ensures effective and efficient delivery of defense services, state-funded, to indigent individuals.

www.opd.wa.gov

Office of the Secretary of State

manages state elections, registers corporations and charities, and governs the use of the state flag and state seal. The office also manages the State Archives and the State Library, and oversees the Combined Fund Drive, Address Confidentiality Program, and Legacy Washington.

www.sos.wa.gov

Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction

leads, supports, and oversees K-12 education, ensuring the success of all learners.

www.k12.wa.us

Office of the Treasurer

manages the financial resources within Washington state and promotes prudent financial practices in government.

www.tre.wa.gov

Washington State Lottery

generates revenue for state programs through the sale of lottery games.

www.walottery.com

The Office of the Secretary of State houses several important divisions and programs:

Executive Office

The Executive Office develops policy, promotes innovation and cost-effectiveness, improves trade and cultural ties, and engages the people of Washington.
www.sos.wa.gov

Community Programs

This division includes several programs. The Combined Fund Drive empowers active Washington public employees, retirees, and higher education employees to strengthen communities through funding and support of charities. The Address Confidentiality Program provides a substitute address for victims of crime and members of the judicial system. Legacy Washington documents extraordinary stories in Washington history through the State Library and Archives as well as original sources and statewide heritage organizations.
www.give.wa.gov
www.sos.wa.gov/acp
www.sos.wa.gov/legacy

Corporations and Charities

This division is responsible for registering businesses, nonprofits, and charities, and handling trademark applications, domestic partnership registrations, and apostilles in Washington state.
www.sos.wa.gov/corps

Elections

The Elections Division ensures accessible, fair, and accurate elections in Washington by maintaining the state voter database and handling registration, initiatives, and referendums.
www.sos.wa.gov/elections

State Archives

The State Archives preserves public records and documents through branches in Bellingham, Bellevue, Olympia, Ellensburg, and Cheney, including the nation’s first Digital Archives.
www.sos.wa.gov/archives

State Library

The State Library connects Washington through the power of libraries, including managing state prison and hospital libraries and the Washington Talking Book & Braille Library.
www.sos.wa.gov/library



Secretary of State
Kim Wyman

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Thank you to our generous sponsors for enabling us to provide this civics-based publication to school children throughout the state.



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Diablo Lake in North Cascades National Park, Checubus
North Head Lighthouse at Cape Disappointment, Jo Ann Snover
Dry Falls State Park, Matt Ragen
Palouse Falls, Samantha Schertenleib
Back cover:
Palouse Falls at sunset, Chintla
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