The Washington State Presidential Primary

A GUIDE TO VOTERS
Twelve years ago, the people of Washington State joined together to create a new way for citizens to take part in selecting major political party nominees for President of the United States. Backed by 200,000 petition signatures, they won overwhelming legislative approval of an initiative establishing the Washington State Presidential Primary.

As we approach our third Presidential Primary, it is important to remember that this system gives citizens an opportunity to cast a direct vote in support of the nomination of a major political party candidate for President. The intent remains the same — to broaden public participation by letting voters express their preference through the convenience and accessibility of the regular election process.

The Presidential Primary was also created to encourage presidential candidates to campaign here and educate themselves about the issues that are important to Washington State and the Pacific Northwest. In this respect, the 2000 Presidential Primary has been especially successful with numerous visits by many of the major party candidates.

Because of its unique purpose, the Presidential Primary uses a balloting process that is different than the state’s regular “blanket” primaries. This guide has been prepared to give you a better understanding of this special system and the options that will be presented to you. If you have questions or need assistance, please don’t hesitate to contact your county elections department or the Secretary of State’s office.

Also, keep in mind that the major political party precinct caucuses are an integral part of our system of nominating presidential candidates. I urge you to attend your neighborhood precinct caucus meeting on March 7, 2000.

The 2000 Washington State Presidential Primary is your opportunity to send a message about who you would like to be nominated as a candidate for the highest office in the country. I hope you will take part in this important process.

RALPH MUNRO
Secretary of State
Voting in Washington State’s Presidential Primary is different from other state primaries or elections. This is because the Presidential Primary is specifically designed to fit together with procedures used by the national political parties to choose nominees for President.

The Presidential Primary is also structured to accommodate our state’s unique tradition of independent voting. Many voters want to express a preference for a presidential candidate without having to declare a political party affiliation as required by national party rules.

As a consequence, the Washington State Presidential Primary uses a multiple ballot system. In order to vote in the Presidential Primary, you will need to choose the type of ballot you wish to cast — a party ballot or an unaffiliated ballot.

The following questions and answers provide additional information regarding this one-of-a-kind ballot process and other issues related to the Presidential Primary. Please take a moment to study this information, and be sure to vote!

**Q Who will be able to vote in the Presidential Primary?**

_**A**_ Any person eligible to vote in a regular primary or election held in the state - that is, any registered voter - is eligible to vote in the Presidential Primary. To be eligible to vote, you must be a citizen of the United States and at least 18 years of age at the time of the primary.

**Q How do I vote in the Presidential Primary?**

_**A**_ Voters will select one of the following ballots to use in the Presidential Primary:

- Unaffiliated Ballot, listing all major party presidential candidates
- Democratic Ballot, listing only the candidates of the Democratic Party
- Republican Ballot, listing only the candidates of the Republican Party

Voters who choose a Democratic or Republican party ballot will be required to make a declaration of political party affiliation; there is no such requirement for the unaffiliated ballot. In any case, voters must choose one type of ballot and vote for one candidate.

**Q What will the Presidential Primary ballots look like?**

_**A**_ Depending on each county’s preference, the “unaffiliated” and “political party” candidate lists will be presented together on a single ballot, or divided accordingly among three separate ballots. (If the lists are presented together, an identifying mark or punch will be made on the ballot according to the voter’s preference. The voter will then select a candidate from the appropriate party or unaffiliated list.) Each county will provide detailed instructions to poll site and absentee voters regarding the procedures to be followed. Be sure you understand and follow the instructions carefully, especially if you are voting by absentee ballot.

**Q Can I vote by absentee ballot in the Presidential Primary?**

_**A**_ Yes. You may request an absentee ballot from your county auditor or elections department as you would for any other election. If you have applied for permanent status to receive an absentee ballot before each election, an absentee ballot for the Presidential Primary will automatically be sent to you.

**Q Why is this multiple ballot system used in the Presidential Primary?**

_**A**_ This system was created to reconcile Washington State’s tradition of independent voting with the requirements of the major political parties. Washington State does not require voters to register by party, and, unlike other states, has a “blanket” primary process. This process allows voters to alternate between political parties when voting to nominate candidates for the general election. In a Presidential Primary, however, the political parties have the right to consider only those votes cast by individuals who indicate their affiliation with the party.

**Q Does this multiple ballot system apply to other state primaries or elections?**

_**A**_ No. The multiple ballot system applies only to the Presidential Primary.

**Q How will the Presidential Primary ballots be tabulated?**

_**A**_ Vote totals for presidential candidates will be separated according to whether the votes were cast from political party ballots or unaffiliated ballots. Once the vote totals are certified by the Secretary of State, national and state political party rules will determine how the results will be used to allocate delegates to the national nominating conventions.

**Q Does this mean my vote will have no impact on delegate allocation if I select an unaffiliated ballot?**

_**A**_ The Presidential Primary is your opportunity to tell the political parties who you want to be nominated as a presidential candidate. While the political parties are not obligated to use the votes of unaffiliated voters, those votes could have an influence on delegate allocations when they are finalized at the state party conventions in June.

**Q Which parties will have candidates appearing in the Presidential Primary?**

_**A**_ Washington’s Presidential Primary is limited to candidates of a “major political party”, defined by state law as a political party of which at least one nominee for President, Vice President, U.S. senator, or a statewide office received at least five percent of the total vote cast at the last preceding state general election in an even-numbered year. Currently, only the Republican and Democratic parties meet this definition. (Independent and minor party candidates are nominated through a separate process. For more information contact the Secretary of State’s office.)

(Continued on page 4)
In the state of Washington, candidates for most offices appearing on the state general election ballot are nominated at the state primary in September. The office of President is an important exception to this procedure. The candidates for President are nominated by the political parties at their national conventions — based on results from the Presidential Primary, party caucuses and conventions, or both.

The following information is provided to familiarize Washington citizens with these essential caucus and convention procedures. The delegates to the national conventions are selected through precinct caucuses, county or district conventions, and a state convention. Under national or state party rules, these national convention delegates may be bound or pledged to a particular candidate based on the number of votes that candidate receives at the Presidential Primary in this state.

The precinct caucus is a neighborhood-level meeting open to all members of a particular political party. This year the precinct caucuses will be held in each precinct of the state on March 7. Individuals are elected from each precinct to attend the legislative district or county convention where the delegates to the state convention are chosen. The state conventions of the major political parties will, in turn, choose delegates for the national convention at which the presidential and vice presidential nominees are selected.

In addition to the selection of delegates, those persons attending party caucuses and conventions have the opportunity to determine the party platform, resolutions and meet party candidates for a variety of local, state and national offices.

### DATES OF PRECINCT CAUCUSES AND CONVENTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Democrats</th>
<th>Republicans</th>
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<tr>
<td>Precinct caucuses</td>
<td>March 7, 2000</td>
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<td>County conventions</td>
<td>April 22, 2000</td>
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<td>April 29, 2000</td>
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<td>State conventions</td>
<td>June 10, 2000</td>
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<td>Location of state conventions</td>
<td>Spokane</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Spokane</td>
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*Contact your county chairperson for the exact date.

### RULES AND PROCEDURES

Each political party has the authority under the United States Constitution and state law to adopt rules to govern the delegate selection process and other party activities that occur in conjunction with the caucuses and conventions. These party rules specify the number of delegates from each precinct to the county or legislative district convention, the number of delegates from each legislative district or county convention to the state convention, and the procedural rules for conducting the caucuses and conventions. A copy of the rules of either party should be available in advance of the precinct caucuses from the state committee of that party.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The dates and locations of all party caucuses and conventions receive advance press coverage and are generally advertised by the parties. Specific questions about the nominating procedures should be directed to the state committee of the respective party. They may be able to respond to your inquiry directly or they may refer you to either your precinct committee person or your county or district chairperson. The addresses and telephone numbers of the state committees are as follows:

- **Washington State Democratic Central Committee**
  - P.O. Box 4027
  - Seattle, WA 98104
  - (206) 583-0664
  - [www.wa-democrats.org](http://www.wa-democrats.org)

- **Washington State Republican Party**
  - 16400 Southcenter Parkway, Suite 200
  - Seattle, WA 98188
  - (206) 575-2900
  - [www.wsrp.org](http://www.wsrp.org)
To register to vote in the state of Washington you must be:

- A citizen of the United States
- A legal resident of Washington state
- At least 18 years old by election day

In this state, you do not have to declare political party membership when you register to vote.

REGISTRATION DEADLINES

While you may sign up to vote at any time, keep in mind that there are registration deadlines prior to each primary and election. If you miss the deadline, your registration will not take effect until after the primary or election.

You must be signed up at least **30 days** in advance of a primary or election if you register by mail or through the Motor Voter program. Between **30 and 15 days** prior to a primary or election, you may register in person at the office of your county auditor or election department, or other location designated by them. You will then be permitted to vote by absentee ballot.

For your convenience, the phone number and address of your county auditor or election department is located on page 6 of this guide.

HOW TO REGISTER

Simply complete a voter registration form and put it in the mail. Forms are available from your county auditor or election department, public libraries, schools and other government offices. You may also request a form through the State Voter Hotline or the Internet (see Information and Additional Services on this page).

KEEP YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION UP-TO-DATE!

If your registration record does not contain your **current** name or address, you may not be able to vote in the next primary or election. You can use the mail-in voter registration form to let your county auditor or election department know when you move or change your name.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Absentee ballot requests must be made to your county auditor or election department (not the Secretary of State). You may request a ballot by phone, fax or mail as early as 45 days before a primary or election. No absentee ballots are issued on the day of the primary or election except to hospitalized voters. You may also apply **in writing** to automatically receive an absentee ballot before each primary or election. You can find an absentee ballot request form on the back page of this guide. **If you have already requested an absentee ballot or have a permanent request for a ballot on file, please do not submit another application.**

Once you receive your absentee or mail-in ballot, vote it. **Please do not** attempt to vote at the poll site. Absentee and mail-in ballots must be signed and postmarked or delivered to your county auditor or election department **on or before** the day of the primary or election.

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY DATE AND POLL HOURS

The Presidential Primary is February 29, 2000. Polling hours for all primaries and elections are 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

INFORMATION AND ADDITIONAL SERVICES

For help with voting your ballot or locating your polling site, contact your county auditor or election department. The phone number and address of your county auditor or election department is located on page 6 of this guide.

Additional services of the Office of the Secretary of State are:

**By phone**

Voter information hotline 1-800-448-4881
(TDD for the hearing or speech impaired only, 1-800-422-8683).
- If you have not received a Presidential Primary Guide
- To request a Braille or cassette-tape version of this guide
- Help with finding your elected officials
- Voter registration and absentee ballot information

**Via the Internet**

The Secretary of State’s home page is located at: www.secstate.wa.gov
The Secretary of State’s online voters guide is located at: www.secstate.wa.gov/vote2000

(Please print)

Request for Mail-in Voter Registration Form

Name: ____________________________________________

Address: _________________________________________

City: ___________________ ZIP Code: ________________

Telephone: _______________ Number of forms requested: ____________

MAIL TO: Office of the Secretary of State, Voter Registration, PO Box 40230, Olympia, WA 98504-0230
<table>
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<tr>
<th>COUNTY AUDITOR ELECTION DEPARTMENT</th>
<th>MAILING ADDRESS</th>
<th>CITY</th>
<th>ZIP</th>
<th>TELEPHONE NUMBER</th>
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<tr>
<td>ADAMS</td>
<td>210 W BROADWAY</td>
<td>RITZVILLE</td>
<td>99169</td>
<td>(509) 659-3249</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASOTIN</td>
<td>P O BOX 129</td>
<td>ASOTIN</td>
<td>99402</td>
<td>(509) 243-2084</td>
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<td>BENTON</td>
<td>P O BOX 470</td>
<td>PROSSER</td>
<td>99350</td>
<td>(509) 736-3085</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHELAN</td>
<td>350 ORONDO AVE</td>
<td>WENATCHEE</td>
<td>98801</td>
<td>(509) 664-5432</td>
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<td>CLALLAM</td>
<td>P O BOX 3030</td>
<td>PORT ANGELES</td>
<td>98362-0338</td>
<td>(360) 417-2221</td>
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<td>CLARK</td>
<td>P O BOX 8815</td>
<td>VANCOUVER</td>
<td>98666-8815</td>
<td>(360) 397-2345</td>
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<tr>
<td>COLUMBIA</td>
<td>341 E MAIN ST</td>
<td>DAYTON</td>
<td>99328</td>
<td>(509) 392-4541</td>
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<td>COWLITZ</td>
<td>207 4TH AVE N</td>
<td>KELSO</td>
<td>98626-4130</td>
<td>(360) 577-3005</td>
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<td>DOUGLAS</td>
<td>P O BOX 456</td>
<td>WATERVILLE</td>
<td>98858</td>
<td>(509) 884-9403</td>
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<tr>
<td>FERRY</td>
<td>350 E DELAWARE AVE #2</td>
<td>REPUBLIC</td>
<td>99166</td>
<td>(509) 775-5208</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRANKLIN</td>
<td>P O BOX 1451</td>
<td>PASCO</td>
<td>99301</td>
<td>(509) 545-3538</td>
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<td>GARFIELD</td>
<td>P O BOX 278</td>
<td>POMEROY</td>
<td>99347</td>
<td>(509) 843-1411</td>
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<td>GRANT</td>
<td>P O BOX 37</td>
<td>EPHRATA</td>
<td>98823</td>
<td>(509) 754-2001  EXT 377</td>
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<td>GRAYS HARBOR</td>
<td>100 W BROADWAY STE 2</td>
<td>MONTESANO</td>
<td>98563</td>
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<td>ISLAND</td>
<td>P O BOX 5000</td>
<td>COUPEVILLE</td>
<td>98239</td>
<td>(360) 679-7366</td>
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<tr>
<td>JEFFERSON</td>
<td>P O BOX 563</td>
<td>PORT TOWNSEND</td>
<td>98368</td>
<td>(360) 385-9119</td>
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<tr>
<td>KING</td>
<td>500 4TH AVE RM 553</td>
<td>SEATTLE</td>
<td>98104</td>
<td>(206) 296-8683</td>
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<tr>
<td>KITSAP</td>
<td>1026 SIDNEY AVE STE 175</td>
<td>PORT ORCHARD</td>
<td>98366</td>
<td>(360) 337-7128</td>
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<tr>
<td>KITTITAS</td>
<td>205 W 5TH</td>
<td>ELLensburg</td>
<td>98926</td>
<td>(509) 962-7503</td>
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<td>KLICKITAT</td>
<td>205 S COLUMBUS MSCH 2</td>
<td>GOLDENDALE</td>
<td>98620</td>
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<td>LEWIS</td>
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<td>CHEHALIS</td>
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<td>LINCOLN</td>
<td>P O BOX 28</td>
<td>DAVENPORT</td>
<td>99122</td>
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<td>MASON</td>
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<td>SHELTON</td>
<td>98584</td>
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<tr>
<td>OKANOGAN</td>
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<td>98840</td>
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<tr>
<td>PACIFIC</td>
<td>P O BOX 97</td>
<td>SOUTH BEND</td>
<td>98586</td>
<td>(360) 875-9317</td>
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<tr>
<td>PEND OREILLE</td>
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<td>NEWPORT</td>
<td>99156</td>
<td>(509) 447-3185</td>
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<tr>
<td>PIERCE</td>
<td>2401 S 35TH ST RM 200</td>
<td>TACOMA</td>
<td>98409</td>
<td>(253) 798-7430</td>
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<td>SAN JUAN</td>
<td>P O BOX 638</td>
<td>FRIDAY HARBOR</td>
<td>98250</td>
<td>(360) 378-3357</td>
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<tr>
<td>SKagit</td>
<td>P O BOX 1306</td>
<td>MT VERNON</td>
<td>98273</td>
<td>(360) 336-9305</td>
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<tr>
<td>SKAMANIA</td>
<td>P O BOX 790</td>
<td>STEVENSON</td>
<td>98648</td>
<td>(509) 427-9420</td>
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<tr>
<td>SNOHOMISH</td>
<td>3000 ROCKEFELLER AVE</td>
<td>EVERETT</td>
<td>98201</td>
<td>(425) 388-3444</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPOKANE</td>
<td>W 1116 BROADWAY</td>
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<td>99260-0020</td>
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<tr>
<td>STEVENS</td>
<td>215 S OAK ST</td>
<td>COLVILLE</td>
<td>99114</td>
<td>(509) 684-7514</td>
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<tr>
<td>THURSTON</td>
<td>2000 LAKERIDGE DR SW</td>
<td>OLYMPIA</td>
<td>98502</td>
<td>(360) 786-5408</td>
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<tr>
<td>WAHKKAKUM</td>
<td>P O BOX 543</td>
<td>CATHLAMET</td>
<td>98612</td>
<td>(360) 795-3219</td>
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<tr>
<td>WALLA WALLA</td>
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<td>WALLA WALLA</td>
<td>99362</td>
<td>(509) 527-3204</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHATCOM</td>
<td>311 GRAND AVE STE 103</td>
<td>BELLINGHAM</td>
<td>98225</td>
<td>(360) 676-6742</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHITMAN</td>
<td>P O BOX 350</td>
<td>COLFAX</td>
<td>99111</td>
<td>(509) 397-6270</td>
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<tr>
<td>YAKIMA</td>
<td>128 N 2ND ST RM 117</td>
<td>YAKIMA</td>
<td>98901</td>
<td>(509) 574-1340</td>
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These numbers require special telephone equipment to operate.

TDD SERVICE
ONLY for the speech or hearing impaired.

Attention speech — or hearing — impaired Telecommunications Device for the Deaf users: If you are using an “800 number” from the list above for TDD service, you must be prepared to give the relay service operator the telephone number for your county auditor or election department.

If you need the information in this guide in an alternate format, please call 1-800-448-4881 (TDD: 1-800-422-8683.)
To be filled out by applicant. Please print in ink.

Registered Name:__________________________
Street Address:____________________________
City:________________________________________ZIP Code:________________________
Telephone: (Day) _______________________ (Eve.) _______________________
For identification purposes only (optional) Voter registration number if known:__________
Birth Date:__________ Have you recently registered to vote? Yes ☐ No ☐
I hereby declare that I am a registered voter. Date _________________
__________________________ ________________________________
Signature To be valid, your signature must be included

Send my ballot to the following address (if different from above):

Mailing Address:____________________________
City:__________State: ________________
ZIP Code:______________________________Country: ____________________

This application is for: ________________________________

Presidental Primary only ☐ Permanent Request ☐
February 29, 2000 ☐ All future Elections ☐

For office use only

Precinct Code ____________
Levy Code ________________
Ballot Code ________________
Ballot Mailed ________________