



Civic Engagement in Your Classroom



**Presidential
Primary Edition**

Student Mock ELECTION

Ends March 12, 2024

- Students vote on candidates, just like they will in the future.
- Participants learn about the unique vote-by-mail elections process used in our state.
- Non-partisan and free to all public, private, tribal, and homeschool K–12 students.
- No pre-registration needed.

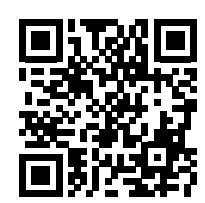
Free resources for educators:

- “I Voted” stickers for your students.
- Teacher toolkit includes print-friendly Voters’ Pamphlet, quick lessons to teach elections at each grade level, posters, and coloring sheet.

Visit sos.wa.gov/mockelection or email electionsoutreach@sos.wa.gov for information and to request resource materials.

Want to be notified of the next Student Mock Election?

Scan to sign up.



Future Voter Program

We can help prepare future voters at your school.

Elections staff can virtually visit your school to discuss:

- The importance of civic engagement.
- How elections work and why we vote.
- How to register and vote.
- What it means to be an informed voter.
- How to register voters and conduct a voter registration drive.

Visit sos.wa.gov/civics or contact MoonSub.Vendetta@sos.wa.gov, 360-725-5791.



**Will you be 18 by
November 5?**

Will I vote?

I will vote!



**If so, you can vote in the
Presidential Primary!**



WASHINGTON
Secretary of State
Elections Division

Phone

(360) 902-4180
(800) 448-4881

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 40229
Olympia, WA 98504-0229

Website

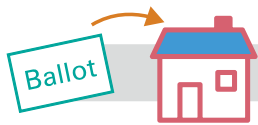
sos.wa.gov/elections

Email

elections@sos.wa.gov

Path of the Ballot in Washington State

11/2023



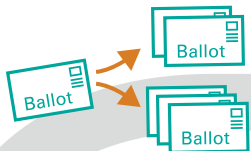
All eligible voters are sent a ballot at least 18 days before election.



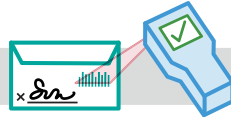
Voter places marked ballot into a security sleeve or envelope.



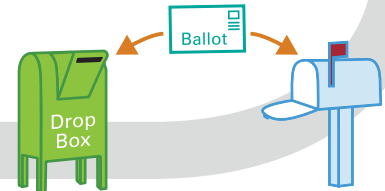
The security sleeve or envelope is put in a return envelope and signed. Voter may add email or phone number in case county needs to contact them.



At processing facility, ballots are sorted into batches. An image of the voter's signature is captured for verification.



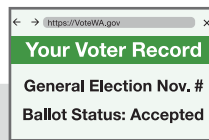
Drop boxes are regularly emptied by teams of trained election staff. Ballots are tracked from collection through processing.



Ballot has pre-paid postage and can be returned by U.S. mail or placed in an official ballot drop box. If mailed, must be postmarked by election day. Drop boxes are open until 8 p.m. on election day.



Each signature is checked by trained election staff. Voter is contacted if the signature is missing or doesn't match the voter registration record.



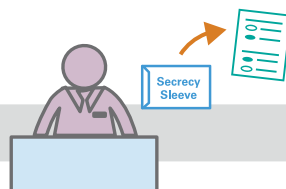
When signature is verified, ballot is marked as "Accepted" in the VoteWA system. The voter is credited for participating, ensuring that if more than one ballot is returned, only one is counted.



Voters can check their ballot status online or sign up for text notifications. Allow 3-4 days for the system to post status updates.



Ballot is reviewed for potential scanning issues like torn corners, then scanned and securely stored.



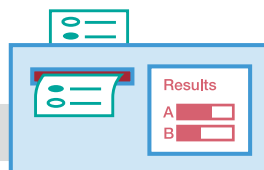
Security sleeve or envelope is opened and ballot is removed for processing.



Return envelope is opened and security sleeve or envelope is removed, and the two are separated. At this point, the ballot cannot be traced back to the voter.



Scanners are not connected to any form of network or internet.



At 8 p.m. on election night, ballots that have already been scanned are tabulated and unofficial results are reported.



Ballots continue to be processed, signatures verified, and votes tabulated until the election results are officially certified.

The election is complete, and preparations for the next election cycle begin.


Official Mock Election Ballot Presidential Primary March 12, 2024

Presidential
Primary Edition



Student Mock ELECTION

#FutureVoter

Instructions to voters: Fill in the oval next to your choice like this: 

If you make a mistake: Draw a line through the mistake like this: ~~George Washington~~
You then have the option of making another choice if you wish.

When you finish voting: Fold in half to keep your ballot secret, then read and sign the Student Voter's Pledge on the back and turn it in.

Democratic Party

- Joseph R Biden Jr
- Dean Phillips
- Marianne Williamson
- Uncommitted Delegates
- Write in:

Republican Party

- Chris Christie
- Ron DeSantis
- Nikki Haley
- Vivek Ramaswamy
- Donald J. Trump
- Write in:



You may vote for one candidate or the "uncommitted" option, but not both.

A vote for "uncommitted" allows uncommitted party delegates who represent Washington to decide which candidate to support during their national convention.



WASHINGTON
Secretary of State
Elections Division

fold in half
↓
↑

fold in half
↓
↑

1 Student Voter's Pledge: I do swear or affirm that I am: a Washington state student; an engaged and respectful student; an informed student voter; voting only once in this student mock election; and not forging a signature or casting another person's ballot, attempting to vote more than once, or falsely signing this pledge.

2 Sign & Date



Signature of voter (*Required*)

Date

Check if this signature matches your Washington driver's license, permit, or ID. In an actual election, your county elections office will compare signatures to verify your identity and move your ballot forward in the process.

*This is not a legal document.

Mock Election Ballot Tabulation Presidential Primary March 12, 2024



Student Mock
ELECTION
#FutureVoter

Election Official (teacher) _____

Tabulator Name _____

Number of Total Voters _____

Democratic Party	Result:	Republican Party	Result:
Joseph R Biden Jr		Chris Christie	
Dean Phillips		Ron DeSantis	
Marianne Williamson		Nikki Haley	
Uncommitted Delegates		Vivek Ramaswamy	
		Donald J. Trump	
Write in:		Write in:	



WASHINGTON
Secretary of State
Elections Division

**Student Mock Election
Ends March 12**

**Presidential
Primary Edition**

VOTERS' PAMPHLET

Washington State Elections

Color your cover!



*For Educational Use Only. Not an Official Voters' Pamphlet.



WASHINGTON
Secretary of State
Elections Division

2024

#FutureVoter

A message from the Washington State Elections Division

Welcome to your 2024 Student Mock Election Presidential Primary Voters' Pamphlet! This type of primary allows voters to help political parties choose presidential nominees, and your vote is a vital community resource.

For the March 12 Presidential Primary, the major political parties require voters to mark and sign a party declaration on the return envelope to have their vote counted. Visit sos.wa.gov/PresPriFAQ for more information.

Read through this pamphlet to learn about the candidates you can vote on. If you discuss your opinion with other students, remember to be respectful of their choices. Then fill out your Student Mock Election ballot and return it as instructed to have your vote counted.

To participate in real elections, adult Washington citizens must be registered to vote. Voter registration or updates by mail or online at VoteWA.gov must be received by March 4. After that, they have until 8 p.m. on March 12, Election Day, to register, vote, and return a ballot in person at a county elections office or voting center.

If you are at least 16 years old, you can sign up as a Future Voter and be automatically registered to vote when you qualify. If you will be 18 by the Nov. 5 General Election, you can vote in the *real* Presidential Primary!

Thank you for your time and participation in this introduction to the political process. As an informed voter, you'll soon be able to make an impact in your community and our state by voting in every election!

Sincerely,

The Washington State Elections Division

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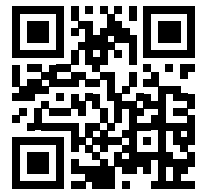
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Tracking your ballot is easier than ever!

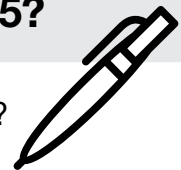
Sign up for text notifications when you register or update your info at VoteWA.gov.



Will you be 18 by November 5?

Will I vote?

I will vote!



If so, you can vote in the Presidential Primary!

Are you ready to vote?



Qualifications?

To vote in the Presidential Primary, you must be 18 years old by the November General Election, a U.S. citizen, a resident of Washington, and not currently serving a sentence of total confinement in prison for a felony.

How do I register to vote?

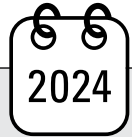
Register online, by mail, or in person.

No internet access?
Call 1 (800) 448-4881.

Moved?

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

Check your registration info at VoteWA.gov.



Deadlines

Ballots mailed to voters by: February 23

Register by mail, received by: March 4

Register online by: March 4

Register in person by: March 12, 8 p.m.

Election Day: March 12

Important Dates for 2024

August 6, 2024: Primary Election

November 5, 2024: General and Presidential Election

Voter tip:

The ballot return envelope has free postage, but don't let a late postmark disqualify your ballot. The USPS recommends that you mail a week before Election Day.



Register to vote

Use VoteWA.gov to:

- Register to vote
- Update your info
- Track ballot status



Political parties

Washington State Democrats

PO Box 4027
Seattle, WA 98194
(206) 309-8683
info@wa-democrats.org
www.wa-democrats.org

Washington State Republican Party

11811 NE 1st St
Ste A306
Bellevue, WA 98005
(425) 460-0570
info@wsrp.org
www.wsrp.org

? Who donates to campaigns?

View information on financial contributors for presidential candidates:

Federal Election Commission

www.fec.gov
Toll Free 1 (800) 424-9530

i Candidates submitted their information for this pamphlet prior to printing. For the most current information, visit VoteWA.gov and select "Voters' Guide."

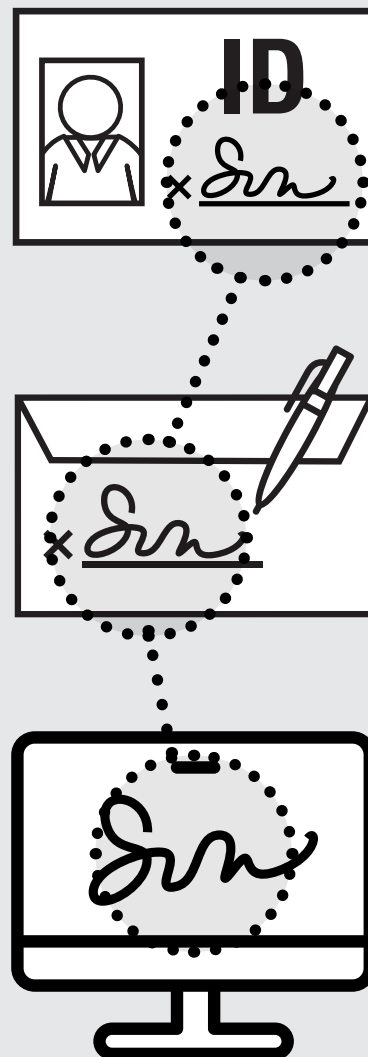
Your signature is needed to make sure your ballot gets counted.

The signature on your return envelope is compared to the signature on your voter registration record. Trained election officials verify each and every signature.

If your signature is missing or does not match your voter registration record, the county elections office will contact you by mail **before results are certified**. They may call or email if you gave them this info.

If you registered to vote online or through Department of Licensing, the signature from your driver's license, permit or state ID will be on your voter registration record.

Voters can track and check their ballot status at **VoteWA.gov**.



What does this mean?

Certification Day

The date when election results are finalized by state or county officials.

Logic and Accuracy Test

A test completed before each election to ensure the accuracy of voting equipment.

Nonpartisan Office

An elected position in which candidates do not state a political party preference and candidates for the office are not officially associated with a political group. Office appears on the ballot as “Nonpartisan.”

Partisan Office

An elected position in which candidates may state their preferred political party. A candidate may also choose “States No Party Preference”. Their preference is printed on the ballot.

Postmark

A postmark indicates the location and date the Postal Service accepted custody of a ballot. Ballots must be postmarked by Election Day to be accepted. Placing your ballot in a mailbox on Election Day does not guarantee a postmark of the same day.

Post-election Audit

A test completed before the certification of results to ensure the security and accuracy of the voting system. Counties perform a post-election audit each election.

Term Type

How much of a term a candidate will be serving for an office. It is split into regular, unexpired, and short-and-full.

Voter Registration Database

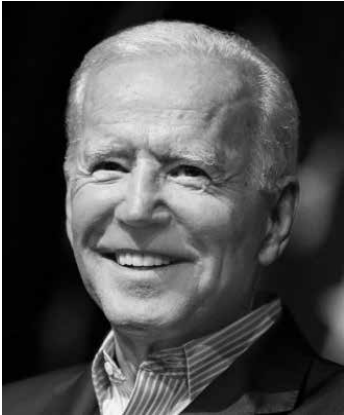
The official list of registered voters maintained in every state to conduct safe and secure elections. Our database in Washington is known as VoteWA.

Voting Center

A county-run facility where you can receive in-person voting assistance from trained elections staff. Some services include registering or updating voter information, requesting and returning a ballot, or voting using an accessible voting unit.

Voting System

Ballot counting equipment that must be tested by an independent testing authority and certified by the state of Washington before it can be used.



Joseph R
Biden Jr

(Democratic Party Candidate)

Elected Experience

President of the United States (from 2021 through the present), Vice President of the United States (from 2009 through 2017) and United States Senator from the State of Delaware (from 1973 through 2009).

Other Professional Experience

No information submitted

Education

Syracuse University College of Law (J.D.); University of Delaware (B.A.)

Community Service

No information submitted

Contact Information

info@joebiden.com

www.joebiden.com

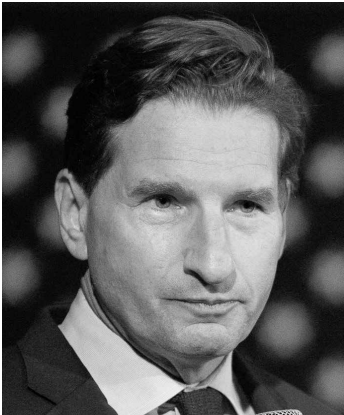
Statement

President Biden and Vice President Harris are running for reelection because they believe that every generation has a moment where they have had to stand up for democracy and fundamental freedoms – and this is ours.

When President Biden ran in 2020, he said we were in a battle for the soul of America – and we still are. The question now is whether we'll have more freedoms or fewer in the years ahead. More rights, or fewer.

Under President Biden and Vice President Harris' leadership, we have made real meaningful progress: They took our economy back from the brink and helped create 14 million jobs, passed legislation to lower costs for working people while making corporations pay their fair share, took the strongest action to combat climate change in our nation's history, and restored American leadership on the world stage.

President Biden and Vice President Harris know there is still so much left to be done. Where they passed the first major federal legislation to reduce gun violence in decades, they want to finish the job and ban assault weapons so weapons of war are not used on our kids and communities. Where they lowered prescription drug prices and capped insulin at \$35 for seniors, they plan to lower prescription drug costs for all Americans. And where they finally made the wealthiest corporations pay their fair share, they believe we need to do the same for billionaires. They are running for reelection to finish the job.



Dean Phillips
(Democratic Party Candidate)

Elected Experience

3 Term Congressman Serving Minnesota 3rd District; Committee on Foreign Affairs; Committee on Small Business; Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus; Problem Solvers Caucus

Other Professional Experience

Phillips Distilling Company, President and CEO from 2000 to 2012; Chairman of the Board from 2014 to 2017; Talenti Gelato, Executive Chairman from 2012 to 2014; Penny’s Coffee, Co-founder and CEO from 2016 to 2019

Education

The Blake School, Hopkins, Minn., 1987; B.A., Brown University, Providence, R.I., 1991; M.B.A., University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn., 2000

Community Service

Board Member Temple Israel Minneapolis; Board Chair Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation; Co-Chair WE Day Minnesota; Chair, Worldwide Orphans Foundation

Contact Information

Contact@Dean24.com
www.Dean24.com

Statement

Dean Phillips is a third-term Congressman running for president in the Democratic Primary because he believes that Americans deserve a courageous voice leading the White House.

Hailing from Minnesota, Dean is a Gold Star Son who lost his father in the Vietnam War. When his mother remarried, Dean was adopted into the Phillips family and was raised to work hard and always share success.

In Congress, Dean has focused on restoring Americans’ faith in our government. Named the second most bipartisan member of Congress, he has worked to inspire a new era of collaboration in Washington, pursue common ground for the common good, and end the corrupting influence of special interest money in politics.

Dean is running for president to provide relief to the American people by building an economy that takes families from poverty to prosperity. He will work to repair the political divisions that paralyze our nation’s progress. As president, Dean will lead with compassion and a bold vision, focused on America’s future.

Key positions: A living wage for teachers, fire fighters, EMTs, nurses, and all public sector employees; Healthcare for all; Wrap around services for all Veterans who have served our country; Ranked choice voting



Marianne
Williamson

(Democratic Party Candidate)

Elected Experience

No information submitted

Other Professional Experience

Williamson is the author of 15 books, four of which have been #1 New York Times bestsellers. She has also been highly successful as an inspirational speaker and seminar leader.

Education

Pomona College

Community Service

Founder of Project Angel Food, a non-profit organization created to help people suffering from HIV/AIDS, delivering over 16 million meals since 1989. Co-founder of The Peace Alliance in 2004 to support the creation of the U.S. Department of Peace; producer of the Sister Giant conferences, a non-partisan group encouraging women to involve themselves in political activity.

Contact Information

contact@marianne2024.com
marianne2024.com

Statement

Marianne Williamson is a successful entrepreneur, bestselling author, political activist, and globally influential spiritual thought leader. She is the author of 15 books, four of which have been #1 New York Times bestsellers.

The pillars of Williamson's Presidential campaign are the restoration of America's middle class through an Economic Bill of Rights, including universal healthcare, tuition free college and tech school, and a guaranteed living wage; the establishment of a Department of Peace and the Department of Children and Youth; the declaration of a Climate Emergency to mass mobilize for the development of a green energy grid; and ending America's Drug War. Williamson believes the transformation of American society requires we address the root causes of our problems, and not only their symptoms.

Marianne Williamson founded Project Angel Food, delivering more than 16 million meals to ill and dying homebound patients since 1989. The group was created to help people suffering from the ravages of HIV/AIDS, but now extends to all illnesses.

Throughout her career, Marianne has worked on poverty, anti-hunger and racial reconciliation issues. In 2004, she co-founded The Peace Alliance to support the creation of a U.S. Department of Peace, and has hosted the Sister Giant Conferences that has educated and encouraged thousands of women throughout the country to engage in political activity.

If elected, Williamson will be the first female, the first mother and the first grandmother to be President of the United States.



**Chris
Christie**

(Republican Party Candidate)

Elected Experience

Chris Christie was inaugurated as the 55th Governor of the State of New Jersey on January 19, 2010. He was re-elected with 60% of the vote in November of 2013.

Other Professional Experience

In 2014 he was elected Chairman of the Republican Governors Association, leading the organization to the election of 31 Republican Governors. In 2017, Governor Christie was appointed Chairman of the President’s Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis.

Education

University of Delaware. Seton Hall University School of Law.

Community Service

No information submitted

Contact Information

chrischristie.com

Statement

Chris Christie served two terms as Governor of the State of New Jersey, taking on the biggest and toughest challenges with real solutions and bipartisan cooperation. He implemented an aggressive reform agenda to restore fiscal sanity, lower property taxes, reign in the state’s pension and health benefits system, expand school choice, and address the opioid epidemic. Governor Christie led the state’s recovery after Superstorm Sandy - the worst natural disaster in its history - rebuilding the state’s housing, infrastructure and public schools and setting an example for bipartisan leadership. As a Republican, he was re-elected with 60% of the vote in one of the bluest states in the country.

In 2017, Governor Christie was appointed Chairman of the President’s Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis. The Commission’s final report contained more than 65 substantive recommendations, all of which were adopted by President Trump.

Prior to his time as Governor, he was nominated by President George W. Bush for U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey, where he served for seven years, bringing high profile anti-terrorism cases and successfully prosecuting 130 political corruption cases.

Governor Christie and his wife of 37 years, Mary Pat, have four children, Andrew, Sarah, Patrick, and Bridget.



Ron
DeSantis

(Republican Party Candidate)

Elected Experience

Ron DeSantis was elected as the 46th Governor of Florida in 2018 and won re-election by a historic 20 points in 2022.

Other Professional Experience

He also graduated with honors from Harvard Law School, where he answered the call to serve in the U.S. Navy.

Education

He carved his path to Yale University, where he was captain of the varsity baseball team.

Community Service

DeSantis was raised in blue-collar Dunedin, Florida by a mother who worked as a nurse and a father who installed cable boxes. Ron is married to Casey DeSantis. Together, they're the proud parents of three young children, Madison, Mason, and Mamie.

Contact Information

(850) 604-8821
info@rondesantis.com
www.rondesantis.com

Statement

We must reverse our country's decline, and that is going to require leadership. I will take the hits. I will take the arrows. I will take the barbs, because it's not about me. It's about you. It's not about the past. It's about your future. We are going to fight for you. I am going to win for you and your family. And I'm going to lead this country's revival.

As a Navy veteran, I will always put service above self as President. As the father of three young kids, I'm going to ensure that this country is left to the next generation in better shape than we found it. And as the governor of Florida, I delivered on all my promises.

You can trust me to deliver for you as the President of the United States. I am asking for your vote. I'll be a nominee that will be able to win the election. I will be a leader you can be proud of, and as your president, I will not let you down.



Nikki

Haley

(Republican Party Candidate)

Elected Experience

Governor of South Carolina, 2011-2017; Member of the South Carolina House of Representatives, 87th District, 2005-2011

Other Professional Experience

29th United States Ambassador to the United Nations; Accountant

Education

Clemson University, B.S. in Accounting and Finance

Community Service

Original Six Foundation. <https://www.originalsixfoundation.org/our-story> The Original Six Foundation was founded in 2011 by then South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley to serve as a non-partisan facilitator and funding mechanism to assist South Carolina’s neediest communities.

Contact Information

(843) 352-8070
 info@nikkihaley.com
 www.nikkihaley.com

Statement

Nikki Haley is a proud daughter of Bamberg, South Carolina. In 2010, she was elected the first minority, female governor in America. She was decisively reelected in 2014 by nearly 15 points. As governor, she took a double-digit unemployment state and turned it into an economic powerhouse, generating millions of jobs and moving thousands from welfare to work. She led the state of South Carolina through tragedy, hardship, and made the Palmetto State one of the best places to work and raise a family. She went on to serve her country as the U.S. ambassador to the UN from 2017-2019. At the UN, she went toe-to-toe with tyrants and dictators. She took the “kick me” sign off America’s back and put America first on the world stage. Now, she’s running for president to make America strong and proud.



Vivek

Ramaswamy

(Republican Party Candidate)

Elected Experience

None

Other Professional Experience

Vivek is an American business leader, founding two companies: a biotech company, Roivant Sciences, where he oversaw the development of five drugs that went on to become FDA-approved, and Strive, an Ohio-based asset management firm that directly competes with asset managers like BlackRock, State Street, Vanguard and others, who use the money of everyday citizens to advance environmental and social agendas that many citizens and capital owners disagree with. Vivek is also a New York Times bestselling author, with titles including *Woke, Inc.*

Education

Harvard, B.S. Biology, *summa cum laude*; Yale Law School, J.D.

Community Service

No information submitted

Contact Information

info@vivek2024.com

Statement

If you want a President who is going to speak *truth* to power, shut down the deep state and end corruption in our government, you should start with someone who is going to tell *you* the *truth*. I am excited to be on the Washington ballot and look forward to earning the votes of Washingtonians. We are one step closer to reviving this great nation.



**Donald J.
Trump**

(Republican Party Candidate)

Elected Experience

45th President of the United States

Other Professional Experience

Businessman, real estate mogul, television star, and author.

Education

Graduate of the prestigious Wharton School of Finance at the University of Pennsylvania

Community Service

45th President of the United States

Contact Information

(617) 303-6800
 info@djtfp24.com
 www.donaldjtrump.com

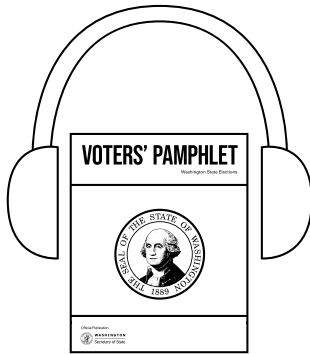
Statement

I left behind my former life because I could not sit by and watch career politicians continue bleeding this country dry and allow other nations to take advantage of us on trade, borders, foreign policy, and national defense. As President, I took on every powerful special interest, fixing globalist trade deals, ending foreign wars, securing the border, and standing up to Big Pharma and China. Together, we put America First and returned power to the American People.

The corrupt government cartel is once again destroying our country. We are a nation that surrendered in Afghanistan, and allowed Russia to devastate Ukraine, China to threaten Taiwan, and Iran to build a nuclear weapon. We are a nation where free speech is no longer allowed, crime is rampant like never before, terrorists are invading our southern border, and the economy is in a recession. We are a nation that is hostile to liberty, freedom, and faith.

Our populist movement to Make America Great Again is the only force on earth that will lead our country back to safety, prosperity, and peace. I will never stop fighting for you, the American People, against the failed political establishment. I take the slings and arrows for you so that we can have our country back. Together, we will finish the job of saving our country once and for all and raise the next generation of strong American Patriots and Leaders.

Are accessible voting options available?



Audio voters' pamphlet available at sos.wa.gov/elections

No internet access? To receive a copy on a USB drive, call 1 (800) 448-4881.

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

Are language services available?

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

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

Los votantes de los condados de Yakima, Franklin y Adams reciben materiales electorales bilingües. Los votantes del condado de King pueden solicitar sus materiales de votación en español.

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

華盛頓州的選民可以由網上取得中文版總統初選選民手冊以及選民登記表，網址為 sos.wa.gov/elections。

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

金郡的選民可以索求中文版投票資料。

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

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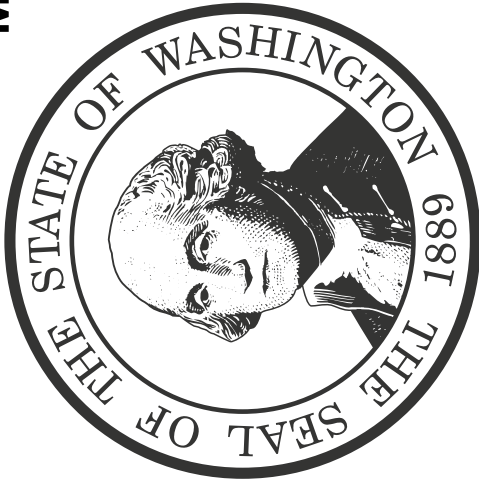
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Washington State Elections

**Presidential Primary
March 12**



2024

Official Publication



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Road to the White House

Students will understand the unique process of electing the president of the United States.

(30-45 minutes)

Discussion

Someone who wants to be president must first win their party's nomination. There are currently two major parties, Republican and Democratic. Each state party holds a primary or caucus to select their choice for nominee.

The parties' presidential nomination process starts with the Iowa Caucus. A caucus is a small neighborhood meeting of the Democratic or Republican parties. At a caucus, party members talk about candidates and decide who they feel would be the best presidential nominee for their party. Caucus results are sent to state party headquarters where the results are tallied.

A presidential primary serves the same purpose. New Hampshire's constitution states that it's always the first state to hold a presidential primary. In a presidential primary, party members statewide vote for their favorite candidate. The winning candidate gains that state's votes for nomination at the party's national convention.

At the national conventions, each party selects a nominee. The convention itself is a roll call. Each state is called and the number of votes they have is announced (based on state population). The state's party delegates stand and declare their choice for presidential nominee. The candidates with the most votes wins the party's nomination and goes on to the General Election.

In the General Election, minor party nominees join the Republican and Democrat nominees on the ballot. Minor party nominees typically support certain causes or are simply a popular individual.

After the General Election, the winner is declared based on who earned the most electoral votes. Each state is given the same number of votes in the Electoral College as it has U.S. representatives and senators. After the 2010 Census, Washington gained a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, making our total electoral votes 12. Electors are chosen by each state party before the election; if their nominee wins the state's popular vote, those electors will vote in the Electoral College.



Primary Sources

U.S. Constitution:

- [Article 2, Section 1](#)
- Amendments [12](#), [14](#), [20](#), [22](#), [23](#) & [25](#)

Federalist Paper No. 68:
The Mode of Electing the President (p. 4)

political party

a group of people who share common political views, working to elect members to government

major party

a political party that had federal or statewide candidates who received at least 5% of the vote in the previous presidential election

minor party

a political party not qualified to be a major party; also known as a "third party"

nominee

a candidate chosen by a political party

presidential primary
an election to select the state party's choice for presidential nominee; that state's delegates will vote for the Primary winner at their party's national convention

caucus
a meeting of party members to select their state's choice for a presidential nominee and delegates to their national convention

Super Tuesday
the day that many states hold presidential primaries and caucuses, the results of which generally predict the major parties' presidential nominees

national convention
a meeting of party delegates from each state to select the party's presidential nominee

Electoral College
presidents are not elected directly by voters; instead, they are elected by "electors" who are chosen by popular vote in each state; states get a number of electoral votes equal to their seats in Congress (Washington has 12 electoral votes)

inauguration
the ceremony in which a winning candidate takes office

Elementary Lesson

1. Ask students to write in their own words each step of the presidential election system on the blank "Road to the White House" worksheet (p. 5).

Electing the President (Middle & High School)

1. Read Federalist Paper No. 68 (p. 4) and applicable sections of the U.S. Constitution, then discuss the process. Ask students to write in their own words each step of the presidential election system on the blank "Road to the White House" worksheet (p. 5).
2. Divide students into groups of three or four. Have each group draw a song title out of a hat. Suggested song titles:

Yankee Doodle
You're a Grand 'Ole Flag
My Country 'Tis of Thee
This Land is Your Land
Battle Hymn of the Republic
Take Me Out to the Ball Game
3. Instruct each group to replace the words of the song with their own lyrics about the presidential election process. Students must include each step of the process, but may describe it in their own words.
4. Give the groups 20 minutes to work on their lyrics, then ask groups to perform their songs for the class.

Electoral College (Middle & High School)

1. Read Federalist Paper No. 68 (p. 4) and applicable sections of the U.S. Constitution, then discuss the process proposed there compared to the presidential election system we have today. Are the advantages Hamilton touted, such as the Electoral College, still the best solution today? Why or why not?
2. Ask students to complete the "Electoral College Calculator" map (p. 6) and list how many electoral votes each state is allotted.
3. If it's a presidential election year, have students fill in each state red or blue to indicate which nominee they think will win those electoral votes. What's the final tally? Who will win? (Teachers could offer a prize to students with the closest guess.)

Homework

Many people have debated the effectiveness of the Electoral College. Ask students to discuss the Electoral College with an adult, and write down their thoughts following the conversation.

What are the benefits of the Electoral College?

How is the Electoral College outdated or ineffective?

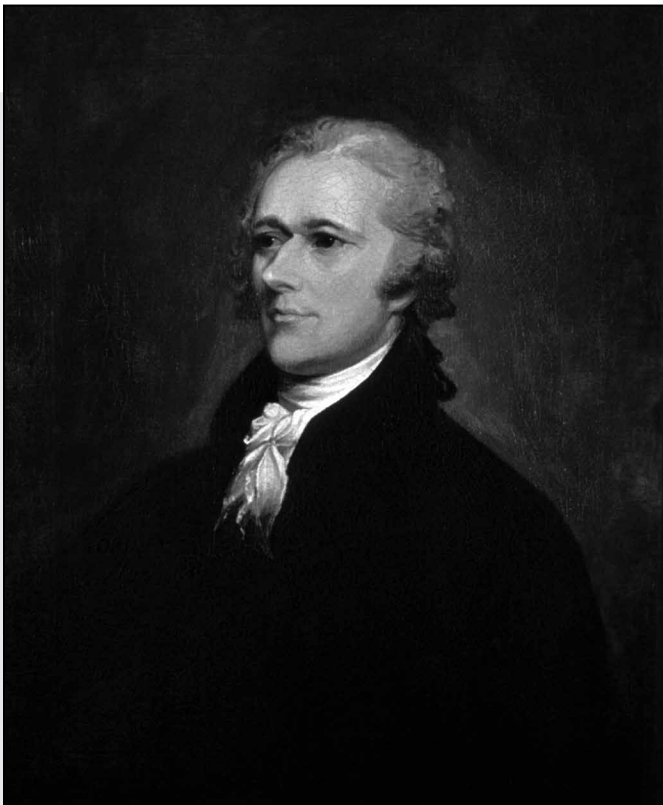
What is a different way we could select the president?

Assessment Questions

Elementary: The vote for the presidential election is one of the biggest decisions an adult can make. You are being asked if voting should be required. Interview someone who disagrees with your position and find out why.

Middle & High School (students may choose):

1. The Constitution forbids naturalized citizens from running for president or vice president. Based on Alexander Hamilton's quote below, should the Constitution be amended to give naturalized citizens the right to run for president?
2. Now that you've had a discussion about the Electoral College, can you think of an alternative for selecting the President of the United States?



“Constitutions should consist only of general provisions; the reason is that they must necessarily be permanent, and that they cannot calculate for the possible change of things.”

Alexander Hamilton

Federalist Paper No. 68 — The Mode of Electing the President

New York — March 14, 1788

To the People of the State of New York,

The mode of appointment of the Chief Magistrate of the United States is almost the only part of the system, of any consequence, which has escaped without severe censure, or which has received the slightest mark of approbation from its opponents... I venture somewhat further that if the manner of it be not perfect, it is at least excellent.

It was desirable that the sense of the people should operate in the choice of the [President]. This end will be answered by committing the right, not to any preestablished body, but to men chosen by the people for the special purpose...

It was also [particularly] desirable to afford as little opportunity as possible to tumult and disorder. This evil was not least to be dreaded in the election of a magistrate, who was to have so important a [role] in the administration of the government as the President of the United States. But the precautions which have been so happily concerted in the system under consideration, promise an effectual security against this mischief. The choice of several [men], to form an intermediate body of electors, will be much less apt to convulse the community with any extraordinary or violent movements, than the choice of one who was himself to be the final object of the public wishes. And as the electors, chosen in each State, are to assemble and vote in the State in which they are chosen, this detached and divided situation will expose them much less to heats and ferments than if they were all to be convened at one time, in one place.

Nothing was more to be desired than [to prevent] cabal, intrigue, and corruption. These most deadly adversaries of republican government might naturally have been expected [from] foreign powers [wanting] to gain an improper ascendant in our councils. How could they better gratify this, than by raising a creature of their own to the chief magistracy of the Union? But the [Constitution] guarded against all danger of this sort, with the most provident and judicious attention. [The Constitution] has not made the appointment of the President to depend on any preexisting bodies of men, who might be tampered with beforehand to prostitute their votes; but has referred it the people of America, to be exerted in the choice of persons for the temporary and sole purpose of making the appointment. And [the Constitution] excluded from eligibility all those who from situation might be suspected of too great devotion to the President in office. No senator, representative, or other person holding a place of trust or profit under the United States, can be of the numbers of the electors. Thus the [electors] will enter upon the task free from any sinister bias. Their transient existence, and their detached situation, afford a satisfactory prospect of their continuing so, to the conclusion of it. The business of corruption, when it is to embrace so considerable a number of men, requires time as well as means. Nor would it be easy, dispersed as they would be over thirteen States, to mislead them from their duty.

No less important was that the Executive should be independent for his continuance in office on all but the people themselves. He might otherwise be tempted to sacrifice his duty to his complaisance for those whose favor was necessary to the duration of his [term]...

“The people of each State shall choose a number of persons as electors, equal to the number of senators and representatives of such State in the national government, who shall assemble within the State and vote for some fit person as President... the person who may happen to have a majority of votes will be the President.”

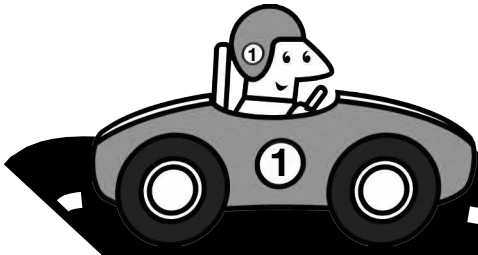
All these advantages will happily combine in the plan devised by the [Constitution]; which is, that the people of each State shall choose a number of persons as electors, equal to the number of senators and representatives of such State in the national government, who shall assemble within the State, and vote for some fit person as President. Their votes, thus given, are to be transmitted to the seat of the national government, and the person who may happen to have a majority of the whole number of votes will be the President...

The process of election affords a moral certainty that the office of President will never fall to the lot of any man who is not in an eminent degree endowed with the requisite qualifications. Talents for low intrigue, and the little arts of popularity, may alone suffice to elevate a man to the first honors in a single State; but it will require other talents, and a different kind of merit, to establish him in the esteem and confidence of the whole Union, or of so considerable a portion of it as would be necessary to make him a successful candidate for the distinguished office of President of the United States. It will not be too strong to say, that there will be a constant probability of seeing the station filled by characters pre-eminent for ability and virtue... We may safely pronounce, that the true test of a good government is its aptitude and tendency to produce a good administration.

PUBLIUS
(Alexander Hamilton)

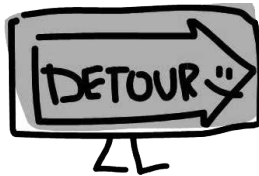
Road to the White House

Describe each stage of the presidential election process.



State Primaries/Caucuses

Convention



General Election

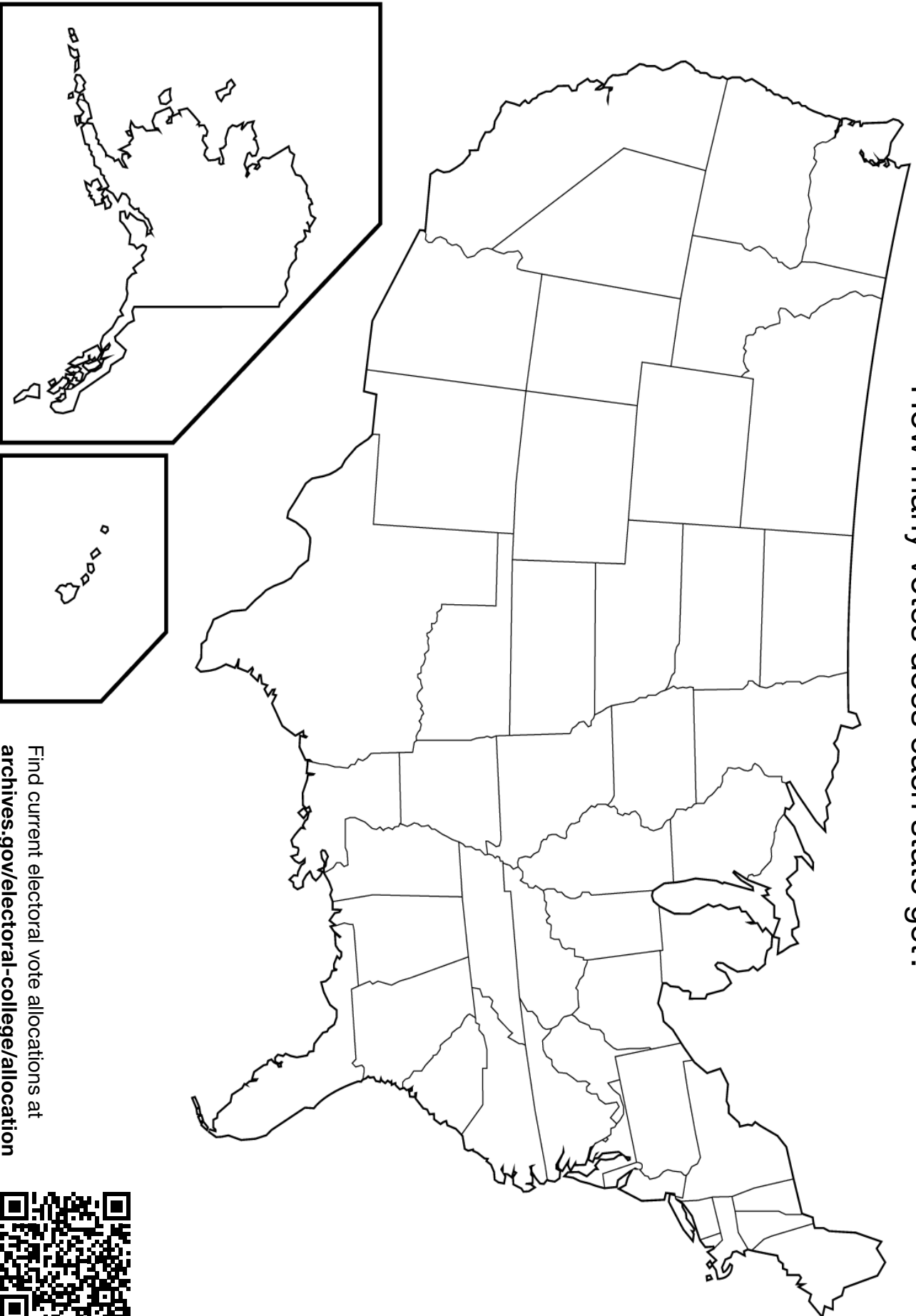
Electoral College

Inauguration



Electoral College Calculator

How many votes does each state get?



Find current electoral vote allocations at
[archives.gov/electoral-college/allocation](https://www.archives.gov/electoral-college/allocation)



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2024 Presidential Primary FAQ



Washington's Presidential Primary will be held March 12, (one week after Super Tuesday).

Legislation passed in 2019 changed the date-setting process, how candidates gain access to the ballot, and how parties use the results. The more eligible voters who participate, the more influence our state will have in the nomination process.

What is the Presidential Primary?

The 2024 Presidential Primary is a chance to participate in the nomination process for the office of US President. It was first created in 1989 through a citizens' Initiative to the Legislature to include more voters in the process.

This is the only election in which Washington's voters are required to mark and sign party declarations written by the major political parties.

Why are the Democratic Candidates listed first?

The order of political parties and candidates is determined by the number of votes cast for the office of US President at the last presidential election. The major political party that received the highest number of votes from the electors of this state for the office of president at the last presidential election must appear first.

In 2020, the Democratic Party received the highest number of votes and must appear first. Candidates are placed on the ballot in alphabetical order within each party.

Minor and independent candidates do not participate in the Presidential Primary and must comply with a different convention process.

What are Uncommitted Delegates?

Each major political party decides which candidates are printed on their side of the ballot. On January 9, each major party submitted its final list of names to the Secretary of State's Office for ballot materials.

The uncommitted option was available to both parties. The Democratic Party requested an uncommitted delegates option. The Republican Party did not request the option. Once the party's list of candidates was submitted to the Secretary of State, changes could not be made (RCW 29A.56).

What if a Candidate drops out of the race?

On January 9, each political party decided which candidates would be printed on their side of the ballot.

Once the list of candidates was submitted to the Office of the Secretary of State, changes could not be made (RCW 29A.56).

What is the difference between a primary and a caucus?

The Presidential Primary is a process of collecting votes for presidential candidates from Washington voters that sign a political party declaration and return a ballot. Caucuses are run by each party to determine issues for party platforms and to select the delegates who will participate in state and national party conventions. Both parties will be using the results of the Presidential Primary for delegate allocation.



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