

Washington State Presidential Primary Fact Sheet

March 12, 2024

Key dates



February 23 — Ballots mailed to voters and voting centers open

March 4 — Last day for online and mailed registrations or updates to be received

March 12 — Presidential Primary Day:

- Register or update & vote **in person** by 8 p.m.
- Mailed ballots must be **postmarked** by today
- Ballots must have a marked party declaration and valid signature to count in this election

March 29 — Last day for Secretary of State to certify Presidential Primary results

By the numbers

4,814,566 Active voters statewide as of Feb. 1
3,400,000 Voters' Pamphlets mailed statewide

Resources



VoteWA.gov — Voter registration information, Voters' Guide, ballot drop box and voting center locations, and ballot status.

sos.wa.gov/elections — County Elections contact information, election results, data and statistics, and Online Voters' Guide.

Contact Washington Office of the Secretary of State Elections Division

elections@sos.wa.gov
1-800-448-4881
sos.wa.gov/elections



Contact major political parties

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

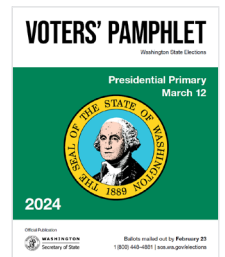
Washington State Republican Party:
11811 NE 1st St., Ste A306 Bellevue, WA 98005
(425) 460-0570
info@wsrp.org
www.wsrp.org

What is the Presidential Primary?

Washington's Presidential Primary is a chance for voters to help the major political parties choose presidential nominees. If you are registered to vote, there's no need to register by party or request a ballot. Your ballot will be mailed automatically to you.

How do candidates get on the ballot and appear in the Voters' Pamphlet?

Each major political party decides which candidates are printed on their side of the ballot. Once the party's list of candidates is submitted to the Secretary of State **by Jan. 9**, changes cannot be made to the certified list (RCW 29A.56). The order of political parties and candidates is determined by the number of votes cast for the office of U.S. President at the last presidential election. Minor and independent candidates do not participate in the Presidential Primary and must comply with a different convention process.



What if the candidate I voted for drops out of the race?

Candidates may suspend their campaigns and notify the media before March 12, but every voted ballot returned to the local elections office will be processed and all results reported. Once your ballot has been processed by your local county elections office, it's not possible to change your vote.

Why do I need to mark a party box?

For the Presidential Primary only, the major political parties require voters to choose a party. Your choice of party will not affect how you may vote in future elections. In the November General Election, you will not declare a party and may vote for any Presidential candidate you wish.

How do I participate?

You must mark one party box and sign the declaration on the return envelope.

Vote for one only. Both the Democratic and Republican ballots will appear on a single (consolidated) ballot. You may only vote for one printed candidate or the "uncommitted Delegates" option, but not both.

Party declaration. Each major party wrote its party declaration for ballot materials. For your vote to count, the candidate you mark on the ballot must match the political party declaration (box) you mark on the return envelope.

How will the political parties use the results?

Both parties will be using the results for delegate allocation. For more on how parties intend to allocate delegates, please contact that political party.