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 postelection 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 voting assistance from trained elections staff. Some services include registering or updating voter information, requesting and returning a ballot, or finding 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.