



Civic Engagement in Your Classroom



★★★ Student Mock ELECTION ★★★

Opens every October!

- Students vote on candidates and issues 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.

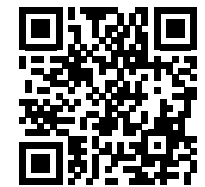
Free resources for educators:

- “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 electionsoutreach@sos.wa.gov, 360-902-4180.



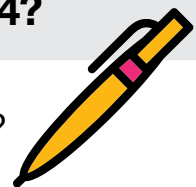
Will you be 18 by
November 4?



Will I vote?



I will vote!



If so, register to vote in the General!



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

Official Mock Election Ballot Tabulation

November 4, 2025



Student Mock
ELECTION
#FutureVoter

Election Official (teacher) _____

Tabulator Name(s) _____

Number of Total Voters _____

| | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---|----------------|
| State Capital (1890) | Result: | Referendum Bill No. 12 (1964) | Result: |
| Ellensburg | | Yes (For) | |
| Olympia | | No (Against) | |
| North Yakima | | U.S. President & Vice President (2000) | Result: |
| Write-ins | | Al Gore and Joe Lieberman | |
| | George W. Bush and Dick Cheney | | |
| House Joint Resolution 6 (1970) | Result: | Write-ins | Result: |
| Yes | | | |
| No | | | |
| Initiative Measure No. 872 (2004) | Result: | Choose Your Own | Result: |
| Yes | | | |
| No | | | |




Official Mock Election Ballot

November 4, 2025



Student Mock ELECTION

#FutureVoter

Instructions to voters: Fill in the oval next to your choice. Vote 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.

Precinct _____

State Capital (1890)

Vote for one

- ☐ Ellensburg
- ☐ Olympia
- ☐ North Yakima
- ☐ Write-in

Referendum Bill No. 12 (1964)

The legislature imposed, without a vote of the people, authorizing the issuance and sale of state limited obligation bonds in an amount not exceeding \$59,000,000; appropriating the proceeds for state matching funds for constructing public school plant facilities.

Should this bill be enacted into law?

- ☐ Yes (For)
- ☐ No (Against)

House Joint Resolution 6 (1970)

Proposed constitutional amendment to reduce from 21 years to 19 years the age at which an otherwise qualified person shall be entitled to vote and to remove currently inoperative language pertaining to the voting qualifications of certain citizens.

Should this be enacted into law?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

U.S. President & Vice President (2000)

Vote for one

- ☐ Al Gore and Joe Lieberman
Democratic Party Nominee
- ☐ George W. Bush and Dick Cheney
Republican Party Nominee
- ☐ Write-in

Initiative Measure No. 872 (2004)

Initiative Measure No. 872 would allow voters to select among all candidates in a primary. Ballots would indicate candidates' party preference. The two candidates receiving most votes advance to the general election, regardless of party.

Should this measure be enacted into law?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Choose Your Own

Pick something for the class to vote on:

- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

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.

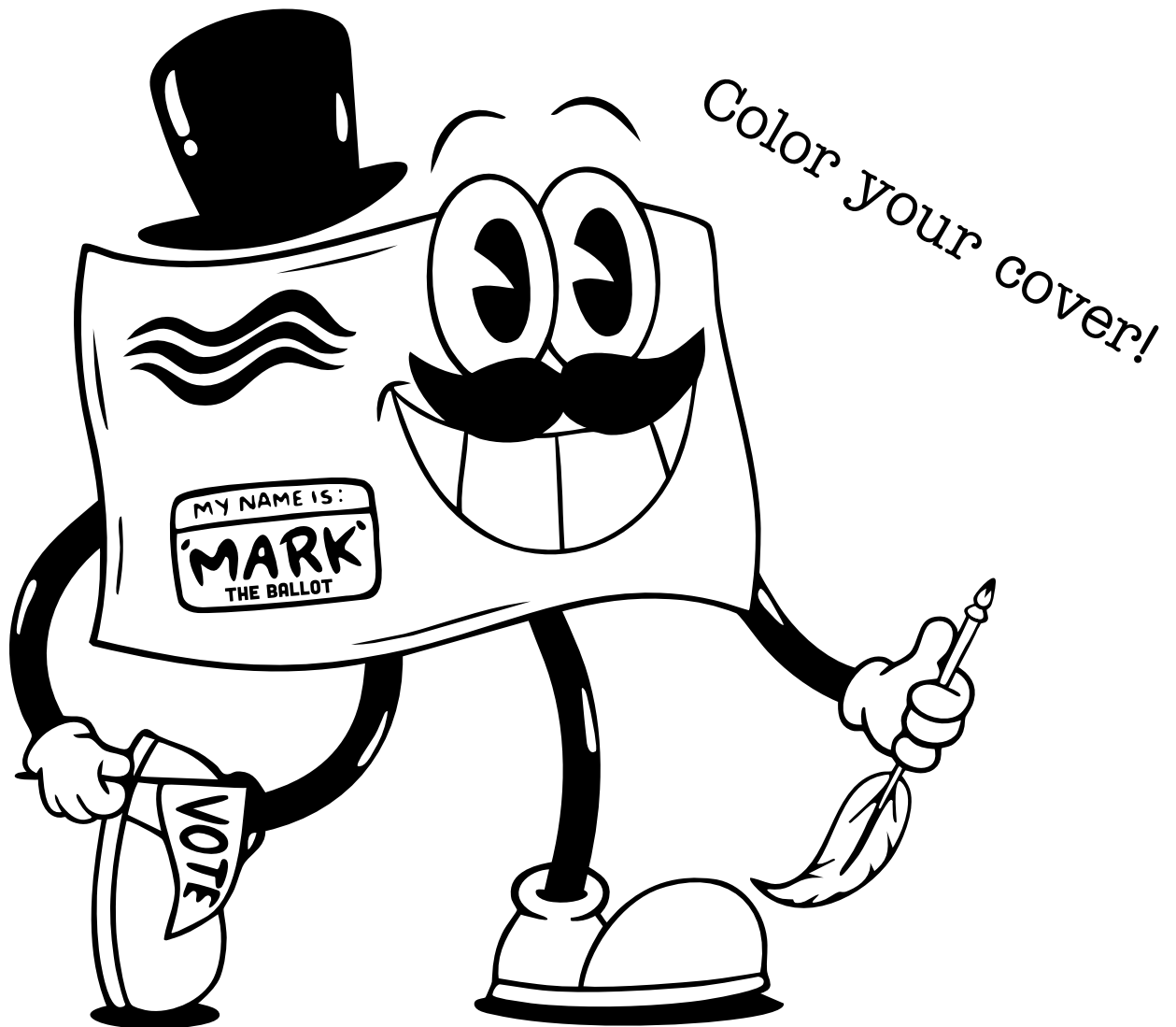
*This is not a legal document.

**Student Mock Election
Ends November 4**

**History
Edition**

VOTERS' PAMPHLET

Washington State Elections



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



WASHINGTON
Secretary of State
Elections Division

2025
#FutureVoter



Welcome to your 2025 Student Mock Election Voters' Pamphlet!

The Student Mock Election is a nonpartisan event that helps teach you about the elections process and how to become an informed voter. You'll vote on issues that may be important to you.

In a real election, your ballot will include items based on where you live. From national, statewide, and local positions to tax levies, initiatives, and referenda, selecting elected officials and voting on critical issues are decisions that impact your daily life and therefore require an informed decision.

We created this Student Mock Election — History Edition with items from Washington state history. This History Edition Voters' Pamphlet will provide you with information to help you vote your ballot. This includes explanations of each issue, the impact each would have, and arguments for and against just like the actual Voters' Pamphlets mailed statewide

Please take time to read through this Voters' Pamphlet to learn about the issues you can decide 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.

Voting is one of the greatest ways to make a difference in your community. To participate in real elections, adult Washington citizens must be registered to vote, which can be done online at **VoteWA.gov**, by mail, or in person. Voter registrations completed online or mailed must be received by Oct. 27. After that, they have until 8 p.m. on Nov. 4, 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. Tell your friends that you've signed up by using #FutureVoter and tag the Office of the Secretary of State!

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,

Steve Hobbs
Secretary of State

Is your school participating?

Scan to see if your school is listed on the statewide Student Mock Election Dashboard!

If not, ask your teacher to sign up!

<https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/k12map>



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What if I’m not 18 yet?



If you are 16 or 17, become a Future Voter!

**# Future
Voter**

Sign up online at **VoteWA.gov** with your Washington state driver’s license, permit, ID, or the last four digits of your Social Security number. You’ll be automatically registered to vote when you qualify.

Every January on Temperance and Good Citizenship Day, high school students 16 and older have the opportunity to complete a voter registration form in class.

Voter tip: Has my ballot been counted?

Tracking your ballot is easier than ever!

Sign up for text notifications when you register or update your info at **VoteWA.gov**. Or text “VOTE” to **868392** to get a link to sign up. (Message and data rates may apply.)



How do I register to vote?

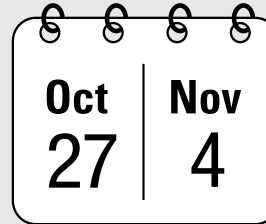
Online: Register at **VoteWA.gov**.

By mail: Request a paper form be mailed to you or print your own at **sos.wa.gov/elections**.

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

In person: Visit a county elections office (listed at the end of this pamphlet).

Registration deadlines



By mail or online:

Your application must be received no later than October 27.

In person: Visit a

local voting center no later than 8 p.m. on November 4.

Check your registration info at **VoteWA.gov**.

Qualifications

To vote, you must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen, a resident of Washington, and not currently serving a sentence of total confinement in prison for a felony.



What if I'm not 18 yet?

If you are 16 or 17, become a Future Voter!

Sign up with your Washington state driver's license, permit, ID, or the last four digits of your Social Security number. You'll be automatically registered to vote when you qualify.

Future Voter

Past felony conviction?

Get registered to vote.

Washington now restores voting rights to citizens with felony convictions immediately upon release from prison.

You must **re-register** to vote to receive a ballot.



Moved? Update your voting address

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

By October 27: Have your application received by mail or updated online.

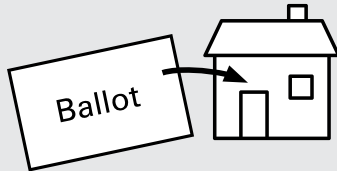
Or

By November 4: Visit a local voting center in person.



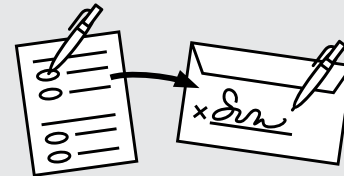
1

If you're registered to vote, there is no need to request a ballot. Your ballot will be mailed by **October 17** to the address you provided on your voter registration. If you need a replacement ballot, contact a county elections office listed at the end of this pamphlet.



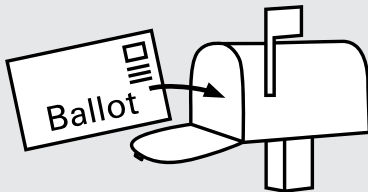
2

Vote your ballot and sign your return envelope. We need your signature to accept your ballot. You are not required to vote every race on your ballot. We encourage using this pamphlet to help you decide.

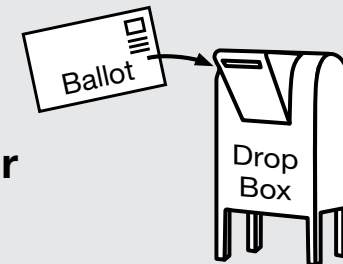


3

Return your ballot by mail, no stamp needed. If mailed, your ballot must be postmarked by **November 4**. Don't let a late postmark disqualify your ballot. The USPS recommends that you mail a week before Election Day.



Or



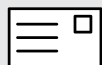
Or, return your ballot to an official ballot drop box. Drop boxes are open until 8 p.m. on **November 4**. Find drop box locations at **VoteWA.gov**.



If you cannot personally return your ballot, only let people you trust deliver it for you.

4

Check the status of your ballot on **VoteWA.gov** to see if it has been received by your county elections office.



Election staff will contact you before your ballot is processed if:

- Your signature is missing
- Your signature doesn't match your voter registration record

View election results online

After 8 p.m. on election night, tallied results from each county are posted at **results.vote.wa.gov**.

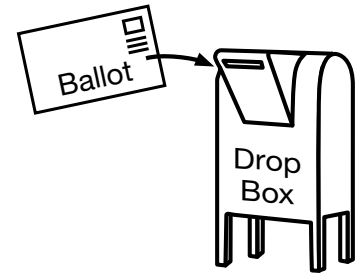
Results are updated as counties report and are unofficial until certification.

How is my ballot counted?

1

Your county receives your ballot

Deposit your ballot in an official drop box by 8 p.m. on Election Day, or return your ballot by mail — postage paid — but make sure it's postmarked by Election Day! Don't let a late postmark disqualify your ballot. The USPS recommends that you mail it back at least one week before Election Day.



Election staff will contact you before your ballot is processed if:

- Your signature is missing
- Your signature doesn't match your voter registration record

2

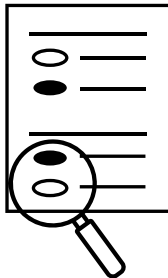
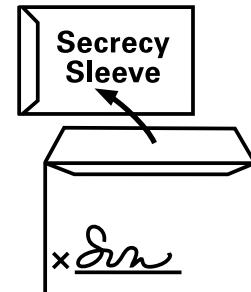
Your signature is verified

Your signature is important and we need it to accept your ballot. The signature on your return envelope is compared to the signature on your voter registration record. If the signature matches, your ballot is accepted and you are credited for voting to ensure **only one** ballot is counted for you.

3

Envelopes and sleeves are separated

The return envelope is opened and the secrecy sleeve containing your ballot is removed. They are separated to ensure the secrecy of your vote.



4

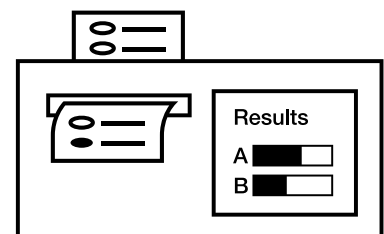
Your ballot is reviewed and scanned

The ballot is removed from the secrecy sleeve and election staff verify that it can be successfully scanned. Each voting system is certified and tested before every election.

5

Your ballot is counted

After 8 p.m. on Election Day all scanned ballots are tallied. Ballots will be scanned and tallied over the next several days until all the votes are counted. Every county conducts a post-election audit.



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 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.

Before an Election

Voting systems certification and testing



Ballot counting equipment is tested and certified by an independent testing authority and the State of Washington.

Voting systems are not connected to the internet.

Pre-election audit: logic & accuracy tests

Before every election, counties test their voting systems to make sure the machines are correctly set up and accurately counting votes.

Voter registration database

Washington's statewide voter registration database is constantly maintained and updated as voters become registered, move, change their name, pass away, or are no longer eligible to vote.

All eligible voters are automatically mailed ballots. Only one ballot per voter is accepted.

Contact your local county elections office to learn more



sos.wa.gov/county-elections-offices

During an Election

Paper ballots



Voting on paper ballots allows election officials to audit results of an election after votes are counted.

Signature verification

Trained election officials compare your signature to your voter registration file to confirm your identity and eligibility.

If your signature is missing or doesn't match, your ballot is "Challenged" and you are notified. Once your signature is verified, your ballot status will update to "Accepted".

VoteWA

Check the status of your ballot at VoteWA.gov. Once your ballot status is updated to "Accepted," your ballot will be opened and scanned. Only one ballot per voter is accepted.

Chain of custody

Ballots are sealed in secure, tamper-evident containers and at least two staff are present whenever your ballot is handled.

Scanning and tabulation

Ballot scanners and vote counting machines are physically secured in locked rooms. Election staff sign in and out each time the room is opened, and always in groups of two or more.

After an Election

Random batch audits



Your local election officials hand count randomly selected precincts or ballot batches and compare those numbers to the voting system totals to make sure the vote counting machines counted correctly.

Random ballot audits

Your local election officials examine a statistically significant, randomly selected sample of ballots to help ensure the reported outcome is correct.

Full ballot reconciliation

Your local election officials keep detailed records of the steps taken to process each ballot or group of ballots, creating an audit trail.

A final report at the end of the process includes a summary of the ballots received and counted.

The year is 1890

Washington state voters must decide the location of the newly admitted state's capital.

Background

On October 1, 1889, voters were asked to decide where the state's capital should be located.

Olympia received 25,490 votes; North Yakima 14,711; Ellensburg (as spelled at the time) 12,833; Centralia 607; Yakima City (now Union Gap) 314; and Pasco 130. The ballot proposition stated that the winning city must receive a majority vote, however, necessitating a run-off. Washington voters were slated to choose between the top three finishers in the next General Election on November 4, 1890.¹

Leading up to the election, cities vying for the distinction went to various lengths to win. From pledging land and developing infrastructure to advertisements and newspaper tirades, it's safe to say that entire communities were invested. Below are some of the features for each "candidate" city.

Candidates

Ellensburg

Has had electric lighting since December 1888 when the Ellensburg Light and Power Company began operation; all hotels and several streets are lighted. [A]...land speculation firm called Walters and Company pledged 40 acres as a site for a state house and public grounds and put money into a planned streetcar line connecting Ellensburg's central business district and the Northern Pacific Depot with the planned Capital area and residential districts.¹

Olympia

Served as provisional territorial capital when Washington Territory's first Territorial Governor, Isaac Stevens (1818-1862) selected it on November 28, 1853. This designation was confirmed by the territorial legislature in 1855.² Spent \$4,000 expanding the capitol and hosted a clambake for delegates at the August 1889 constitutional convention.³

North Yakima

Is offering 50 acres of land overlooking the city and \$10,000 to pay for moving the capital infrastructure from Olympia to North Yakima.¹ It is the prettiest town in the state. It has more shade trees, a better system of waterworks and electric lights, the purest water, the finest building site for the capital, the most beautiful surroundings, is in the richest country, and is the natural railroad center of the state.⁴

¹ *Ellensburg loses its bid to become state capital on November 4, 1890*, by Paula Becker. <https://www.historylink.org/File/7549>

² *History of Olympia, Washington*, by Olympia Historical Society & Bigelow House Museum, captured from Wayback Machine from deleted City of Olympia website pages. <https://olympiahistory.org/history-of-olympia/>

³ *Race for the Capital*, by Legacy Washington. <https://www.sos.wa.gov/legacy/washington-1889/race-for-the-capital.aspx>

⁴ *To The Voters Of Washington*, The Yakima Herald, Volume 2, Number 40, 30 October 1890. <https://washingtondigitalnewspapers.org/?a=d&d=YAKIHER18901030.1.2&e=-----en-20--1--txt-txIN----->

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

6

Proposed Constitutional Amendment

(1970)

*Official ballot title:**

ESTABLISHING VOTING AGE AT 19

Shall Article VI, Section 1 of the state Constitution be amended to reduce from 21 years to 19 years the age at which an otherwise qualified person shall be entitled to vote and to remove currently inoperative language pertaining to the voting qualifications of certain citizens?

Vote cast by members of the 1970 Legislature on final passage:

HOUSE: (99 members) Yeas, 73; Nays, 24; Absent or not voting, 2.
SENATE: (49 members) Yeas, 41; Nays, 8; Absent or not voting, 0.

*Ballot Title as issued by the Attorney General.

Statement **FOR**

US Congress lowers voting age to 18

How did 21 come to be declared the age of adulthood? In the Dark Ages, 21 was the age when a man could become a knight because 21 was 3 times the magic number 7.

The US Congress recently recognized that the age of adulthood should be decided not by a tradition based on magic numbers, but on more logical and compelling factors. The measure to lower the voting age to 18 was overwhelmingly passed by members of both parties.

19 year-olds are treated as adults before the law

Why should 19 and 20 year-olds have the right to vote?

1. 19 year-olds hold jobs and pay taxes.
2. 19 year-olds can marry and enter into other binding legal contracts, make wills, and receive medical aid without parental consent.
3. 19 year-olds are tried in court as adults.
4. 19 year-olds can sue and be sued.
5. 19 year-olds fight and die for our country.

19 and 20 year-olds should be encouraged to participate legitimately in the democratic process

Fifty years ago the same arguments used today against 19 and 20 year-olds were used against giving the vote to women. Many said women were too emotional, irrational, and financially irresponsible. This was not the

case. Today women are a vital part of our electorate. It is time we extend this same opportunity to participate to the 19 year-olds.

HJR 6 will further impress the responsibility of citizenship

We should take advantage of this opportunity to impress further the responsibility of citizenship on 19 and 20 year-olds, by granting them the right to participate in a government of all the people.

Giving 19 and 20 year-olds the right to vote will give them a legitimate channel to express their views, to work peacefully and lawfully within our democratic system.

Vote YES—HJR 6

*Committee appointed to compose statement **FOR** House Joint Resolution No. 6:*

RICHARD KING, State Representative; ROBERT C. BAILEY, State Senator; WES WILBURN, Past President, Washington State Young Democrats.

The Law as it now exists:

Under the present state constitution, with one exception, any person who is twenty-one years old or older and is otherwise qualified, is entitled to vote at all elections. That single exception prohibits nontaxed Indians from voting.

The provision in the 1889 constitution regarding nontaxed Indians is now totally inoperative. Indians have paid both state and federal taxes of some type for many years and have long been citizens under federal law.

The proposed amendment would permit any person who is nineteen years old or older and is otherwise qualified, to vote in all elections. It would also eliminate the obsolete provision regarding nontaxed Indians.

Note: Complete text of House Joint Resolution No. 6 starts on Page 26.

Statement **AGAINST**

Voters should oppose HJR 6, the 19 year old voting proposal. A minimum voting age, which would certainly soon grant full emancipation at 19 years of age (the total release of youth from parental control and full responsibility of adulthood with all legal rights and responsibilities, including the admittance to liquor stores and cocktail bars), is highly undesirable. A 19 year old voting group unaccustomed to total self-support and reliance would in all likelihood further increase government complexity. This bracket of youth will actually benefit neither political party (vote-wise), as in the majority of cases they follow parental lines or school influence. Interviews with numerous youths of this age, along with many letters received, indicate that a great many are reluctant to assume voting franchise responsibilities.

The "old enough to fight—old enough to vote" argument is invalidated by the fact that 19 year old women, who are over half of this class of citizen, have no military obligation.

Youths of 19 are usually not self-sufficient, are not familiar with the rigors of steady employment or supporting a family. There is an old adage which we believe fits this issue: "When you earn you learn." When young men and women begin to make their own way in life they will better understand the seriousness inherent in the voting fran-

chise. They are inexperienced in the comprehension of holding and meeting financial obligations, paying high property taxes and insurances. They know little of the problems that beset business, farmers, manufacturers, employers and employees.

We feel that the answer to the real issue (should 19 years of age be considered the age of majority), should be NO!

*Committee appointed to compose statement **AGAINST**
House Joint Resolution No. 6:*

JOHN STENDER, State Senator, and WILLIAM SCHUMAKER, State Representative.

12 Differences between an initiative and referendum measure

1962 Statewide Voters' Pamphlet Secretary of State Victor A. Meyers



Initiative measures are familiar to the voters of the State of Washington. Some 214 initiatives have been filed and 55 certified to the ballot since they were first authorized by the seventh amendment to our state constitution approved by the voters in 1912. However, referendum measures, by comparison, are somewhat of a rarity since only 33 referendums have been filed and 26 certified to the ballot during the same period.

Many persons erroneously believe that a referendum measure is the same as an initiative measure. Actually, they are quite different. Since there is one initiative and two referendum measures to be voted upon at the approaching state general election, it is important that voters understand the differences. Above all, we want to eliminate any confusion as to what a "For" and "Against" vote means on a referendum measure.

To point up the differences between the two kinds of measures, let's first spell out what an initiative is:

An **initiative** measure is a creative and **positive** action. The sponsors are convinced that a certain proposal should become law. Usually the proposal (or a similar measure) has been previously introduced as a bill for the legislature to consider favorably but this effort met with no success. Then the persons interested organize themselves as sponsors and resort to the initiative procedure. The sponsors have to carefully prepare the proposed law and hope that the voters, acting in place of the legislature, will think more kindly of their measure. For this reason, sponsors of an **initiative** measure are campaigning for a **favorable** vote.

By contrast, a **referendum** measure is a **negative** action. The sponsors are a group of persons who are unhappy about a new law passed by the last session of the legislature. Usually, they have fought the passage of the bill in both branches of the legislature but, in spite of their efforts, the measure passed and was approved into law by the Governor. Under our referendum procedure, there still remains one more chance to stop the new law from becoming effective.

By filing a referendum measure (which is merely a copy of the objectionable law) and obtaining the necessary number of valid signatures, the legislation is held in suspense and submitted to the voters for final decision. The sponsors of a referendum do not draft a new proposal (as do sponsors of an initiative measure) since the only purpose of a referendum is to negate a recently enacted law. For this reason, sponsors of a **referendum** measure are seeking a negative or "**AGAINST**" vote in order to bring their efforts to a successful conclusion.

Thus, the culmination of a referendum action is the placing of a certain act of the last legislature on the ballot for final decision of the voters. For this reason, a particular referendum number means a certain chapter of the 1961 laws. State law requires that the referendum reference will appear upon the ballot, but it would be perhaps more clear if only the chapter reference were given.

In order to make the "for" and "against" vote on a referendum measure more understandable, the Attorney General has authorized the following ballot presentation:

Submitted to the People
By Referendum Measure No. 32
CHAPTER 298, LAWS OF 1961

WASHINGTON STATE MILK MARKETING ACT

Ballot statement appears here

FOR Chapter 298, Laws of 1961.. . . . ☐

AGAINST Chapter 298, Laws of 1961.. . . . ☐

If you believe this new legislation should become law, you should mark your ballot as "FOR." However, if you do **not** believe the act should become law, you should vote your ballot as "AGAINST."

The same principle applies to Referendum Measure No. 33 which is Chapter 275, Laws of 1961, and would authorize cities and towns, if they wish, to hire certified public accountants to examine their financial records instead of state examiners employed by the State Auditor. If you believe this new legislation should become law, mark your ballot as "FOR." If **not**, mark your ballot as "AGAINST."

INITIATIVE MEASURE 872 (2004)

13

PROPOSED TO THE PEOPLE

Official Ballot Title:

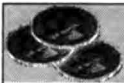
Initiative Measure No. 872 concerns elections for partisan offices.

This measure would allow voters to select among all candidates in a primary. Ballots would indicate candidates' party preference. The two candidates receiving most votes advance to the general election, regardless of party.

Should this measure be enacted into law?

Yes [] No []

Note: The ballot title and explanatory statement were written by the Attorney General as required by law. The Fiscal Impact Statement was written by the Office of Financial Management. For more in-depth Office of Fiscal Management analysis, visit www.ofm.wa.gov/initiatives/default.htm. The complete text of Initiative Measure 872 begins on page 27.



Fiscal Impact Statement

Summary of Fiscal Impact

Initiative 872 would authorize a primary election allowing the two candidates with the most votes to advance to the general election, regardless of political party, starting with the primary election in September 2005. Annual costs for this primary election system could be as much as \$6.0 million lower for the state and counties compared to current law. The lower cost of the primary election system is due to ballot size, the number of ballots, and associated processing procedures. One time costs for public education and voter notification of changes in the primary election system may cost the state \$1.3 million.

Assumptions for Analysis of I-872

- As the State Elections Officer, the Secretary of State is projected to spend up to \$1.3 million on one-time costs associated with implementing the new primary system. The most notable one-time cost is a voter outreach campaign to educate voters about changed requirements. The Secretary of State's Office is expected to spend up to \$1 million to conduct a media campaign and up to \$305,000 to publish an eight-page primary voter's pamphlet prior to the primary election in September that explains the primary system changes to voters. Other state one-time costs associated with implementing a new primary are as follows: developing new election processes/procedures; designing a new ballot; and training election and poll-site staff on new processes. The Secretary of State's Office estimates that they would spend up to \$25,000 on these activities.
- County auditors, who administer elections at the county level, are expected to save up to \$6 million annually for on-going costs associated with implementation of the new primary election system. The state, which reimburses the counties for odd-year primary election costs, would share this cost savings. The current system requires either multiple ballots or a larger consolidated ballot that enables voters to either vote by party for all offices or vote only for non-partisan offices. The new primary election system reduces ballot publishing and processing costs.



The Office of the Secretary of State is not authorized to edit statements, nor is it responsible for their contents.



INITIATIVE MEASURE 872

Explanatory Statement

The law as it presently exists:

The process for electing candidates to federal, state and local offices involves both a primary and a general election. The primary, which is conducted in September, plays a major role in determining which candidates appear on the ballot for the following general election. The general election takes place in November, and is the voters' opportunity to select which of the candidates who appear on the general election ballot (or a write-in) should be elected to office.

The current system, described below, applies to "partisan" offices, which are offices to which candidates are elected using a party affiliation. They include United States Senator, members of Congress, most statewide elected offices (Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Auditor, Attorney General, Commissioner of Public Lands, and Insurance Commissioner), the state legislature, and most county offices. "Nonpartisan" offices are elected without reference to political party, and include judges (at all levels), the Superintendent of Public Instruction, offices of cities and special districts, and county offices where provided by local charter. Elections for nonpartisan offices are conducted differently from the system described below, and are not affected by the proposed initiative. Elections for President and Vice President of the United States are also not affected by the proposed initiative.

The way in which primaries are currently conducted is the product of longstanding Washington law, a recent lawsuit, and new 2004 legislation. Before it was declared unconstitutional by the courts in 2003, Washington used a system that was commonly known as the "blanket primary." Under that system, all candidates for a particular partisan office appeared together on the primary ballot, and a voter could vote for a candidate of one party for one office and a candidate of another party for a different office. The top vote getter of each major political party (currently meaning the Republicans, Democrats, and Libertarians) then advanced to the general election. Minor party and independent candidates could also advance to the general election if they received at least 1% of the votes for that office. The general election ballot, therefore, included the top candidate of each major party and some minor party or independent candidates as well.

In late 2003, a federal court ruled that the blanket primary was unconstitutional. All appeals in that case have been exhausted and the result is final. This means that a court order prohibits Washington from continuing to use the blanket primary system used in the past.

In response to this court decision, a new law was enacted in 2004 establishing a different way of conducting primaries for partisan offices. This new system applied for the first time at the September 2004 primary. Under the new system, separate primary contests are conducted for each major political party. In order to vote for partisan offices, a voter selects a primary ballot of a particular political party. Voters do not register by party and no record is made of the voters' choice. In the primary, the voter is limited to choosing among the candidates of the party whose ballot he or she selects, and may not vote for candidates affiliated with any other party. Nonpartisan offices and ballot measures appear separately, and a voter may cast votes for those offices and measures regardless of whether the voter cast votes for partisan offices.

The system adopted for use beginning in 2004 does not change the way voters participate in the general election conducted in November of each year. The general election ballot includes the candidate of each major political party who received the most votes at the primary, as well as any minor party or independent candidates who qualify through a convention and petition process. Voters are not limited to a single party at the general election. At the general election voters may choose among candidates of each major political party, as well as any minor party or independent candidates who qualify.

The effect of the proposed measure, if it becomes law:

This measure would change the system used for conducting primaries and general elections for partisan offices. The initiative would replace the system of separate primaries for each party, as adopted and used for the first time in 2004, with a system in which all candidates for each partisan office would appear together on the primary ballot. Candidates would be permitted to express a party preference or declare themselves independents, and their preference or status would appear on the ballot. The primary ballot would include all candidates filing for the office, including both major party and minor party candidates and independents. Voters would be permitted to vote for any candidate for any office, and would not be limited to a single party.

The general election ballot would be limited to the two candidates who receive the most votes for each office at the primary, whether they are of the same or different political preference. The measure would replace existing provisions that candidates of each major political party, as well as any minor party or independent candidates who qualify, appear on the general election ballot. This measure would change the way that candidates qualify to appear on the general election ballot, but would not otherwise change the way general elections are conducted. This measure would not change the way that primaries or general elections are conducted for nonpartisan offices.



Statement For Initiative Measure 872

VOTE FOR THE PERSON — NOT THE PARTY

Last year the state party bosses won their lawsuit against the blanket primary, and in 2004 they convinced the Governor to veto legislation allowing voters to continue to vote for any candidate in the primary. Most of us believe this freedom to select any candidate in the primary is a basic right. Don't be forced to choose from only one party's slate of candidates in the primary. *Vote Yes on I-872.*

MORE COMPETITIVE PRIMARIES AND GENERAL ELECTIONS

Under I-872, the two candidates with the most votes in the primary win and go on to the general election ballot. No political party is guaranteed a spot on the general election ballot. Parties will have to recruit candidates with broad public support and run campaigns that appeal to all the voters. That's fair — and that's right.

PROTECT PRIVACY AND INCREASE PARTICIPATION

Under I-872, you will never have to declare party or register by party in order to vote in the primary. In the primaries in 2000, the turnout in Washington was *more than twice as high* as in states with party primaries — because voters in this state could support any candidate on the primary ballot. *Vote Yes on I-872.*

RETURN CONTROL OF THE PRIMARY TO THE VOTERS

The September primary this year gave the state party bosses more control over who appears on our general election ballot at the expense of the average voter. I-872 will restore the kind of choice in the primary that voters enjoyed for seventy years with the blanket primary. Protect Washington's tradition as a state that elects people over party labels. *Vote Yes on I-872.*

For more information, call 1.800.854.1635 or visit www.i872.org.

Rebuttal of Statement Against

I-872 gives voters *more choices* in the primary and *better choices* in the general. *All the voters* will decide who is on the November ballot. Whether it's one Republican and one Democrat, one major and one minor party, or even an Independent — they will be *the candidates the voters want the most*. The primary and general election should be decided by voters, not by exclusive party organizations that might be dominated by special interests!

Voters' Pamphlet Argument Prepared by:

TERRY HUNT, President, Washington State Grange; BILL FINKBEINER, State Senator, Republican; BRIAN HATFIELD, State Representative, Democrat; SAM REED, Secretary of State, Republican; JOHN STANTON, Chairman and CEO, Western Wireless; DARLENE FAIRLEY, State Senator, Democrat.

Statement Against Initiative Measure 872

I-872 REDUCES YOUR ELECTION CHOICES THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS AND OTHER CONCERNED CITIZENS URGE YOU TO MAKE SURE WASHINGTON VOTERS HAVE CHOICES IN NOVEMBER

Vote No on I-872! Don't be fooled. I-872 creates a Louisiana-style primary that would sharply reduce your choices in general elections. Over a third of the statewide and congressional candidates who appeared on the general election ballot in 2000 would have been eliminated in the primary if I-872 had been the law.

Third Parties and Independents Eliminated: If I-872 is passed, third parties, minor parties and even independents will be eliminated from the general election ballot, leaving (in most cases) one Republican and one Democrat. In November 2000, 180,000 voters who voted for third party candidates in the general election would never have had that choice if I-872 had been the law. Insulating the top two political parties from competition is a bad idea.

Single-Party Elections Will Result: Under I-872 many voters will not be able to vote for a candidate that represents their philosophy because the two top vote-getters in a race may be of the same party resulting in only one party being represented on the November ballot. In one-third of the races for Governor in the last twenty-five years, I-872 would have resulted in two general election gubernatorial candidates from the same party. In fact, the voters' ultimate choice for Governor in 1980, John Spellman, would never have appeared on the November ballot.

We urge you to preserve Washington's independent, multi-partisan election system by voting No on I-872.

For more information, call 206.652.8904 or visit www.No872.org.

Rebuttal of Statement For

The League of Women Voters and many others believe I-872 is bad for Washington. I-872 does not "restore the kind of choice" voters had in the past. *It reduces everybody's choice in the general election.*

It decreases general election ballot diversity by eliminating third party candidates and independents. Some November ballots may have choices from only one party for an office.

Support good government and general election choices. *Vote No on I-872.*

Voters' Pamphlet Argument Prepared by:

JUDY GOLBERG, Chair, President of Washington League of Women Voters; GARY LOCKE, Governor of the State of Washington, Democrat; KEN EIKENBERRY, former Washington Attorney General, past State Republican Chair; JOCELYN LANGLOIS, acting Chair, Libertarian Party of Washington State; JODY GRAGE HAUG, Membership Chair, Green Party of Washington; JOAN THOMAS, past President Seattle LWV, past President Washington LWV.

Referendum Bill No. 12 (1964)

(Chapter 26, Laws Extraordinary Session, 1963)

OFFICIAL BALLOT TITLE

BONDS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES

AN ACT Authorizing the issuance and sale of state limited obligation bonds in an amount not exceeding \$59,000,000; appropriating the proceeds for state matching funds for constructing public school plant facilities, and pledging for payment of principal and interest on the bonds a portion of existing motor vehicle excise tax revenues, subject to amounts previously pledged for payment of principal and interest on bonds heretofore issued.

* Ballot Title issued by John J. O'Connell, Attorney General.

Vote cast by members of 1963 Legislature (Extraordinary Session) on final passage:

SENATE: 49 Members — Yeas, 45; Nays, 2; Absent or not voting, 2.

HOUSE: 99 Members — Yeas, 83; Nays, 11; Absent or not voting, 5.

STATEMENT FOR

PROVIDES URGENTLY NEEDED CLASSROOM SPACE FOR 118,000 NEW CHILDREN

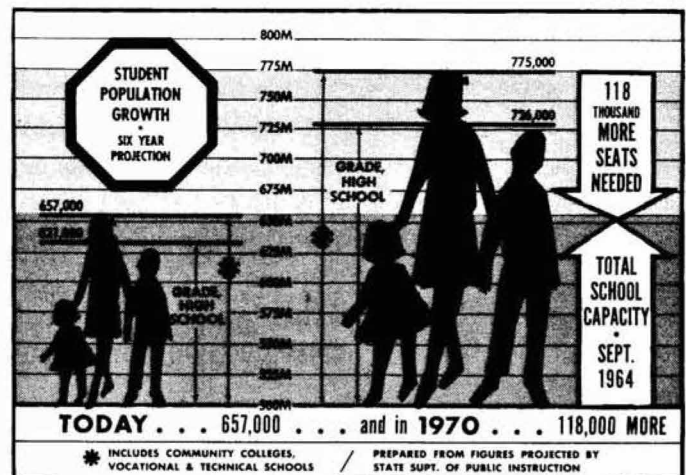
The \$59,000,000 in state matching funds released by the passage of Referendum #12 will help build 295 new elementary, junior high and high schools and additions during the 1963-65 biennium. This means 3576 **NEW** classrooms and teaching stations to help house the State's 118,000 **NEW** enrollees, shown by the chart at the right. **TODAY THERE IS NO ROOM FOR THESE CHILDREN.** Referendum #12 also provides for four new community colleges and ten additions, plus new vocational-technical facilities to house 12,300 more students.

AVOIDS HIGHER PROPERTY TAXES

Without Referendum #12, these needed facilities would have to be built entirely with local funds . . . raised through local property taxes. In some areas of the state property taxes would have to **DOUBLE** to pay the construction bills. With Referendum #12, the bond issue will be paid out of **EXISTING** motor vehicle excise tax revenues. **NO NEW TAXES** will be required to pay for this issue.

CREATES JOBS AND PAYROLLS

Passage of Referendum #12 will result in a total construction



budget of \$120,000,000, developed by the \$59,000,000 matching funds. This money, to be spent in the next two years, means a tremendous economic boost to our state . . . **OVER \$50,000,000 IN PAYROLLS ALONE.** This is why labor, industry, both political parties, people from all walks of life, support Referendum #12.

VOTE FOR **SPACE** FOR SCHOOLS – VOTE **FOR** REFERENDUM 12

COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO COMPOSE STATEMENT **FOR** REFERENDUM BILL NO 12 (Chapter 26, Laws Ex. Sess., 1963)

FRED DORE, State Senator
1429 Wash. Bldg., Seattle

W. WALTER WILLIAMS, Chairman
SPACE, 224 Dexter North, Seattle

DAMON CANFIELD, State Representative
Rt. 1, Box 281, Granger

ADVISORY COMMITTEE (S.P.A.C.E: Statewide Parents and Citizens for Education)

DAVE MINTZ, Vice-Pres., Gen. Mgr.
KVOS-TV, Bellingham

MRS. CHARES MAGE, Immediate Past Pres.
Wash. Congress Parents and Teachers
Vancouver

FRED WESTBERG, Secretary-Manager
Wash. State Fruit Commission
Yakima

E. W. VAN TYEN, Co-mgr.
Northwestern and Pacific Hypotheekbank
Spokane

L. H. Pedersen, Secretary
Pierce County Labor Council
Tacoma

EXPLANATORY COMMENT ISSUED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AS REQUIRED BY LAW**The Law As It Now Exists:**

Presently, elementary and secondary school construction, and community college construction is financed by local school districts with the assistance of the state. The amount of state assistance is determined by the State Board of Education in accordance with a statutory formula. From 1953 to 1961, the legislature, relying on a Supreme Court decision, authorized bond issues for state aid to school construction without submitting the acts to the people for approval or rejection. In 1963 the Supreme Court, having overruled its previous decision, held that the State Constitution requires the \$59,000,000 bond issue authorized by the 1963 legislature to be submitted to the people for approval or rejection.

Effect of Referendum Bill No. 12 (Chapter 26, Laws Ex. Sess., 1963) If Approved Into Law:

If approved, the act will authorize the sale of limited obligation bonds in the amount up to \$59,000,000. The proceeds from the sale of the bonds will be allocated by the State Board of Education to local school districts as state assistance for construction of school plant facilities, in the same manner as such funds have previously been distributed.

The act provides for payment of the bonds from a portion of the proceeds of the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax collected when automobile licenses are issued. The state will pledge to continue to impose the tax in an amount sufficient to pay the principal and interest on the bonds.

NOTE: Complete text of Referendum Bill No. 12 starts on Page 22.

STATEMENT AGAINST

The elected members of the Legislature must accept their responsibility by providing the funds they deem necessary by one of two ways, either by raising taxes or by cutting the budget and using present tax sources. This alone would save millions in bond interest.

Let's make our elected officials accept their responsibility.

VOTE AGAINST REFERENDUM BILL NO. 12.

Our present obligations in bonded indebtedness if continued will reach a figure equal to the normal increase in our tax revenue.

Our state now is among those with the highest bonded indebtedness per capita in the United States.

It is neither morally right or financially sane to charge our debts to our children or grandchildren.

Let's accept our responsibility.

VOTE AGAINST REFERENDUM BILL NO. 12.

COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO COMPOSE STATEMENT **AGAINST** REFERENDUM BILL NO. 12 (Ch. 26, Laws Ex. Sess., 1963)

MIKE E. ODELL
State Representative
E. 13016 Blosssey, Spokane

NOTE: The new state law changing the format of the Voters' Pamphlet provides that in the instance of a referendum bill, the committee appointed to write an argument, either for or against the proposal, should consist of at least one state senator and one state representative. However, no state senator indicated a desire to serve on such committee and for this reason State Representative Mike E. Odell, alone, composed the above statement against this measure.



President and Vice President (2000)

Image from Washington
State Elections, Presidential
Primary, 2000.



**Al
GORE**
Democrat

Image from public domain,
date unknown.



**Joe
LIEBERMAN**
Democrat

Campaign Address:
Gore/Lieberman 2000
2332 2nd Avenue
Seattle, WA 98121
Telephone: 206.239.9554
Fax: 206.239.9558
E-mail: gore2000washington@earthlink.net
Internet: www.algore.com

Al Gore - Democrat

Occupation: Vice President of the United States

Occupational Background: Private, United States Army; Reporter, Nashville *Tennessean*

Prior Governmental Experience: United States Congressman 1977-1985; United States Senator 1985-1993; Vice President of the United States 1993-Present

Educational Background: B.A., Harvard University; Attended Vanderbilt Graduate School of Religion and Vanderbilt Law School.

Joe Lieberman - Democrat

Occupation: U.S. Senator, Connecticut

Occupational Background: Attorney; Assistant Dean of the School of Art and Architecture at Yale; Author

Prior Governmental Experience: Connecticut State Senate 1970-1980; United States Senator 1988-Present

Educational Background: B.A., Yale College; Yale Law School.

Al Gore and Joe Lieberman want to use America's current historic prosperity and record surpluses to benefit everyone, not just the few. They will work to pay down the national debt and make smart investments in health care and education, and to ensure a secure retirement for all.

If you entrust Al Gore with the presidency, he will fight for you. He has taken on powerful special interests throughout his career in public service and will continue to do so as president.

Al Gore and Joe Lieberman will stand up for you on the issues that affect your life. They will:

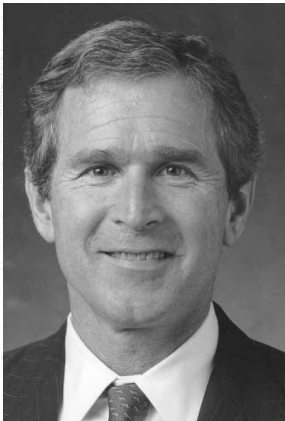
- Balance the budget every year and completely eliminate the national debt by 2012 to keep America prosperous far into the future.
- Offer middle-class tax cuts to help you save for college and pay for health insurance or child care. They will not go along with a huge tax cut for the wealthy at the expense of everyone else that wrecks our good economy in the process.
- Fight for a prescription drug benefit for all 40 million Americans on Medicare.
- Push for a real, enforceable Patients' Bill of Rights which enables doctors and patients to make the medical decisions that affect them; ensures that everyone who gets their health care through an HMO or insurance company has access to needed specialists and emergency room care; and gives every patient the right to hold their insurance company accountable.
- Provide access to affordable health care for every child in America by 2005. They will move toward affordable health care for all, step by step, starting with our children.
- Work to rebuild and modernize our crumbling schools, reduce class sizes and make high-quality pre-school available to every four-year-old.
- Protect Social Security and fight for a new, tax-free retirement plan to help you save and build a bigger nest egg for your retirement.
- Protect and defend a woman's right to choose. This country does not need a Supreme Court that overturns *Roe v. Wade*.
- Take on polluters to clean up our nation's air and water, and reverse the silent tide of global warming. We need to protect our nation's air and water, while ensuring continued economic growth through sustainable use of natural resources.

President and Vice President



19

Image from Washington
State Elections, Presidential
Primary, 2000.



**George W.
BUSH**
Republican

Image from public domain,
date unknown.



**Dick
CHENEY**
Republican

Campaign Address:
Bush-Cheney 2000, Inc.
PO Box 1902
Austin, TX 78767-1902
Telephone: 512.637.2000
Internet: www.georgewbush.com

Statement by Governor Bush:

I'm running for President because I believe our prosperity must have a purpose – to leave no one out. I believe government's role is to create an environment where entrepreneurs and families can flourish and reach their dreams.

As President, I will improve our schools by insisting on high standards, local control, and real accountability. There can be no second-rate schools because there are no second-rate children. I believe all children can learn. And no child should be left behind.

I will also save and strengthen Social Security for this generation and the generations to come. There will be no change in existing benefits for retirees or near-retirees. And for younger workers, I support giving them the option of investing a portion of their Social Security taxes into sound investments they control.

I support tax credits to help working families buy affordable insurance and expanding Medical Savings Accounts to increase access to health care. I support doubling funds for Medicare over the next ten years so that seniors and Medicare recipients can choose a health plan like those offered to all federal employees, including plans to help all seniors pay for prescription drugs.

As President, I will also work to reduce taxes for all taxpayers and rebuild our military with better pay, better training, and better equipment.

I also want you to know what kind of leader I'll be as your President. I am a uniter, not a divider. I will work with Democrats and Republicans to use these good times for great goals.

I'm guided by principles ingrained in my heart – trust local people to make decisions for their schools and communities; keep the peace through strength, not weakness; limit government with tax cuts and spending restraint; fight for American interests and America's workers; promote strong families and personal responsibility.

Statement by Secretary Cheney:

America is ready for new leadership: Leadership that will continue this great prosperity we enjoy – but extend it to every corner of America and use it for greater goals. Leadership that lifts our sights and makes Americans proud again. Governor Bush is that leader.

In a time of partisanship, Governor Bush reaches across party lines to do the people's business. In a time of bitterness, he brings people together. After an era of tarnished ideals, he will return honor and dignity to the Office of President.

As Governor of a large and diverse state, George W. Bush has kept his commitments. He said he would improve the public schools, and he has. He promised to reduce taxes and he has – twice – while keeping the budget in surplus. He pledged to reform the legal system – to get rid of junk lawsuits – and he has. He did all these things because he is someone who works with Democrats and Republicans for the common good, and shares the credit for success.

And I will work with him to enact his plans to improve schools, save and strengthen Social Security, reduce taxes, and rebuild the military and encourage new efforts to confront suffering and poverty.

OTE Student Mock
ELECTION
2025

#FutureVoter

Educational Customer

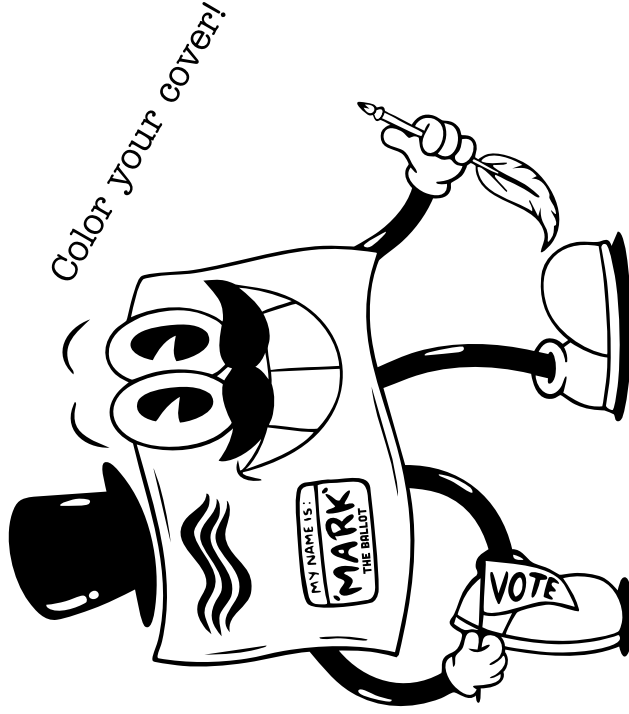
MOCK ELECTION

Student Mock Election
Ends November 4

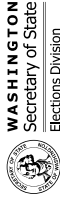
History
Edition

VOTERS' PAMPHLET

Washington State Elections



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



2025
#FutureVoter

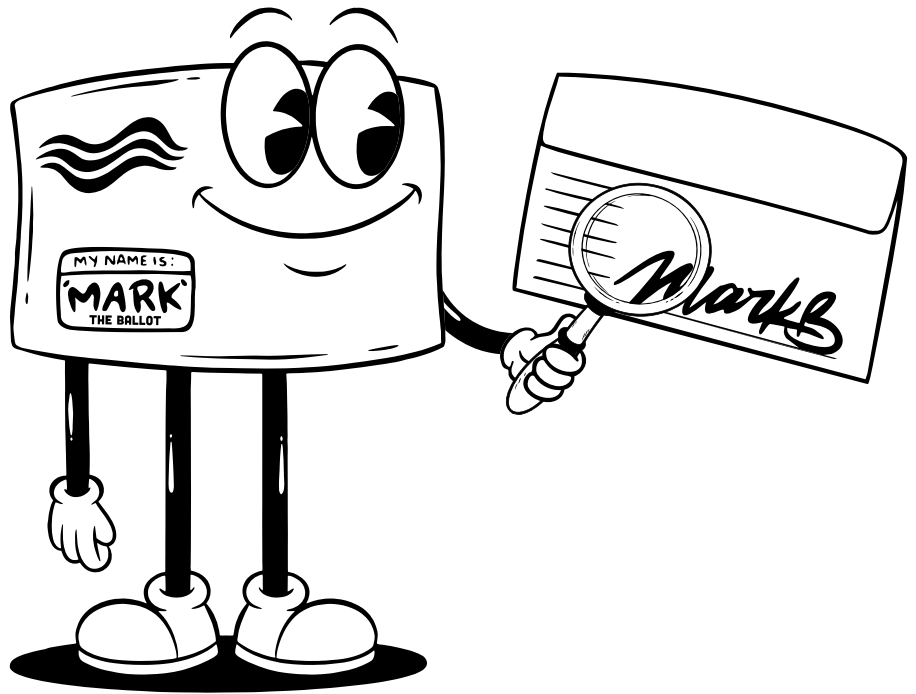
Signature checking

Here in Washington, we vote by mail. Ballots are sent to voters' homes a little over two weeks before Election Day. Voters complete their ballot, sign the envelope, and send it back. But how do election staff know it's really you who voted your ballot?

Like your fingerprints, your signature is unique to you. Signatures are very difficult to copy exactly. Election staff receive special training to compare signatures quickly and accurately.

Before a vote is counted, election staff first compare the signature on the ballot envelope to the signatures in a voter's registration record. If the signatures match, the vote is counted. More than 5 million people can vote in Washington's elections. That's a lot of signatures!

Verifying signatures is like being a detective; you've got to study the clues to find a match. Below are some of the clues election staff look for.



Clues

Spacing:

Is the space between letters even, narrow, or wide?

Continuity:

Are the letters all connected, or are there breaks between?

Ticks:

Are there any spurs or hooks?

Samples

raccoon (narrow spacing)

raccoon (connected)

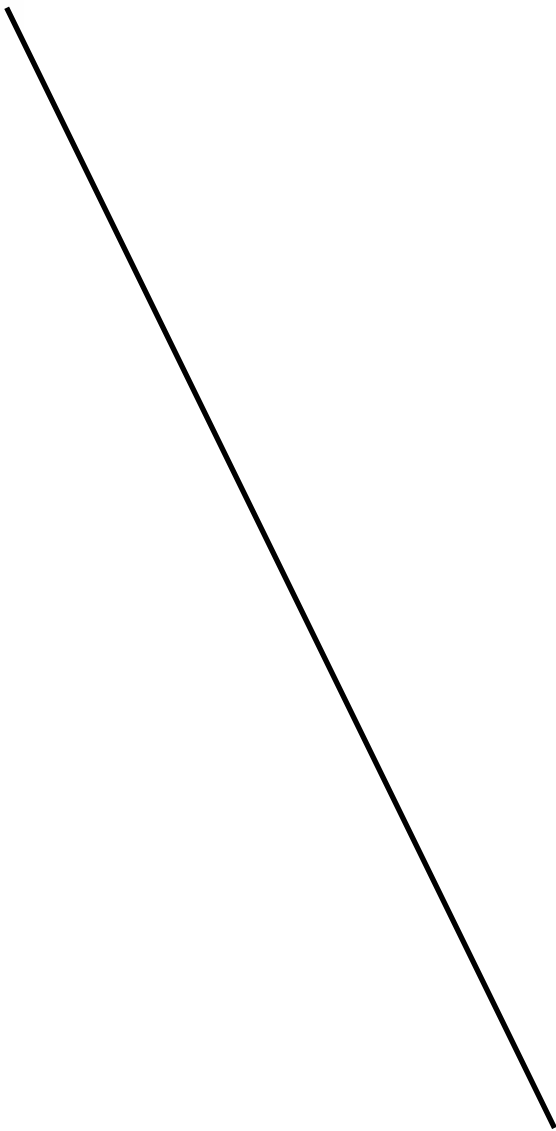
raccoon (spur and hook)

spur → raccoon ← hook

Handwriting analysis

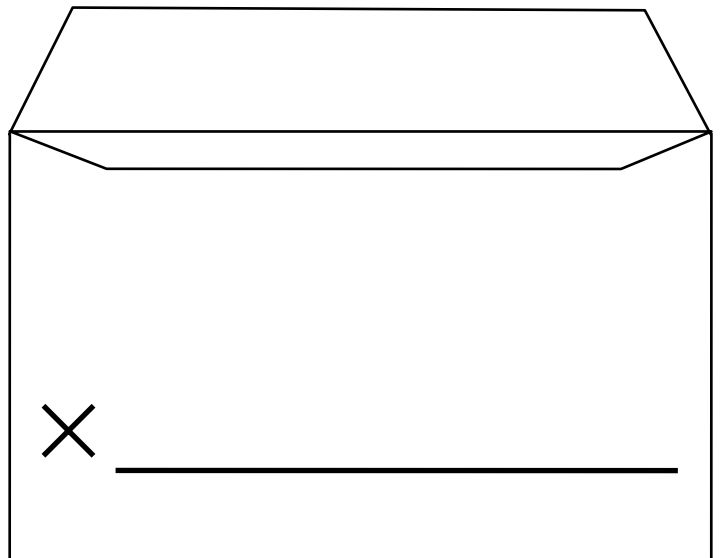
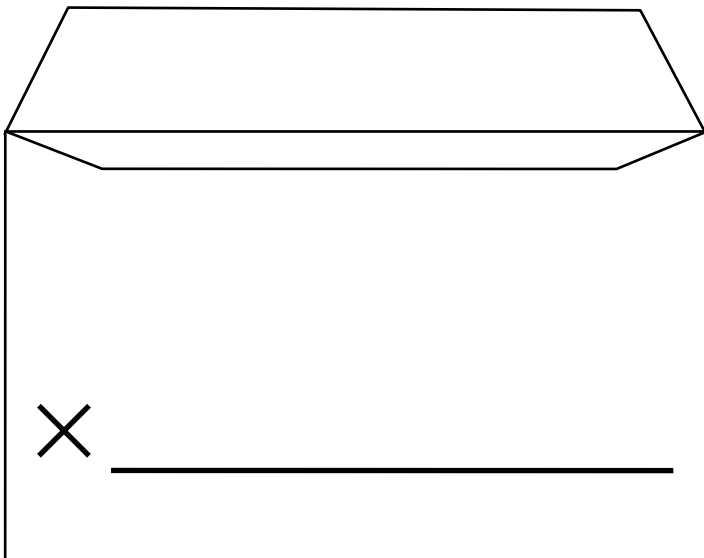
Your signature is special, like a password. The way you write your letters helps people know it's really you! Even if you don't sign your name the same way every time, trained election workers can still tell if it's yours. Draw a line between the closest matching samples below.

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1 <i>walrus</i> | A <i>walrus</i> |
| 2 <i>Walrus</i> | B <i>walrus</i> |
| 3 <i>Walrus</i> | C <i>walrus</i> |
| 4 <i>Walrus</i> | D <i>walrus</i> |
| 5 <i>Walrus</i> | E <i>walrus</i> |
| 6 <i>Walrus</i> | F <i>Walrus</i> |
| 7 <i>walrus</i> | G <i>walrus</i> |
| 8 <i>walrus</i> | H <i>walrus</i> |
| 9 <i>walrus</i> | I <i>walrus</i> |
| 10 <i>walrus</i> | J <i>walrus</i> |



Make your mark!

When you register to vote, a picture of how you signed your name is saved. For your vote to count, your name is like your password. Election workers match your envelope signature to your voter record. Sign your name on the computer, then try to sign the same way on the envelopes. Do they match?





Student Mock
ELECTION
#FutureVoter 2025



WASHINGTON
Secretary of State
Elections Division





Student Mock
ELECTION
#FutureVoter 2025



WASHINGTON
Secretary of State
Elections Division





Student Mock
ELECTION
#FutureVoter 2025



WASHINGTON
Secretary of State
Elections Division

