

VOTERS' PAMPHLET

Washington State Elections
& Benton County

General Election
November 4



2025

Official Publication



WASHINGTON
Secretary of State

Ballots mailed out by **October 17**

1 (800) 448-4881 | sos.wa.gov/elections



I am pleased to present the 2025 General Election Voters' Pamphlet on behalf of the Office of the Secretary of State. This comprehensive guide to the candidates and measures on your ballot can help you find the information you need to cast your vote.

Elections that are accessible, secure, and transparent are the cornerstone of our democracy, providing you with the opportunity to make your voice heard on a variety of issues. This general election, you have the chance to help decide who represents your local community and weigh in on measures that affect daily life in Washington. It all starts with making sure you're registered to vote. Online and mail-in voter registrations and updates must be received by Monday, Oct. 27. In-person registration is also available at your local county elections office until 8 p.m. on Election Day, Nov. 4. If you're already registered to vote, now is a great time to sign into VoteWA and verify your voter registration information is up to date.

Once you receive and vote your ballot, make sure you sign the return envelope. Highly trained elections officials compare your signature to the one on your voter registration before your ballot can be counted. Then, return your ballot. If you vote by U.S. mail — no stamp needed — remember that ballots must be postmarked by Election Day to be counted. The USPS recommends mailing a week before Election Day to ensure your ballot is received on time. Or, return your ballot to one of the many secure ballot drop boxes across the state by 8 p.m. on Election Day. You can track the status of your ballot at VoteWA.gov after returning it. Sign up for text notifications so you'll know when your ballot is received and accepted.

Exercising your right to vote is one of the most powerful ways you can make a difference in your community. Thank you for voting and supporting democracy here in Washington.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Steve R Hobbs".

Steve Hobbs
Secretary of State

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 VOTEWA (868392).



Voting Assistance 4
 How do I register to vote in Washington? 5
 How do I vote and return my ballot?..... 6

Measures

Senate Joint Resolution No. 8201 7

Benton County Local Voters' Pamphlet11

More Information

Complete Text of Measure..... 70
 Contact Your County Elections Office..... 71



Deadlines

Ballots mailed to voters by: October 17
 Register by mail, received by: October 27
 Register online by: October 27
 Register in person by: November 4, 8 p.m.
 Election Day: November 4

Register to Vote

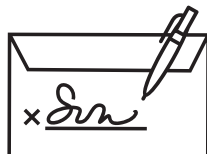
Use **VoteWA.gov** to:

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



Voter tip:

Remember to sign and date your ballot return envelope. Trained election officials are responsible for verifying each and every signature.



Candidates submitted their information for this pamphlet prior to printing. For the most current information, sign in to **VoteWA.gov**.

Political parties

Washington State Democrats

PO Box 4027
 Seattle, WA 98194
 (206) 583-0664
info@wa-democrats.org
www.wadems.org

Washington State Republican Party

11911 NE 1st St
 Ste B 201
 Bellevue, WA 98005
 (425) 900-3379
info@wagop.org
wagop.org



Who donates to campaigns?

View financial contributors for state and local candidates and measures:

Public Disclosure Commission

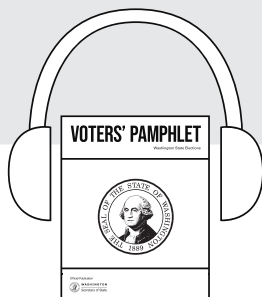
pdcc@pdcc.wa.gov
www.pdcca.wa.gov
 Toll Free 1 (877) 601-2828

Are accessible voting options available?

Audio voters' pamphlet available at **www.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.



Student Engagement Hubs



Public universities offer Student Engagement Hubs to ensure that students never miss an election just because they're away from home.

For dates, hours, and locations, contact student leadership at:

- CWU Ellensburg
- EWU Cheney
- TESC Olympia
- UW Bothell
- UW Seattle
- UW Tacoma
- WSU Pullman
- WSU Tri-Cities
- WSU Vancouver
- WWU Bellingham

Are language services available?

Los votantes del estado de Washington pueden acceder a un folleto electoral para las elecciones generales 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普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副本或選民登記表，請致電 **1 (800) 448-4881**。

Cử tri tại tiểu bang Washington có thể truy cập trực tuyến Sách Hướng dẫn Cử tri cho cuộc Tổng tuyển cử và mẫu đơn đăng ký cử tri bằng Tiếng Việt tại địa chỉ **sos.wa.gov/elections**.

Truy cập **VoteWA.gov** để xem trực tuyến hướng dẫn dành cho cử tri được cá nhân hóa của quý vị hoặc đăng ký và cập nhật thông tin cử tri của quý vị.

Cử tri tại Quận King có thể yêu cầu tài liệu bỏ phiếu đã được dịch sang Tiếng Việt.

Để yêu cầu bản in của sách hướng dẫn cử tri hoặc mẫu đơn đăng ký cử tri bằng Tiếng Việt, xin quý vị vui lòng gọi số **1 (800) 448-4881**.

The federal Voting Rights Act requires translated elections materials.

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.

#FutureVoter

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

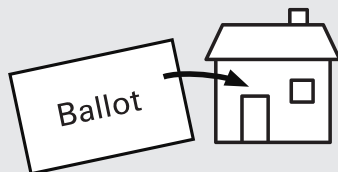
By November 4: Visit a local voting center in person.



How do I vote and return my ballot?

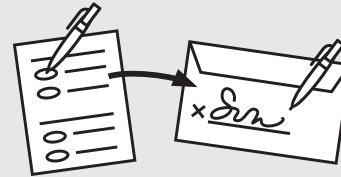
1

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.



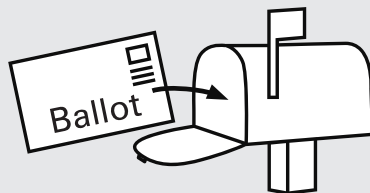
2

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.



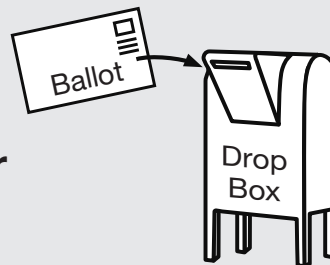
3

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, 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**.

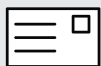
Or



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.

Senate Joint Resolution No.

8201

The legislature has proposed a constitutional amendment on allowing money in Washington’s long-term care fund to be invested.

This amendment would allow the state fund dedicated to providing long-term care benefits for eligible seniors and people with disabilities to be invested as authorized by law.

Should this constitutional amendment be:

- [] Approved
- [] Rejected

Explanatory Statement 8
Arguments For and Against 9

Final Votes Cast by the Legislature

Senate: Yeas, 42; Nays, 7; Absent, 0; Excused, 0
House: Yeas, 86; Nays, 9; Absent, 0; Excused, 3



The Secretary of State is not responsible for the content of statements or arguments (WAC 434-381-180).

Explanatory Statement

Written by the Office of the Attorney General

The Law As It Presently Exists

The Washington Constitution generally prohibits investing public money in stocks of private companies. This means that state funds can only be invested in fixed-income securities, such as government and corporate bonds and certificates of deposit.

The Constitution currently exempts several funds from this restriction. This exemption applies to any public pension or retirement fund, workers’ compensation funds, and money held in trust for the benefit of people with developmental disabilities, permitting those funds to be invested as authorized by law, including in stocks of private companies. The Washington State Investment Board invests and manages these funds.

In 2019, the legislature created a long-term care insurance program. The program provides money to pay for certain long-term care services, such as nursing home care, to program beneficiaries who need assistance with daily living. Under that law, employees pay premiums for long-term care insurance through a payroll deduction, and those premiums are deposited into a Long-Term Services and Supports Trust Account. Under the current provision of the Constitution, money held in the Trust Account cannot be invested in stocks of private companies.

The Effect of the Proposed Amendment if Approved

This Amendment would allow funds in the Long-Term Services and Supports Trust Account to be invested in stocks of private companies, if authorized by law. Investment income from the Trust Account could only be used for long-term care services and supports for program beneficiaries, including for seniors and people with disabilities.

Fiscal Impact Statement

Not required by law

**Constitutional amendments
become law if
more than 50%
of voters approve.**

A

B

=

A

Argument for

Approve 8201 to guarantee long-term care funds are there when we need them

8201 requires 100% of investment income earned by the state's Long-Term Care Trust Fund to be spent on long-term care services for vulnerable seniors and disabled people. Washingtonians want to live with dignity as they age. 8201 supports this shared goal, strengthening the benefit's Trust Fund to help seniors and disabled Washingtonians while protecting taxpayers.

8201 is a commonsense measure that ensures tax dollars go further

Current law limits investment of the Trust Fund to only low-return choices, like government bonds and savings certificates. 8201 allows the Trust Fund to be invested to produce higher returns. This proven method would be managed by the independent, nonpartisan Washington State Investment Board, which is bound by the highest fiduciary standards.

Approve 8201 to increase funding without impacting taxpayers

8201 is projected to grow the Trust Fund by \$67 billion over the next 50 years, money that can be used to increase benefits for people with disabilities and seniors without costing taxpayers a penny. Higher earnings mean more money for care – good for seniors, disabled Washingtonians, their families, and taxpayers!

8201 has overwhelming bipartisan support across the political spectrum

It's encouraging when leaders of both parties agree on something – and a supermajority of Democratic and Republican lawmakers approved this commonsense approach. 8201 is supported by nurses, unions, businesses, and groups representing millions of Washingtonian seniors and people with pre-existing conditions. *Vote Approve!*

Rebuttal of argument against

Fact: Since 1981 the independent Washington State Investment Board has *safely and effectively* managed over \$200 billion for pensions, college savings funds, and more, with an average growth rate of 8% yearly. We must ensure our Long-Term Care Trust Fund grows to *keep up with rising costs while protecting taxpayers*. A bipartisan supermajority of lawmakers approved this measure. *Approve 8201* so WA's Trust Fund is *there for aging seniors and people with disabilities*.

Written by

Justin Gill, APRN, RN, President of Washington State Nurses Association; **Bob Ferguson**, Governor, Democrat; **John Braun**, State Senator, Minority Leader, Republican; **Carma Matti-Jackson**, CEO, Washington Health Care Association; **Cathy Knight**, State Director, WA Association Area Agencies on Aging; **Dani Rice**, Caregiver for People with Autism and Down's Syndrome

Contact: (206) 451-7139; Ana@approve8201.org; Approve8201.org

Argument against

Reject this constitutional change, *again*.

Washington voters already rejected this proposal to take taxpayer money and invest in private stocks and corporations (2020, SJR8212). Our state founders protected public funds from risky investments by establishing safeguards in our state Constitution prohibiting corporate stock market investments of your tax dollars.

Reject constitutional changes that gamble your money in an unstable market.

SJR 8201 overturns safeguards for the Long Term Services and Support (LTSS) fund, a multibillion dollar program established in 2020. Washingtonians are not yet eligible to access program benefits but proponents are *again* asking you to remove a key Constitutional protection. Currently, it's safeguarded in *secured* investments like federal, state and municipal bonds, which support our communities -- *a better use of our tax dollars*. Stock markets and private investments fluctuate greatly, *with no guarantees*, and the benefit needs are unknown in this untested program. This LTSS fund exists to help Washingtonians access long term care as we age or face disability. *When market speculation falls short, taxpayers and beneficiaries would pay the price through reduced benefits or increased taxes*.

Rejecting constitutional changes provide more stability and certainty.

Continuing to invest our public money into federal, state and municipal bonds supports public works that we all depend on. Rejecting SJR 8201 provides for better planning and stability.

Reject SJR 8201

Our state and LTSS need fiscal responsibility, not financial roulette. Reject SJR 8201 to keep the fund secure, stable, and focused on serving the people who will depend on it.

Rebuttal of argument for

Proponents imply a guaranteed return of \$\$billions over 50 years but of course, that's not guaranteed. In 2008 the State Investment Board lost -26.2% and 2022 lost -12.9%. It's how the stock market works. In future recessions or market crashes, when returns fall short, benefits must be cut or tax rates must go up. Compared to *guaranteed* municipal bond returns of 3-5%, the choice is clear. Invest in ourselves, not Wall Street. *Reject SJR 8201*.

Written by

Bob Hasegawa, State Senator, Democrat, 11th District; **Peter Abbarno**, State Representative, Republican, 20th District; **Mark Schoesler**, State Senator, Republican, 9th District; **Joe Schmick**, State Representative, Republican, 9th District

Contact: (360) 786-7616; bob.hasegawa@leg.wa.gov



The Washington State Legislature established a webpage with interactive budget information created by the Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program (LEAP) Committee and the Office of Financial Management (OFM).

WA Budget Summary:

<https://fiscal.wa.gov/budgetsummary>

Legislative Information Center:

1 (800) 562-6000

**How can you access this webpage?**

- Type the URL into your browser
- Scan the QR code with your smartphone or tablet
- Call the Legislative Information Center

What's in the budget?

Operating Budget: pays for day-to-day operations of state agencies, colleges and universities, and public schools (including federal funds and dedicated funds).

Transportation Budget: pays for transportation activities, such as designing and maintaining roads and public transit.

Capital Budget: pays for acquiring and maintaining state buildings, public schools, higher education facilities, public lands, parks, and other assets.

Benton County

Official Local Voters' Pamphlet

November 4, 2025 General Election



BENTON COUNTY WA
Auditor | ELECTIONS

Registration Deadlines:

These deadlines apply to new registrations & voter updates!

Mail: October 27

Online: October 27

In-Person: November 4

Military & Overseas Ballots Mailed:

September 20

Ballots Mailed:

October 17

Additional Resources:

Local Election Information

www.bentoncountywa.gov/auditor

County Information

www.bentoncountywa.gov

State Election Information

www.sos.wa.gov

Campaign Finance Information

www.pdc.wa.gov

Ballot Drop Box Locations:

Courthouse

620 Market Street, Prosser

Benton City - City Hall

1009 Dale Avenue, Benton City

West Richland Library (Drive up)

3803 W. Van Giesen Street, West Richland

West Richland - City Hall (Drive up)

3100 Belmont Blvd., West Richland

Jefferson Park (Drive up)

Symons Street, Richland

WSU Tri-Cities (Drive up)

2770 Crimson Way, Richland

Badger Mountain Community Park (Drive up)

350 Keene Road, Richland

Benton County Elections Center

7122 W. Okanogan Place Bldg F, Kennewick

Benton County Campus (Drive up)

7122 W. Okanogan Place, Kennewick

Kennewick City Hall (Drive up)

524 S. Auburn Street, Kennewick

Finley Middle School (Drive up - In Parking Lot Streetside)

37208 S. Finley Road, Kennewick

Letter to Voters

Dear Benton County Voters,

We are pleased to present the 2025 Benton County Local Voters' Pamphlet for the November 4, 2025, General Election! This fall you are going to have an opportunity to shape the future of our community by participating in the election process. You will be voting on measures and candidates that affect you, your family, and your neighborhood. When you vote, you have a direct say in our government at the local, state, and federal level.

This pamphlet is designed as a reference tool to help you make informed decisions. Inside you'll find useful information about voter registration, instructions on how to properly sign your return envelope, deadlines for returning your ballot, and ballot drop box locations.

Benton County will be sending every eligible household in the county a copy of this guide.

This pamphlet includes statements and photos from candidates that have submitted information about their candidacy and information about the local ballot measures that may be in your district. Please note that we do not make edits or corrections to any statements.

To be eligible to vote in the General Election in Benton County, you must be a registered voter within the County.

Your Signature Matters! Two of the most common reasons ballots are unable to be processed are that they are returned without a signature or with a signature that does not match what we have on file. ***Don't let that be you!*** For helpful information about your signature, please see page 63, or visit our website at: www.bentoncountywa.gov/auditor

We want to help every eligible person register to vote and every registered voter receive their ballot. The earlier the Elections Division is contacted by individuals who need a replacement ballot, want to register to vote and receive a ballot, or have related issues, the more options there will be to assist you. You can call us at (509) 736-3085, send an email to elections@co.benton.wa.us, visit our website – www.bentoncountywa.gov/auditor, or come into the Benton County Elections Center at:

Benton County Elections Center, 7122 W. Okanogan Pl., Bldg. F,
Kennewick, WA

Our office is open weekdays 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., and on Election Day 8:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

The Benton County Elections Division is dedicated to assisting all voters, candidates, and jurisdictions in the election process while ensuring elections are conducted securely, accurately, and transparently in compliance with the laws of the State of Washington. I hope you find this Voters' Pamphlet useful, and of course, do not hesitate to contact my staff or me with any questions.



Brenda Chilton
Benton County Auditor

Table of Contents

General Voting Information	13
----------------------------------	----

Candidate & Measures

Port Districts	14
Hospital Districts.....	16
Cities	20
School Districts.....	42
Fire Districts	56
Water Districts.....	59

Additional Information

Returning Your Ballot by Mail	60
Ballot Drop Box Locations.....	61
Ballot Drop Box Updates.....	62
Voter Assistance	63

To register to vote, you must be:

- A citizen of the United States.
- A legal resident of Washington State
- Not currently serving a sentence of total confinement in prison under the jurisdiction of the department of corrections for a Washington felony conviction; and
- Not currently incarcerated for a federal or out-of-state felony conviction

Three ways to register:

- Online - VoteWA.gov
- By mail - Call us at (509) 736-3085 and we will mail you a form.
- In Person -
Benton County Elections Center,
7122 W. Okanogan Pl., Bldg. F,
Kennewick, WA 99336

Ballot Return Deadline

Election Date	By Mail	Drop Box or In-Person
November 4, 2025	Postmarked by November 4, 2025	By 8:00 p.m. November 4, 2025 (Election Day)



Benton County is pleased to be partnering with WSU Tri-Cities to open a Student Engagement Hub (HUB) for the 2025 General Election. Students and citizens will be able to obtain the following services at the HUB:

- Register to vote
- Update your address
- Pick up a ballot
- Accessible Voting Unit (AVU) available
- Deposit ballot in a secure drop box

For more information on dates, times and services available at this location visit www.bentoncountywa.gov/auditor

Important Information: If a primary election was held for an office, the two candidates who received the most votes in the Primary advance to the General Election.

Are you mailing your ballot?

Check the collection time!

To account for delivery standards and to allow for contingencies, the USPS recommends voters mail their ballots at least one week prior to Election Day. If you are unable to do so, we recommend that you use one of the 11 conveniently located drop boxes.

Official Ballot Drop Boxes are open until 8:00 p.m. on November 4, 2025.



Roy Keck

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

Port of Benton Commissioner since 2007

Other Professional Experience

After 35 years in the nuclear power plant industry, I retired from Energy Northwest in 2007. After retiring, I joined my son Jeff to build and operate our small business, a custom fabrication shop.

Education

1969 graduate of RHS; AA Degree from CBC; Project Management Certification from WSU Tri-Cities; Graduate of Leadership Tri-Cities; Professional Manager, Certification from NMA.

Community Service

Board Member, TRIDEC; Past Chairman, Richland Economic Development Committee; Past Chairman, Richland Utility Advisory Committee; Past President, Washington Public Port Association; Past President, Richland Rotary; Past Commodore, Richland Yacht Club.

Statement

As a native of Richland, I chose to raise my four children and eight grandchildren in this community. I continue to seek opportunities to strengthen our community by moving beneficial projects and policies forward.

Beyond my current community service commitments, I will continue to reduce the property taxes used to subsidize the Port's tenants. This last 5-year effort to update 20- and 30-year-old land leases with Port tenants to current, fair market rates must continue, to provide a level playing field for all small businesses.

Over the last 5 years, I have championed efforts to rebuild the Port's railroad assets after 20+ years of deferred maintenance by replacing railroad crossings and reducing wait times at Richland railroad crossings.

My primary focus is to use my 35 years' experience in the nuclear power industry to continue facilitating and advocating with our community partners, both public and private, to support economic development. Development that will grow job opportunities in the emerging Advanced Nuclear Energy industry and its related supply chain manufacturing. I will strive to increase local manufacturing opportunities in small modular reactors, nuclear fuels, fusion reactors, hydrogen fuels, biofuels, fertilizers, and value-added agriculture.

Contact

(509) 947-5325; ReelectRoyKeck@gmail.com;
www.ReelectRoyKeck.com



Bill O'Neil

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

This will be my first.

Other Professional Experience

40 years of Aerospace Experience; Development of the B2 Bomber Northrop Aircraft, Flight Test Operations Engineer NASA, Project Management Hanford, Licensed Commercial Pilot, Experimental Aircraft Builder and Test Pilot, and Founder/Owner two small businesses in Richland.

Education

Graduate of Richland High School, Bachelor of Science, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University.

Community Service

Tutor and Chess Coach for Elementary School children, Coach for Destination Imagination and Lego League, Volunteer for Camp Patriot, and Volunteer for Salvation Army's Thanksgiving Day Program.

Statement

I would be honored to represent our community as a Port of Benton Commissioner.

With over 40 years of experience in the aerospace industry, I am eager to apply my background to support and advance the Port of Benton's mission. As an active pilot, I regularly engage with individuals and business leaders from across the country. These interactions provide me a unique opportunity to showcase the many advantages of doing business in Richland, Prosser, and Benton City. Our region offers key features that are attractive to investors and business owners, including available commercial sites, a skilled local workforce drawn from a population of over 57,000, and robust transportation infrastructure of air, rail, water, and interstate access. I believe these strengths align well with the Port's commitment to driving economic development and creating new jobs for our community.

Additionally, as a local small business owner, I understand the narrow margin between operating costs and profitability. If elected, I would prioritize creating opportunities for locally grown businesses to thrive. Fostering long-term economic stability and generating sustainable revenue for both the Port and the Richland, Prosser, and Benton City communities.

Thank you for your consideration

Contact

BillONeil4Port@gmail.com; ONeil4Port.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



Raul Contreras
Gonzalez
(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience
No information submitted

Other Professional Experience
Assistant Director, Tri-Cities Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. 2021- Current

Education
Master of Business Administration (MBA), Washington State University; Bachelor’s in Digital Technology and Culture, Washington State University

Community Service
Bilingual Volunteer, Make-A-Wish Foundation; Board Member, American Advertising Federation Tri-Cities

Statement
As a true Tri-Cities product and current Assistant Director of the Tri-Cities Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, I am committed to fostering inclusive economic growth and sustainable development in our region. My professional journey, from helping create successful small businesses to leading nonprofit initiatives, has equipped me with the experience and dedication necessary to serve effectively as one of your Port of Kennewick Commissioners.

I hold a Bachelor’s degree in Digital Technology and Culture and a Master of Business Administration, both from Washington State University, Go Cougs! These academic achievements, combined with my hands-on experience in business development and community service, have prepared me to address the challenges and opportunities that our Port may face.

I will prioritize transparency, community engagement, and strategic partnerships to enhance our port’s role as a catalyst for economic vitality. I am committed to ensuring that our port operations reflect the diverse needs of our community and contribute to a prosperous future for all residents.

Contact
(509) 761-9851; raulcontrerasforportofk@gmail.com



Tammy
Kenfield
(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience
None.

Other Professional Experience
Lifelong Kennewick resident and beauty industry professional since 1985. After graduating from Kennewick High and Govan’s Beauty College, I worked for Regis Corporation, managing salons nationally and internationally. In 2000, I opened a downtown Kennewick salon, serving the community for 22 years. After a fire, I continued working as a stylist and, with my husband, am launching a gym focused on health and wellness.

Education
Graduate of Kennewick High School (Class of 1985) and Govan’s Beauty College.

Community Service
Local business owner, community supporter, and mentor to young professionals.

Statement
As a candidate for Port of Kennewick Commissioner, my mission is to protect and develop the unique assets of our community through thoughtful, transparent leadership. I believe in promoting sustainable growth without raising local taxes. I am dedicated to preserving the character of our waterfront, supporting small businesses, and creating spaces that serve families, entrepreneurs, and visitors alike.

My leadership will prioritize fiscal responsibility, open communication, and long-term planning that respects our local heritage while positioning Kennewick for the future. By listening to residents and championing their vision, we can revitalize underused areas, attract responsible investment, and foster a vibrant, inclusive economy. Together, we can ensure that the Port remains a driver of opportunity for generations to come.

Contact
(509) 430-2238; tammykenfield@yahoo.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



Shannon
Phipps

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience
None

Unopposed

Other Professional Experience
Division Chief of Ambulatory Medicine, Kadlec, April 2019-present, Family Practice physician April 2006 -present, self-employed private practice April 2008 -April 2014, Center Medical Director Grifols Plasma Center August 2023-present.

Education
Mitchell Hamline School of Law, J.D., January 2022, Osteopathic Medicine Ohio Heritage College of Medicine DO, June 2001, Cedarville University BS Mathematics, BA Biology, June 1995.

Community Service
Gubernatorial appointment Board of Osteopathic Medicine August 2016 to present. The board is mandated to protect the public’s health and safety and promote the welfare of the state by regulating the competence and quality of professional health care providers under its jurisdiction.

Statement
Medicine is increasingly complicated for patients and providers. The Tri-Cities has been historically underserved, and although more providers, nurses, and caregivers are being recruited, the gap is still widening, creating a greater need for addressing unmet health care needs outside the traditional brick and mortar hospital and clinic walls.

The Tri-Cities has been my home since 2008, when I opened my private practice as a family physician. Throughout my career, I have participated in and observed navigating healthcare that is overwhelming and heavily regulated. I wanted a better understanding of the obstacles to healthcare and obtained my JD from Mitchell Hamline School of Law, focusing on healthcare law, which has helped me as a family physician and in my administrative role. Despite the efforts of our providers and caregivers, we still have social needs impacting healthcare that can’t be bridged by our hospitals and clinics. KPHD’s mission is to improve healthcare in our community and address unmet needs through services, education, and collaboration. I see my role as a KPHD commissioner as providing provider experience and helping identify opportunities to help our communities health and bridge care gaps outside the capacity of our collective hospital entities.

Contact
(509) 942-3286; shannon.phipps@kadlec.org

Local Voters' Pamphlet
These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.

No photo
submitted

Spencer
Harris
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

Elected Experience
Appointed as a Kennewick Public Hospital District Commissioner in 2024. Prior to being a commissioner served on the planning committee for the district.

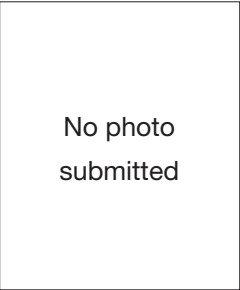
Other Professional Experience
I’ve spent over 25 years working in healthcare finance.

Education
Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Utah State University. Master of Business Administration from Washington State University.

Community Service
Served as youth soccer coach and youth scout leader.

Statement
No information submitted

Contact
sharris527@yahoo.com

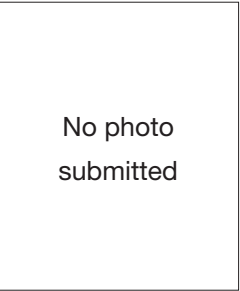


Wanda
Briggs
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

No information submitted
Contact
(509) 521-6945; jandwbriggs@frontier.com

Kennewick Public Hospital District | Commissioner Pos. 6 | 6-year term

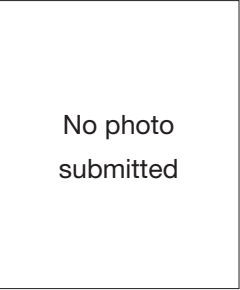


Rick
Reil
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

No information submitted
Contact
(509) 727-1450; rick.realifephoto@gmail.com

Prosser Public Hospital District | Commissioner Pos. 1 | 4-year Unexpired term



Samantha
Markus
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

No information submitted
Contact
samanthamarkusj@gmail.com

No photo
submitted

Brandon
Bowden
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

No information submitted

Contact

brandon.a.bowden@gmail.com

No photo
submitted

Glenn M.
Bestebreuer
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

No information submitted

Contact

(509) 840-9306; gbestebreuer@yahoo.com

No photo
submitted

Stephen
Kenny
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

No information submitted

Contact

No information submitted

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



**Gerry
Hill**

(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

Elected Experience

President, Howard Mesa Ranch Property Owners Association, Williams, AZ

Other Professional Experience

1971-1998 US Coast Guard Master Chief Petty Officer (Ret.); 1999-2008 Maintenance Manager, Raytheon Space and Airborne Systems, El Segundo, CA; 2010-2015 Senior Chief Operating Engineer, ABM Engineering Services, Southern California

Education

Master of Science, Quality Systems Management

Community Service

Managed collection of 13 tons of clothing for Kosovo in Southern California. Drove children's church busses. Collected and distributed coats for homeless. Donated a car to an unwed mother in California. Taught Sunday School in various locations.

Statement

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve Benton City as City Councilman. I believe by working together with the Mayor and other City Council members, we can continue to bring the good leadership, communication and fiscal responsibility the people of Benton City deserve!

Contact

(951) 642-7455; Gmhill53@gmail.com

No candidates filed for this office during the regular or special filing period, creating a void in candidacy.

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



Austin Miller

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience
None

Other Professional Experience

I'm a professional researcher, and my jobs include being an economist, a teacher at college, and someone who studies and works with data. I've advised federal agencies, state and local governments, and both large and small businesses. I started and co-owned a small photography business from 2014-2019. I also tutor math and statistics.

Education

Kamiakin High School, 2004. Master of Public Policy, Brigham Young University, 2012. PhD Economics, Washington State University, 2018.

Community Service

Policy Intern, Benton County Commissioners Office, 2011. Eagle scout project maintaining trees at Horse Heaven Hills Park. Volunteer soccer coach.

Statement

I'm concerned by many harmful ideas spreading in our communities recently, often unopposed. I want my neighbors in Kennewick to know they are not alone.

I share the same values as many of you. We want to protect our most vulnerable—trans kids, immigrants, people with neurodivergence or mental health conditions, and those experiencing homelessness. We want access to healthcare. We want to find new and exciting ways to build a strong community.

People want to feel safe. I want to encourage a culture of civility and support. I want to incentivize people and businesses to create community spaces and events. We're all worried about the economy. Let's work together. I want to promote organizations that encourage small businesses to buy from each other, share strategies, and grow.

We also need a plan for responsible growth. That means being efficient with our budget and how we prioritize projects. I want to reuse and update spaces where possible, and encourage more mixed-use development. Kennewick is a great place to try new things. As our town grows, we'll continue to face new challenges. We need solutions that are smart, flexible, and—above all—kind.

<https://www.youtube.com/@AustinMillerKennewick>

Contact

(509) 987-2276; austinmillerkennewick@gmail.com;
<https://www.youtube.com/@AustinMillerKennewick>



Jason McShane

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience
Kennewick City Council appointed in December 2023

Other Professional Experience

Currently serving on Benton Clean Air Authority Board, TRIDEC Executive Board, Joint Coliseum Advisory Committee, Historic Downtown Kennewick Partnership Board, Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce, Kennewick Schools FOCUS Committee, Lower Yakima River Subgroup Chair. 20 Yrs. Public Service at Kennewick Irrigation District.

Education

Richland High School, Class of 2000; Bachelors of Science, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Brigham Young University, 2005

Community Service

Two years service in Norway, providing a variety of support for individuals. Volunteer with ARC of Tri-Cities. Active in church congregation serving in multiple capacities, currently serving with youth. Eagle Scout, Youth Sports Coach.

Statement

I am honored to be considered for election to the Kennewick City Council, Ward 1. With a proven record of integrity, problem-solving, and success, I bring a practical approach focused on cutting red tape and helping citizens achieve their goals.

As a married father of five, I understand the everyday challenges families in Kennewick face. It's essential to keep the city budget lean while creating opportunities for new businesses, supporting job growth, and maintaining the vital public services we rely on. I also believe in expanding access to wholesome, family-oriented activities—entertainment and sporting events—that strengthen our community identity and enrich daily life.

I have extensive experience navigating local, state, and federal regulations, which enables me to advocate effectively for practical, community-first and *local* solutions.

Top priorities for Kennewick include maintaining and improving fire and police coverage; enhancing the waterfront, including Columbia Park; enhancing parks and recreational opportunities; revitalizing Downtown; supporting continued development of Vista Field and the Convention Center; and fostering economic growth through thoughtful planning and strong community partnerships.

I recognize projects like these require time, persistence, and collaboration. I am excited to continue working alongside citizens and businesses to create lasting success for the City of Kennewick.

Contact

(509) 537-5903; jasonmcshane10@gmail.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



Loren
Anderson

(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

Elected Experience

I have served for nearly one term (4 years) on the Kennewick City Council.

Other Professional Experience

I own my dental practice. I have started 2 dental practices, sold one, own one. I have created 15 local jobs.

Education

Bachelor Science Degree from Brigham Young University;
Doctor of Dental Surgery Degree from the University of Oklahoma

Community Service

Active member of my church, volunteering/teaching with the middle and high school students.

Statement

My purpose on the city council of Kennewick is to provide a regular citizen's voice on the council. I'm not retired, and this is a significant time investment in my community outside my family and professional obligations. But I'm grateful to have this opportunity. My greatest hope for the city of Kennewick is that we unitedly commit to and build a true Community Recreation Center that will benefit every single person in our community, from the youngest to the oldest and everyone in between!

Contact

loren@kennewicksmiles.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



John Trumbo
(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience
I have lived in Kennewick 25 years, and served on the Kennewick City Council since 2014, this being my third term.

Other Professional Experience
I am a retired newspaper journalist of 38 years, covering city and county governments, with 10 years covering courts and law enforcement in nine cities and 2 states.

Education
I have a bachelor's of science degree in journalism from Cal Poly University in San Luis Obispo, California.

Community Service
Served Christian churches many years, currently at South Hills in Kennewick. Volunteer/support Union Gospel Mission, TROT for disabled youth, Chinese Children Adoption International, Church Planting Evangelism in Philippines and Christian Outreach in India.

Statement
With 50 years of watching local government as a news reporter/councilman, I have great experience for being re-elected. Government must be held accountable with how tax dollars are used. Challenges abound in Kennewick because of the demands of growth. Sales tax is our biggest revenue, with property tax No. 2. But it's not enough. Cost of government is escalating with: transportation benefit district fees, ambulance utility fees, fire and parks impact fees, and an option to raise the property tax levy lid from 1 percent annually to 3 percent. All this because of Kennewick's nonstop growth. Water/sewer charges creeping upward, and this year the Public Safety Tax boosted retail sales tax by 0.03 percent. And perceived necessary capital projects (convention center expansion; a community recreation center, replacing city hall, replacing dilapidated city shops; creating a citywide trails/bicycle paths network; another fire station with equipment in South Kennewick; upgrading the city computer system; and converting the old KGH property into a Drug/Alcohol Center) are not doable without more of your money. Did I mention roads and water systems? I promised to vote wisely on making your dollars work for you. I thank you. Vote John Trumbo for Ward 3, position 3.

Contact
(509) 366-2241; johntnews@gmail.com



Warren Hughs
(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience
I was an elected PCO in Benton County 2012-2014.

Other Professional Experience
I started working with my hands as a young man. In my 20 year career I have worked as a Fabricator, Welder, Machinist, Production manager, and Metal artist. I have built my own small business in Kennewick.

Education
I trained as an automotive technician at CBC. During my working life, as I was assigned management responsibilities, I sought out various management and communications courses to develop the skills I needed to support my position.

Community Service
Volunteer with the Historic Downtown Kennewick Partnership, Board member for the South Columbia Creative District, Kennewick Arts Commissioner.

Statement
My home is in Kennewick, this is where I have started a family, watched my child be born, and started my small business. There is something special here, our established community of friendly neighbors, a historic downtown, community pool, parks, schools and small businesses. We have something unique here in Central Kennewick.
For 17 years I have lived in Kennewick and observed amazing investments and growth, on the edge of town. That special thing about Kennewick has attracted many new neighbors and they have many friends on city council. It often feels like our home in Central Kennewick is overlooked in favor of flashy projects and big developments at the edge of town.
Last year I decided to attend city council meetings. I watched council do a great job balancing the budget, but they had to raise taxes to support development in Southridge. I watched them talk about updating the community pool to a new indoor facility, but only after raising 10's of millions to expand the convention center.
In Central Kennewick we pay taxes too, and far too often we get "deferred maintenance". I'm running to make a difference for Central Kennewick, it's time to get the work done.

Contact
(509) 438-9242; Hughsllc@gmail.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



Brad Klippert

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

Served 14 years as member of the Washington State House of Representatives.

Other Professional Experience

30+ years of Military leadership experience (20 years helicopter pilot), U.S. Army. Retired O6/COL Commander Washington State Guard. 30+ years Law Enforcement experience: Sheriff's Deputy: Pierce and Benton Counties. Served as a Firefighter: both Yakima and Pierce Counties. Teaching: 1st Grade to College level classes; most recently Political Science 101.

Education

Masters Degree: Teaching. Bachelor's Degree: Behavioral Science and Biblical Studies; Graduate: Central Washington Universities Paramedic Program.

Community Service

Served our community as a School Resource Officer with the Benton County Sheriff Department at Ki-Be High School since 2000.

Statement

Kennewick is an exceptional city—rich in resources, opportunity, and community spirit. I believe it has the potential to be a leader not just in our region, but across the state.

I'm running for city council to support smart, responsible growth while preserving what makes our community unique. With abundant clean water, affordable utilities, and a solid foundation for business, Kennewick is well positioned to thrive. I will work to keep taxes low, eliminate unnecessary regulatory hurdles, and defend the constitutional rights of every resident.

Public safety is a top priority. I will support our law enforcement officers and advocate for meaningful partnerships with federal agencies when appropriate to ensure community protection. I also believe strong communities begin with strong families. I will support parental rights, safe neighborhoods, and continued investment in parks, recreation, and public spaces that bring people together. As our city experiences a growing homelessness crisis, I'm committed to partnering with the right agencies to break down barriers to housing and deliver real, compassionate solutions.

Kennewick is more than just a city—it's home. Let's protect what we love, grow wisely, and build a better future for the generations to come.

Contact

(509) 378-1011; klippertforkennewick@gmail.com; klippertforkennewick.com



Gloria Tyler Baker

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

No information submitted

Other Professional Experience

No information submitted

Education

Graduated from Bothell High School in 1976, attended Columbia Basin College in general studies and business. Received certifications in finance and management from The Ford Motor Co. in 2005. Received my Washington State Real Estate license in 2022. (Not currently practicing)

Community Service

I started the "Coats for Kids" program with KNDU in 1987 and along with wonderful community support, this program has helped 1000's of children by providing warm coats for the Tri-Cities winters. This program has been going strong for almost 40 years now.

Statement

As almost a 50 year City of Kennewick resident and business woman in the city for over 40 years, I believe that I would be an asset to serve in the Kennewick City Council. My focus now for our city is public safety, supporting our Kennewick Police Dept. to get the bad drivers and crime off of our streets, while of course also supporting all of our first responders that risk their lives daily to make sure that our families have a safe city to live in. Secondly, I do feel that it is the City Councils absolute responsibility to spend the taxpayers dollars wisely and to work with the private sector for diversification of our economy, expanding our area to an even better place to live, work and do business. Lastly, I firmly believe that we need to do more for our homeless population, possibly privately supported. I think most people in these situations need a "hand-up", not just a "hand-out" to help them get in a positive place for themselves and their families, this could be a win-win for all of us. Thank you so much for taking your time to read my statement. Gloria Tyler Baker

Contact

(509) 308-1688; gctylerbaker@gmail.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.

No photo
submitted

Julie
Mercer
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

No information submitted

Contact

(206) 261-4490; Mercer4Prosser@gmail.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



William (Bill) Jenkin

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

Two terms in the Washington State House of Representatives (16th District). Three years on the Prosser School Board, including two as Board President.

Other Professional Experience

Financial Advisor; Owner, Prosser Vineyard & Winery; Real Estate Investor; Past Grand Knight, Knights of Columbus.

Education

B.A. in Business Management, University of Redlands.

Community Service

Founding Chair, Prosser Boys & Girls Club; Past President, Prosser Chamber of Commerce and Prosser United Good Neighbor; Rotary District Governor (2017–2018); Member, Prosser Economic Development Association; People for People Board.

Statement

Prosser is my home, and I'm ready to bring my experience back to serve the city I love. While representing our region in Olympia, I learned how to navigate government effectively and advocate for real results, skills I'll put to work for Prosser.

I believe local government should focus on common-sense solutions, fiscal responsibility, and serving the community's needs, not growing bureaucracy. That's why I support relocating City Hall to the County Building, improving access and efficiency for residents. I'll also help develop a responsible, achievable plan for relocating the Prosser Police Department and support the thoughtful revitalization of our Historic Downtown, ensuring any changes reflect the long-term interests of our community.

I'm committed to keeping Prosser safe, welcoming, and financially stable. I'll listen to residents, ask the tough questions, and make decisions rooted in practical thinking and proven values.

My goal is simple: to preserve what makes Prosser special while planning carefully for its future. With steady leadership and a focus on results, we can keep Prosser strong. I'd be honored to earn your vote.

Contact

(509) 778-2482; rotaryjenkin@yahoo.com



Vance Glasscock

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

No information submitted

Other Professional Experience

Legal Assistant at Saxton Riley & Riley - 2007-2025.

Worked for Student Computing Services, WSU - 2003-2005.

Education

Prosser High School Class of 2002. Bachelors of Science in Electrical Engineering, WSU, 2009.

Community Service

Attend Prosser United Methodist Church (PUMC), assisted in setting up computer lab project involving the Prosser Schools and PUMC.

Statement

I have lived in Prosser for nearly my entire life. I am the third generation living in Prosser.

I have over 15 years experience with City issues while working as an assistant at the City attorney's office. I have knowledge of many of the current issues, familiar with City staff, and some current planning and zoning projects.

I have watched the City change over the last 40 years, from the increase in the number of houses, to the changes in shopping and tourist activities in the City and surrounding area.

Some things I would like to see included when granting a franchise for a new utility that covers a large portion of the City is that they do not forget those North of the river or South of 22. I would also like to see more commercial development on the West end of the City with commercial neighborhood zoned properties in the new larger residential developments. On the Southwest end of the City, it is almost a mile to any commercial zoned property, and that includes a long walk along 22 which has no sidewalks.

Contact

(509) 439-2002; vance4prosser@gmail.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



Felix Cortes

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

Prosser City Council, 2021-2025

Other Professional Experience

Co-manager, El Caporal restaurant;

Paraeducator, Prosser School District;

Teacher, Prosser School District;

Education

Prosser High School Class of 2001;

B.A. from Yakima Valley College;

Master's in Curriculum and Instruction from Western Governors University

Community Service

Mustangs for Mustangs Board Member, 2020-present

Statement

I was born in Los Angeles, California, to immigrant parents who taught me the value of hard work and service. As a child, my family moved to Prosser to open El Caporal, our family's Mexican restaurant. I graduated from Prosser High School in 2001 and have proudly helped manage our family's restaurant ever since. That experience has shaped me into a strong leader, a problem solver, and a committed community member.

Prosser welcomed my family 26 years ago, and this community has given us so much. In return, I've dedicated myself to giving back.

Serving on city council for the past four years has been an honor. I'm running for re-election to continue listening to our residents, advocating for families, and supporting policies that strengthen our community while preserving what makes Prosser special. I bring the lived experience of a first-generation daughter, educator, and small businesswoman. I'm committed to creating opportunities for all and ensuring that every voice in our town is heard and respected. I would be honored to earn your vote again.

Contact

Felixforprosser@gmail.com



Harold C Lewis

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

Elected President of Seattle University Graduate School of

Business; Nominated for Seattle City Treasurer, receiving over 37% of votes; Elected to the Board of Directors for Unincorporated King County, representing 33,000 residences; Elected to the Board of Directors for the Wallingford Community Medical Clinic; Elected President of Toastmasters International Speaking Club

Other Professional Experience

Head Coach for Boys Tennis Program at Prosser High School

Education

BA Degree in Sociology, University of Washington; MBA Degree, Marketing & Accounting, Seattle University; Graduate of the Northwest Wine Academy, Seattle, Washington

Community Service

As a member of the Army Corps of Engineers Climbing Team, summited Mt Rainier twice, 1987, 1988

Statement

No New Taxes. Property taxes in Prosser are the highest in the region. To offset new taxes the City Budget will be restructured and all real property will be inventoried and sold to finance projects. The City of Prosser is not in the landlord business.

Controlled Residential Growth. With over 900 new homes approved for the City of Prosser, this puts a strain on roads, water system, sewer system and other infrastructures. City water comes from 4 aging wells and there is an aging water treatment plant, both requiring over \$8.5 million upgrades to meet Federal & State requirements. All new residential developments will have a surcharge attached to cover the cost of future upgrades. Currents residents should not be burdened to cover the cost of these upgrades.

Support Public Safety. Provide the Police Department with a new building and the tools & training needed to keep citizens safe. This includes investing in improvements to walkways, bike lanes, and better Ben-Franklin transit services.

Support the Prosser Downtown Historical Assoc and the local wine industry. Work with Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Council, and other community groups, to promote tourism and economic vitality for The City of Prosser. Vote Harold C. Lewis for City Council Position 3.

Contact

hlewis2222@aol.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



Pat Holten

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

Benton County Republican Party: State Committeewoman, twice Vice-Chair (1998-2003, 2013-2014) and acting Chair

Other Professional Experience

6th Grade Teacher, Jefferson Elementary School; Substitute Teacher, Richland School District; Devoted wife and mother for 48 years, managing a home and raising a family—an experience that has shaped strong commitment to community, responsibility, and service.

Education

Master's degree in Curriculum/Instruction, University of Washington; Bachelor's degree in Education, Washington State University

Community Service

Volunteer musician at assisted living facilities and local churches. Former President, Hanford PTA. Various positions, Jefferson PTA. Treasurer, Public Safety Sales Tax Committee. Member of the church benevolence ministry.

Statement

Pat has lived in the historic part of Richland for over 50 years. She came to Richland to begin her teaching career and then met her husband, Rich. They settled in Richland and raised a family. Pat is the proud mother of three children who are married and raising children of their own. A fiscal conservative, Pat has no personal debt. She respects the history of Richland and has taken responsibility to care for and restore her 1958 home and yard.

Pat wants to make sure the city is safe. She is committed to addressing the growing gang and drug issues affecting our neighborhoods, parks and businesses. Pat will be a strong advocate for the Richland Police Department. She is concerned with theft, homelessness, and drug and gang issues that result in the deterioration of our great city. She loves Richland's bright future based on its many assets. She will support the growth of new business as well as supporting existing businesses.

As a teacher, wife, mother, outdoor enthusiast, wine-lover and nuclear supporter, Pat will bring her background, experience, enthusiasm, and love for Richland to this role.

Contact

holten4richland@gmail.com; holten4richland.com



Robert Walko

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

This is my first time running for office.

Other Professional Experience

Cybersecurity Engineer at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.

Education

B.S. Computer Science from University of Idaho; M.S. Cybersecurity from University of Idaho

Community Service

Volunteer at Covenant United Methodist Church Spokane, college tutor

Statement

I want to serve my community, and I believe city council is where I could provide the greatest benefit. I love nature and will always work to preserve Richland's parks and natural resources. I believe that city council should be elected by district instead of at-large to ensure everyone is equally represented. I am deeply committed to our core American values of freedom and opportunity; I will protect each citizen's unalienable rights and work for a community that works for all.

Outside of these values, I don't have preconceived notions of how the city should be run. I do not have any agenda outside of serving the people of Richland. My first priority will be finding out what problems affect you and getting them fixed as quickly as possible. I'd like to hear from you. If you call, I'll answer. If you email me, I'll respond. I'll be present, attending every Richland City Council workshop and meeting where I will be actively advocating for your needs and concerns. It's time for younger people to have a say in Richland's future. I would be honored to receive your vote and I hope to work for you soon.

Contact

(509) 720-3648; robert.walko.richland@gmail.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



Donald Landsman

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

4-Term Benton County Precinct

Committee Officer (PCO), Republican; 8-year appointed Legislative Affairs Officer (LAO) at ABATE of Washington, Non-Partisan

Other Professional Experience

Parliamentarian for various business entities and political conventions.

Education

Graduate of The International Air Academy, with advanced proficiency in Airport Operations and Tariff/Tax calculation.

Community Service

26-year youth sports coach and umpire from Little League through Junior College; Flag Retirement Officiant; Memorial Day Celebrant for Veterans and Seniors; Recent Meals-on-Wheels volunteer.

Statement

I've called Richland my hometown since 1977. I've watched it grow from a quiet town into a vibrant, thriving community and am proud to have been part of that journey. It's where I married my wife, raised our three daughters, and built a life rooted in faith, family, and service. Now, I'm running for Richland City Council to help shape its future with steady, experienced leadership.

My priorities are clear: responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars, strong public safety, and sustainable growth. I believe in conservative, transparent budgeting that strengthens infrastructure and improves everyday services without waste or unnecessary spending.

Public safety is vital to a strong community. I will work closely with law enforcement, first responders, and local organizations to support proactive, neighborhood-based strategies that keep Richland safe, without raising taxes.

With years of legislative experience, I've advocated for eight state laws that defend personal freedoms, improve transportation, and protect citizen rights. I know how to turn policy into action and results.

As Richland continues to grow, we must balance progress with preserving the character that makes our city special and champion thoughtful development that supports local families and businesses.

With your vote, we can build a safer, stronger Richland.

Contact

(509) 537-2255; Donald4Richland@gmail.com

No photo
submitted

John Maier

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

This is my first campaign

Other Professional Experience

Bike Mechanic at a local bike shop (2025-present)

Education

EWU College-in-the-High School, Hanford High School graduate 2025, attending Western Governors University Fall 2025 (Cybersecurity major)

Community Service

Wheelhouse Community Bike Shop volunteer

Statement

Abe Lincoln said *"Democracy is the government of the people, by the people, for the people."* When I look at who represents me, I find very little in common. As a young adult, my issues are affordable housing, safe independent transportation, and opportunities for jobs with flexible working conditions so I have time for my studies.

Riding the bus and my bike around town, working at the Uptown, I recognize that these issues are not unique to young people. There are a lot of marginalized Richlanders who can't find jobs or their disabilities prevent them from working, and so they can't afford a secure roof over their heads. I support the petition for electing council members by district, just like every other city of our size in Washington, so that the unique needs of each part of our town are represented on the city council.

I am motivated to change our city codes to facilitate more affordable housing, represent our needs with Ben Franklin Transit for longer service hours and more capacity for school trips, and to motivate others, especially young people, to engage in government.

I ask for your vote for Richland City Council Position 4.

Contact

(443) 891-8219; JMaier@disroot.org

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



**Kurt H
Maier**

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

Incumbent, Richland City Council Position 6

Other Professional Experience

I've collaborated with people from all walks of life at Google, IBM, the University of Maryland, PNNL, and other organizations, in Nashville, Indianapolis, Baltimore, Kabul, and more. I'm a veteran of the United States Army. I've worked as a telephone repairman, an auto mechanic, a roofer, a chicken farmer, a manager, and a professional cook, but mostly as a supercomputing engineer, which is what I do these days.

Education

B.Sc. in General Science, MTSU; M.Sc. in Data Analytics, WGU

Community Service

Richland Public Library Board of Trustees member from 2017 to 2022. Chair from 2020-2022.

Statement

When I was elected to this office, I said we need housing affordable enough that our families can live here. We need a city code that encourages local businesses, instead of tying them up with red tape. These are the things I've been working towards since I started serving on the Council. Already we've removed several outdated laws from our municipal code, and I've led the charge on finding ways to remove the red tape that's keeping housing so expensive. There's so much more we can do, but I need your support in order to do it!

This election season, look for the candidates with real plans that focus on Richland. Too often our local leaders are beholden to political parties or other outside interests. Voting for me gets you a councilmember who is independent. I am laser-focused on what's best for Richland, and not someone spouting empty buzzwords pasted in from some career politician's playbook. City council seats are supposed to be non-partisan. Whether or not they actually are ... is up to you.

Contact

(443) 208-8385; khm@americanimperium.com;
<https://americanimperium.com>



**Kyle
Saltz**

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

11 years elected leadership of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). 5 years elected Commander.

Other Professional Experience

Served 11 years as an Active-duty Army Counterintelligence Agent. Currently still serving in the Army reserve from 2023-present. Hanford Patrol from 2017-present on the Tactical Response Team.

Education

Master's Degree in Criminal Justice. Master's Degree in Liberal Arts. Graduate of the Defense Language Institute.

Community Service

VFW Honor guard for funerals, events, and educational activities. Volunteer for the Special Olympics and Love on a Leash (visits nursing homes, hospitals with k9 friend Maxwell). Veterans Courts Mentor of Benton County.

Statement

I joined the Army after witnessing the events of 9/11 as a high school senior. I became a Counterintelligence Agent for 11 years and deploying multiple times to Afghanistan. I have worked for Hanford Patrol for 8 years and am proud of my fellow Law Enforcement Officers. I rejoined the Army as an Army Reserve Counterintelligence Agent.

I have been involved in the Richland community since returning home from active duty. In addition to my work with the VFW and Veterans courts, I volunteer with the Special Olympics, and I visit nursing homes and hospitals through the Love on the Leash program.

My priority will be to ensure the safety of our community, and particularly our businesses. The growing problem with homelessness must be address in a compassionate manner that does not endanger the health and safety of workers and customers. I plan to review Richland's municipal codes and find ways to conduct business more efficiently while maintaining high levels of professionalism and service. I will also focus on Richlands Police department to work with crime analysts to study crime trends in our city and how best through policy and problem-oriented policing we can make our community safer.

Contact

KyleSaltzForRichlandCityCouncil@yahoo.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



Ryan Whitten

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

Richland City Council since 2023

Other Professional Experience

Served 8 years in the U.S. Navy as an Avionics Technician working on F/A-18 Hornets. I have continued my career as an Instrument Technician, working for Hanford and now Energy Northwest.

Education

Learned Electrical Theory and Troubleshooting in the US Navy. AA from Columbia Basin College.

Community Service

Trustee and Honor Guard for Richland VFW Post 7952.

Statement

A spirit of service is the best path forward—and it remains my guiding principle. Good governance starts with listening, and doing the hard work. My commitment remains simple: to serve Richland with integrity and put our families and citizens first. I want to see our streets safe, tax dollars spent wisely, and a healthy thriving community.

I grew up in the Yakima Valley and have long called Richland home. My service in the Navy introduced me to skills I now use at Energy Northwest, where we continue being a part of Richland's unique history with nuclear. Richland has a lot of potential for future innovation, but we do need to remain vigilant of health and safety.

I'm grateful to be able to say the last few years have taught me so much about the complex challenges that require strongly grounded leadership, staying accountable, and showing up with purpose.

I care deeply about this place we all call home, and would be honored to continue serving. I'm running again for city council to give back to the place that's given so much to me, and to help keep Richland a safe and great place to live and raise a family.

Contact

electryanwhitten@protonmail.com;
<https://www.electryanwhitten.com>



Colin Michael

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

None

Other Professional Experience

Served in the U.S. Army as a Psychological Operations Specialist, including a 2012 combat tour in Afghanistan with the 2nd Infantry Division. Afterward, I worked as a Field Engineer at Halliburton on oil well completions, then as a Petroleum Engineer for the Bureau of Land Management overseeing drilling permits and well closures. I now conduct oversight for the nuclear mission at Hanford, ensuring safety and regulatory compliance at one of the nation's most complex cleanup sites.

Education

B.S., Petroleum Engineering, University of Alaska

Community Service

Christ the King Sausage Fest Volunteer; STEM Mentor
 Columbia Basin College

Statement

I'm running for Richland City Council to help build a city where families thrive. That starts with safe neighborhoods, strong local businesses, and walkable public spaces. Richland has tremendous potential—we sit on one of the most beautiful stretches of the Columbia River, yet we've done little to make it part of daily life. Other cities have transformed their riverfronts into vibrant places with shops, restaurants, and gathering spots. We should do the same.

I envision a family-friendly downtown where people can walk to dinner, meet friends for coffee, or attend a community event—without needing to drive across town. Communities that invest in walkable, welcoming spaces see stronger businesses and more connected neighborhoods. Richland can match that energy while honoring its identity.

My approach is practical, disciplined, and rooted in service. Whether in national security or nuclear oversight, I've built a career solving tough problems and keeping people safe. I'll bring that same commitment to city government—focused on strengthening our community for those who live here now and those to come.

As a soon-to-be father, I want to shape a Richland where the next generation can grow, belong, and thrive. I care about Richland's future—for my family and yours.

Contact

ColinForRichland@gmail.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.

City of Richland**Measure No. 1****Proposed Charter Amendment**

Measure No. 1 concerns Richland City Council Districting Charter Amendments.

This measure would amend the Richland City Charter from the current at-large electoral system for all seven Richland City Council positions to a mixed system of district and at-large representation. Positions Nos. 1 through 5 would be elected by geographic districts, while Position Nos. 6 and 7 would be elected at-large. The amendment establishes district boundaries, requires the formation of a 5-member Districting Commission, and sets transition and long-term rules for terms and elections.

Should this measure be enacted into law?

☐ Yes

☐ No

The Official Ballot title was written by the City of Richland as required by law. The Benton County Auditor is not responsible for the content of arguments or statements.

Explanatory Statement

Prepared by the City of Richland

This measure, advanced by citizen petition, proposes an amendment to the Richland City Charter to change the method of electing city councilmembers. Currently, all seven members of the City Council are elected at-large by voters citywide. If approved, this measure would create a mixed electoral system consisting of five district-based positions (Positions 1 through 5) and two at-large positions (Positions 6 and 7).

Under the amendment, councilmembers for Positions 1 through 5 would be elected by voters residing within designated geographic districts in which the candidate must also reside. Councilmembers for Positions 6 and 7 would be elected at-large by all city voters. All councilmembers would serve four-year terms, with staggered terms to ensure continuity. The amendment includes transitional provisions governing the initial election and term lengths following adoption, which includes initially placing all seven council positions up for election at the same time.

The proposed amendment establishes district boundaries defined by the petition authors, and requires the creation of a Districting Commission staffed and funded by the City of Richland.

Committee & Contact Information
Pro Committee

Karyn Hede
Tim Taylor

Committee Contact:
citizensforabetterrichland@gmail.com

Committee & Contact Information
Con Committee

Andrew Rice
Trudy Prince
Dean Gane

Committee Contact:
columbiabasinpac@gmail.com

Argument For

It's time to change the way we elect our city council. When Richland was incorporated as a first-class city 67 years ago, the population was 24,000 and the land area was 8 square miles. Today, the population is over 60,000 and the land area is 35 square miles.

Our current all at-large city council is a relic of a by-gone era. Pasco and Kennewick already have district voting. Richland is one of only two first-class cities in Washington that still has an all at-large council. The other one, Vancouver, is also voting in November 2025 on whether to establish voting districts. If Richland rejects the creation of neighborhood voting districts it could be the only first-class city in the state with an all at-large city council.

A more responsive city council

The change to voting districts would encourage closer ties between council members and constituents. City council members serving districts would be more responsive to the diverse needs of our expanding suburbs and historic neighborhoods.

District elections make it easier for voters to get to know the candidates and to reach their representatives after the election. By adopting a district voting system, the cost of running an election campaign would be lower, allowing more people to consider participating in our city government.

Vote "yes" to modernize our city council. We deserve this change for a better Richland.

Rebuttal of argument against

The proposal is a non-partisan effort supported by Richland voters across the political spectrum. The district boundaries follow state law, are contiguous, and are equal in population. Council members serve both their district and the city as a whole, preserving teamwork while preventing lockstep conformity. Claims that districts are politically motivated or gerrymandered are completely unfounded. Check out the proposed district boundaries at abetterrichland.com and decide for yourself. Don't be fooled by scare tactics.

Argument Against

Protect Your Right To Vote On Every City Council Position – Vote No!

Currently, seven people represent all of Richland. As a team, they work together for the benefit of Richland as a whole.

Districting lowers council member accountability to the entire city, reducing the incentive to consider the wellbeing of voters outside their districts. Without districting, every citizen has all 7 members accountable to them. If this initiative passes, every resident will be left with only 3 council members accountable to them. This discouraging issue can lead to frustrated voters and reduced engagement.

The ironically named 'A Better Richland' is a politically motivated group whose motivations do not align with the majority of Richland voters. The proposed lines were drawn for strategic advantages, not community needs.

Please don't be misled to believe our city council members are all from "one area." Four of the five proposed districts already have elected council members—and this usually changes with every election.

The proposed districts fail to account for areas where Richland is expected to grow. Over time, districts boundaries will need to change—raising further concerns about gerrymandering and political manipulation of district lines.

Wards often cause more divisiveness in smaller cities like Richland, bringing more instability than benefit.

Richland needs everyone to have a voice in choosing the best people to represent our entire community. For this we must focus on merit over fragmented geography when electing public officials.

www.KeepRichlandOne.com

Rebuttal of argument for

This proposal will divide Richland, chopping it into factions and thereby losing the unity that makes Richland thrive.

The proposal prohibits voting for every councilmember, creates boundaries and fosters gerrymandering, instability, and reduced accountability.

Richland is not a relic of a by-gone era. Bellevue, Kirkland, Olympia, Chehalis, Longview vote for all councilmembers. Dividing us will not create unity.

Vote "NO" to keep your right to vote for every council member. Vote "NO" to remain united.

How do I read this measure text?

The language with a line through it will be removed, and bold language will be added to the existing charter if the voters approve the measure.

~~Sample text to be removed~~

Sample text to be added

This pamphlet is printed in grayscale due to printing limitations. To view the text of this ballot measure, with removal of text edits in red with a line through it, please visit www.abetterrichland.com.

Complete Text

Charter Amendment Measure No. 1

The people of the city of Richland, exercising their power to amend the City Charter by popular vote under Section 3.08 of the City Charter, enact the following amendment to the Charter of the city of Richland. In amending sections, removals are in ~~red~~ and additions are in **bold**. Charter Amendment section headers are in *italics*.

ARTICLE II – THE COUNCIL

To ensure that members of the city council are closer to the people they represent, to enable voters in the city of Richland to know their councilmembers, and to provide a mixed system of district and at-large representation, the Richland City Council shall consist of seven (7) councilmembers, with positions one (1) through five (5) elected by districts, and positions six (6) and seven (7) elected from the city at-large.

2.01 Number – Terms

The registered electors of the city shall elect a council of seven (7) members, ~~at large, in the following manner:~~

- (a) **At the first election after approving this Charter amendment**, the three **(3) district** candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall serve until the next second regular general election thereafter, and the **two (2) district** candidates receiving the next highest number of votes shall serve until the first regular general election.
- (b) **The at-large councilmember with the highest number of votes will serve until the second regular election and the at-large councilmember with the next highest number of votes will serve until the next general election.** ~~following the election approving this Charter. Commencing at the first regular general election following the election approving this Charter and~~
- (c) After all subsequent regular general elections **following this Charter amendments**, ~~four~~ councilmen shall be elected; ~~each of the three~~ candidates receiving the highest number of votes ~~elect~~ **elect** councilmembers shall serve four-year terms. ~~and the one receiving the fourth highest number of votes shall serve for a two-year term, and subsections (a) and (b) above shall no longer have any effect.~~

- (d) ~~Incumbent councilmen~~ **councilmembers** shall continue to serve until the expiration of their terms of office. In the event of a tie vote, the election shall be decided by lot.

2.01A - Districts

The city council electoral districts are defined by precincts using 2020 U.S. Bureau of the Census population data provided by the Benton County Information Technology Department.

2.01A.01 - District One (1)

District One (1) as described below includes the following election precincts: 6105, 6110, 6115, 6120, 6125, 6130, 6135, 6140, 6145, 6150, 6151, 6152, 6155, 6160, 6165

From Davison Ave east between Willis St and Hunt Ave to the eastern boundary of the City at the Columbia River, north along the city's boundary, then west at 13th St, continue west on the northern boundary of the City to Snively Rd, southwest at Snively Rd, then follow the City's western boundary until that boundary is west of Swift Blvd, then east to the intersection of Swift Blvd and Bypass Highway 240, north on Bypass Highway 240, east on Van Geisen St, north on Alder St, then follow the northern boundary of District Two (2) described below, to origin at Davison Ave between Willis St and Hunt Ave.

2.01A.02 - District Two (2)

District Two (2) as described below includes the following election precincts: 6170, 6175, 6180, 6185, 6186, 6190, 6195, 6200, 6205, 6210, 6215, 6220, 6225

From George Washington Way south of Gowen Ave along the pedestrian path to the City's eastern boundary on the Columbia River, north along the City's east boundary, then west between Hunt Ave and Willis St to Davison Ave, southwest to George Washington Way, then north on George Washington Way to McMurray St, then west on McMurray St to Jadwin Ave, then north on Jadwin Ave, then northeast on Catskill St, then east on Blue Ave, then south on Everest Ave, then east on Newcomer Ave, then north on George Washington Way, west on Catskill St, north on Rainier Ave, west on Coast Street to just past Newcomer Ave, north to just south of Saint Street at Bypass Highway 240, then southwest on Bypass Highway 240 to just west of Alameda Ct, east on Alameda Ct, to south on Stevens Dr, to west on McMurray St, northwest on Duluth St, southwest on Alder Ave, west on Van Giesen St, south on the Bypass Highway 240, east toward the west end of Frankfort St, northwest on Birch Ave, southeast on Lee Blvd, north on Wright Ave, east on Putnam St, north on Potter Ave, east on Williams Blvd, south on Thayer Dr, east on Long Ave, west on Swift Blvd, north on McPherson Ave, east on Williams Blvd, north on Stevens Dr, east on Symons Street, south on Goethals Dr, east on Williams Blvd, south on George Washington Way to the origin at George Washington

Way and the pedestrian path at the south end of Gowen Ave.

2.01A.03 - District Three (3)

District Three (3) as described below includes the following election precincts: 6230, 6235, 6240, 6245, 6250, 6255, 6260, 6265, 6270, 6271, 6279, 628

From George Washington Way south of Gowan Ave at the pedestrian trail go east to the City's boundary on the Columbia River, go south along the eastern boundary to the on and off ramps of State Highway 240 at Columbia Park Trail, go south to Columbia Park Trail, northwest on Columbia Park Trail, south on Leslie Rd, to west on Canyon Ave, then west south of Oxford Ave, to past Brookwood Ave, then west and then north on Englewood Dr, northwest on Edgewood St to the Yakima River, follow the Yakima River north then east to the intersection of Swift Blvd and Bypass Highway 240, follow the District Two (2) southern boundary to origin at George Washington Way and the pedestrian path at the south end of Gowan Ave.

2.01A.04 - District Four (4)

District Four (4) as described below includes the following election precincts: 6275, 6278, 6281, 6282, 6284, 6286, 6287, 6288, 6289, 6290, 6291, 6292

From Gage Blvd east of Bellerive Dr at the boundary between the City and Kennewick, to west on Gage Blvd to the East Badger Lateral irrigation canal north of Morency Drive, follow the irrigation canal northwest to where it intersects I-182, then north just east of Tomich Ave to just north of Keene Rd, north along the City and the West Richland boundary to just past Eastlake Ct, east to the Yakima River, then follow the District Three (3) boundary to the on/of ramps of State Highway 240 at Columbia Point Trail, north towards the Columbia River, east along Richland's Columbia River Boundary to near the boundary with Kennewick, then follow the City and Kennewick boundary to origin at Gage Blvd east of Bellerive Dr.

This does not include two pieces of unincorporated Benton County, Precinct 5603, which includes View Dr., Chamna View Ln., Valley View Rd, Jericho Rd and a portion of Columbia Park Trail. It also does not include two pieces of unincorporated Benton County, which includes Keene Ct., Precinct 5635. The district also does not include unincorporated Benton County designated precinct 5634 and located between Shockley Road and Meadow Hills Dr.

2.01A.05 - District Five (5)

District Five (5) as described below includes the following election precincts: 6283, 6285, 6293, 6295, 6300, 6301, 6305, 6310, 6311, 6315, 6316, 6320, 6321

Beginning at the intersection of W. Gage Blvd. and N. Steptoe Street, go south then southwest along the City and Kennewick boundary to I-82, then follow the boundary between the City and Benton County to near Kennedy St, then east along the City and West Richland

boundary to the District Four (4) boundary, follow the District Four (4) boundary to W. Gage Blvd east of Bellerive Dr, continue east to origin at the intersection of W. Gage Blvd and N. Steptoe St.

This district does not include a piece of unincorporated Benton County at the end of W. Gage, precinct 5636.

In case of any conflict precincts prevail over the descriptions stated herein. References to a street, avenue, or right of way above refer to the middle of said street, avenue, or right of way. Abbreviations used are: "St" for Street, "Ave" for Avenue, "Blvd" for Boulevard, "Dr" for Drive, "City" for the city of Richland.

2.01B - Council Redistricting

- (a) By October 31, 2032, after results of the 2030 U.S. Census has been established, and each tenth year thereafter, a four-member Districting Commission shall be appointed by a vote of five of the seven members of the city council. A fifth member shall be appointed to the Districting Commission by a majority vote of the first four appointed Districting Commission members. Every effort shall be made by the council to ensure each district is represented on the commission. A maximum of two members can reside in the same district. The Commission shall elect a chair from among its members. No person may serve on the Commission who is an elected official, a registered lobbyist, a candidate for elective office, a city employee, a person holding a business contract with the city, or a spouse or relative of a sitting councilmember.
- (b) The Districting Commission shall meet no later than two months after appointment, or November 30, whichever occurs first, to select and appoint a districting master who shall be qualified by education, training and experience to draw a districting plan. If the Commission is unable to agree upon the appointment of a districting master, the current council shall by a majority vote, promptly appoint a districting master. All meetings of the Commission shall be open to the public, and the Commission shall conduct at least one public forum about the districting before adopting any plan.
- (c) District boundaries shall be drawn to produce compact and contiguous districts that are not gerrymandered. The population of the largest district shall not exceed the population of the smallest by more than five (5) percent. To the extent practical, district boundaries shall follow existing district boundaries, recognized waterways, natural and geographic boundaries, and Richland communities and neighborhoods. Neither the Commission nor the districting master shall consider the residence of any person.
- (d) The districting master shall draw a districting plan for the City, and submit it to the Districting

Commission by February 1 of the year following their appointment. The Commission shall develop, approve by majority vote, and make public a draft of the first districts proposal. After a public comment, the Districting Commission shall approve by majority vote a final districts plan. The Districting Commission shall have all powers reasonably necessary to carry out its purpose. The Commission may employ experts, consultants and attorneys not employed by the city, and shall prepare financial statements and compose and turn over to the City Clerk an official record of all relevant information used. Upon adoption, the districting plan shall be filed with the City Clerk no later than May 1. The plan shall become effective upon filing and cannot be amended by the City Council except to correct data errors upon request by the Districting Commission.

- (e) The City Council shall take all steps necessary to enable the Commission to function, including appropriations sufficient to provide a reasonable per diem for Commission members, compensation for staff and contractors, and reasonable expenses up to 90 days following the submission of the final district plan to the city clerk.
- (f) In the event of a City annexation effective at any time other than in 2024, or in the second year following a federal decennial census up to the date in which a Districting Commission's district plan is adopted, the City Council shall, prior to the annexation, allocate the annexed area to the nearest Council District or districts, adjusting the boundaries as appropriate but not shifting any area already within the City from one Council District to another. The allocation of the annexed area into an existing district or among existing districts must be carried out in a fashion that will result in adjusted districts that continue to be consistent with applicable legal requirements for district boundaries. For all other annexations, district boundary adjustments shall be determined by the Districting Commission that would already have been appointed in ordinary course pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

2.01C - Savings Clause; Liberal Construction

The provisions of this charter amendment are to be liberally construed to achieve its purposes. The terms and provisions of the Amendment are severable, if any are found invalid this shall not affect the validity of the remainder.

2.02- Qualifications

~~Councilmen~~ **Councilmembers** shall be registered electors; shall have been residents of the city for a continuous period of at least two years next prior to the election or appointment, **and shall be residents of their district for one hundred-eighty (180) days prior to the**

registering for the primary, general or special election or their appointment. Councilmember candidates and appointees shall submit verifiable proof of residence within their districts unless they are seeking an at-large seat.

Councilmembers shall hold no other public office during their term except in the National Guard, organized reserves, or as a notary public, and shall not be employed by the City. Before entering upon their duties, and within ten days after the issuance of the certificate of his election, or their appointment by the Council, each **councilmember** shall qualify by taking, subscribing, and filing with the City clerk an oath or affirmation as prescribed by this Charter.

2.03 Removal from or Forfeiture of Office – Vacancies

Any ~~councilman~~ **councilmember** may be removed from office by recall as provided by law. A ~~councilman~~ **councilmember** shall be deemed to have forfeited their office, thereby creating a vacancy, upon any of the following grounds: failure to qualify or enter upon his **their** duties within the time limited by law; ceasing to be a resident of the City **or the district they represent**, conviction of an infamous crime, or any offense involving a violation of this Charter or his **their** official oaths; failure or refusal to take his **their** oath of office; ceasing to have the qualifications prescribed in this Charter, general laws, or City ordinances; or a failure to attend three consecutive regular meetings of the Council without being excused by the Council. In addition to the foregoing, the office of a ~~councilman~~ **councilmember** shall become vacant upon his **their** death, removal from office, or resignation. If a superior court determines that a member of Council is unable or incapable of reasonably fulfilling his/her **their** duties because of illness or any other reason, excused or unexcused, for at least six (6) continuous months thereafter, or is unlikely to so perform, the position filled by such Councilmember shall be considered vacant. [Approved General Election 1991]

2.04 Filling Vacancies in Council

A vacancy in the Council shall be filled at the next regular general election following the occurrence of the vacancy, except that the Council by a majority vote of all of the remaining members shall, within sixty days, **appoint a person who qualifies for the position vacated** to serve in the vacancy until the person elected to serve the remainder of the unexpired term takes office. If a vacancy shall remain unfilled for sixty days, then the mayor shall make the appointment. Notwithstanding the requirement in Section 2.08 that a quorum of the Council shall consist of four members, if at any time the membership of the Council is reduced to less than four, the remaining members may make appointments to raise the membership of the Council to four. The names of candidates to fill a vacancy in the Council shall occupy a separate position on the election ballot. Any person elected to serve the remainder of an unexpired term shall take office at the next meeting, regular or special, of the Council following the certification of his **their** election.



May Hays

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience
West Richland City Council

Other Professional Experience

Benton REA Community Relations Operations Specialist, West Richland Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, local business owner of the Mayfield Gathering Place, founder Operation We Care-Tri-Cities, Director Richland Chamber of Commerce, Treasurer West Richland Senior Center, Board Member Columbia Basin Veterans Center; Board Member West Richland Police Community Care Foundation; member West Richland Economic Development Board; member Red Mountain Lions Club

Education

Associate of Arts Business, Columbia Basin Community

Community Service

Operation We Care, Friend Combat Veterans International, Operation Candy Cane, Holiday Family Outreach, VA Regional Site Veterans Day Parade, Hogs & Dogs, Cool Dessert Knight, Tri-Cities Veterans Cemetery.

Statement

I'm running for Mayor to provide transparency, accountability, and prosperity for West Richland. I have dedicated the last 30 years to bettering the city through community leadership as outlined in my professional experience above. As Mayor, I will work tirelessly to promote open government by engaging citizens and ensuring responsible spending to stabilize taxes and city payroll.

I will continue to support our police department, as their men and women deserve a supportive work environment to enhance public safety. I'm committed to honoring our 46,000 local veterans by advocating for a Tri-Cities Veterans Cemetery in West Richland. Through mindful budgeting, our parks will be well-maintained, as they are essential for our families.

To better serve our growing community, I support transitioning to a Council-Manager form of government for efficient, responsive leadership. I believe that only through fostering collaboration will we achieve these goals. Together, we'll build a vibrant future for West Richland. I humbly ask for your vote!

May Hays for Mayor – "The Best is Yet to Come!"

Contact

(509) 948-3794; MayHays4Mayor@gmail.com



Fred Brink

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience
Councilmember and Mayor pro tempore, City of West Richland; Fire Commissioner, Benton County Fire District #4; President, Board of Directors, Association of Washington Cities (AWC)

Other Professional Experience

U. S. Navy Surface Warfare Officer; Special Agent-in-Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation; Program Manager, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Education

Bachelor of Science, United States Naval Academy; Post-Graduate Public Administration studies, Rutgers University; FBI Senior Executive Education Program, Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University; Washington Collaborative Elected Leaders Institute; Labor Relations Institute; Certificate of Advanced Municipal Leadership

Community Service

Washington State Emergency Management and Forensic Investigations Councils; Benton County Law and Justice Council; Benton-Franklin Council of Governments; Eagle Scout

Statement

Fred Brink has more than 40 years of combined military, law enforcement and public service experience as an officer in the U. S. Navy, a senior executive with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, a manager at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, and as an elected or an appointed official at state, county and local levels. He is committed to serving our nation, the State of Washington and our local community. Fred possesses the background and leadership experience needed to responsibly manage your taxpayer funds, explore new ways to address city issues, and to help ensure West Richland remains a safe, prosperous, family friendly and vibrant community. As a defender of local decision-making, he will continue working closely with officials at the state and county levels, local mayors and city councilmembers, as well as our community residents, to find viable solutions to the challenges faced with high taxes, affordable housing, maintaining our parks and roads, enhancing public safety and policing, and sensibly managing our city's growth. As an experienced and proven manager at the federal, state, and city levels, Fred is the best qualified leader for the City of West Richland and he will be honored to serve as your next mayor.

Contact

(509) 713-0483; ftbrink@gmail.com; fredbrink.org

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.

No photo
submitted

Nancy Aldrich

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

West Richland City Council 1994-2001, 2004-2007

Other Professional Experience

Past Board Member, Municipal Research Services; Past Board Treasurer, Association of Washington Cities; Past Member Governor's Water Rights Group; Past Chair Eastern Washington Stormwater Group; Past Member Good Roads

Education

Advanced Certificate of Municipal Leadership, Association of Washington Cities; University of Idaho - Mining Engineering Studies; University of Missouri-Rolla, Mining Engineering Studies

Community Service

West Richland Planning Commission; Benton Clean Air Agency; Columbia Basin Badger Club Member; Past Board Member, Senior Life Resources - Meals on Wheels; Past Board Member, Red Cross

Statement

I'm Nancy Aldrich, a proud West Richland resident of 39 years. I've raised my family here and spent decades working to make our city a place we're proud to call home.

With prior service on the West Richland City Council, Meals on Wheels, the Benton Clean Air Agency and a career in construction, stormwater policy and waters rights in the City of Richland Public Works Department, and while on the Planning Commission, I bring proven experience and a practical insight to the table.

As West Richland continues to grow, we must plan strategically to protect the strong, close-knit community we value. I will prioritize thoughtful infrastructure improvements, public safety, a much-needed community center and smart development that enhances - not overwhelms - our way of life. We have a tremendous opportunity to enhance the entrance to the city and capitalize on proximity to Red Mountain AVA. With the right vision, we can support local businesses, attract new businesses, attract tourism, and grow fiscally responsibly while preserving the charm that defines West Richland.

I'm ready to get to work - with experience, commitment, and a deep love for our community. I'd be honored to earn your vote.

Nancy Aldrich

Contact

No information submitted



John Smart

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

John will complete his 10th year as a member of the West Richland City Council in December 2025.

Other Professional Experience

Senior Research Engineer with over 20 years of project management experience.

Education

Bachelor's degree from WSU

Community Service

John has served over 18 years as Activity Director and Troop Coordinator for our local American Heritage Girls Troop WA1230. John has been a participant in the Veterans Day Parade; Chamna trail clean-up, 2nd Harvest helper, and supported the Richland Archery Shelter construction in W.E. Johnson Park. John earned his Eagle Scout Award in 1980.

Statement

Please visit SMART4WR.org - Thank you for electing me to serve on the West Richland city council. I am committed to continue representing conservative fiscal policy that protects our taxpayers now and into the future. I will promote open communication, full disclosure of reasoning, and will encourage the council to listen carefully to the opinions and expressions of our residents. I am not a closet socialist - but rather a defender of our constitution and our God given rights. Business growth in West Richland is critical - but we need to preserve the unique rural character and our "low density" environment for which we are known. When asked what I want our town to look like - I say I want it to look like Freedom! Having built and lived in a West Richland home for 30 years, my wife, three children, and I truly appreciate the peaceful quality of life that our city has to offer. Fiscal responsibility, well planned growth, sensible ordinances, and the preservation of our residential / rural lifestyle will help West Richland prosper and remain this region's most preferred place to call home. Please visit SMART4WR.org

Contact

SMART4WR.ORG

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



Ken Stoker

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

I served two terms on the West Richland City Council

Unopposed

Other Professional Experience

PNNL: Six years as an Information Systems Analyst;
Clarivate: Twenty-one years as Database Technical Implementation Specialist

Education

WSU graduate: Bachelor's degree in Business Management, Information Systems, minor in Asian Studies with language studies in Japanese and Chinese.

Community Service

Coaching; Richland Grid Kids Football (Assistant): 2008-09; Greater Richland Little League: 2005-06, 2008; Tri-Cities Girls Fastpitch Softball Association: 2007-2019; American Cancer Society-Relay for Life Committee; Benton/Franklin County Advocacy Chair: 2001-2006; Franklin County Online Chair: 2007-2013;

Boy Scouts of America; Scoutmaster – 2002-2006; Varsity Scout Advisor – 2010-2012; Merit Badge Counselor; Eagle Scout – 1990

Statement

I consider myself a "Constitutional Originalist" in philosophy when considering the proper role of government. I stand behind the principles that this country was founded on and am a true student of our Founding Fathers and their philosophies. It has been my honor to have served you previously as one of your City Council members.

I believe in government that restricts itself to protecting the rights of every individual, including property rights. During my previous term, I fought for these rights throughout the city municipal code.

I am an advocate for allowing our citizens more capacity to participate in our city government. When first elected, a fellow councilmember and myself took a stance on having first and second readings of agenda items to give the citizens time to understand and provide input on those topics. We advocated for extending more time during public comment for citizens to be able to fully express their thoughts to the council. As an elected official, I believe it crucial to allow citizens to talk as much as needed to hear their perspective.

I am honored to serve again.

<https://www.facebook.com/KStoker4WRCityCouncil>

Contact

urtheman82@gmail.com;

<https://www.facebook.com/KStoker4WRCityCouncil>

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



David Cole

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

Precinct Committee Officer

Other Professional Experience

U.S Navy veteran; Deputy Sheriff (Houston, TX); Hanford employee (planning) 25 years

Education

Criminal Justice - Texas A&M Univ.; Criminal Justice - Lamar University

Community Service

Commissioner – City of West Richland Salary Commission; Vice Chair – West Richland Citizens Group; Board President – You Medical; Board President – Tri Cities Residential Services; Veteran Mentor – Benton County Veterans Therapeutic Court; Constitution Coach – Patriot Academy

Statement

Our city's vision statement says we are *"a growing city where family values and community responsiveness are important. The city should grow in a balanced way to produce a safe and inviting community having good residential and recreational alternatives and a healthy economic base."* I support that vision. I co-led citizen efforts to keep pot shops out of our city. I support family-friendly policies that strengthen our neighborhoods. I will promote increased transparency in city government and encourage greater citizen involvement in policy, planning and budget decisions. My community service experience has taught me accountability to those I serve. I do not favor over-density but support economic growth that maintains current service levels and satisfies increased demands. I will promote a business-friendly climate that enables local businesses to thrive. I welcome the placement of the State Veterans Cemetery in West Richland. As a former sworn law enforcement officer, I support the police officers who protect and serve us. I oppose any efforts to defund or minimize their mission. I have been endorsed by the Benton County Republican party. I am the conservative choice for West Richland City Council.

Contact

davidcoleforwrcitycouncil@gmail.com;
davidcole4westrichland.com



Robert Harvey Perkes

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

West Richland City Council - 2012-2015

Other Professional Experience

Greater Richland Little League Board 2016 - 2024

Washington Little Guy Wrestling League President 2023 - Current

Washington State Chiropractic Association Board 2016 - Current

Hanford High School Booster Club President 2020 - Current

Education

Undergrad - BYU-Idaho

Grad School - University of Western States

Community Service

West Richland Planning Commission 2008 - 2011

West Richland Salary Commission 2016-2020

Salvation Army Advisor Board 2012 - 2022

State Parks RX Task Force 2022

Hanford Volunteer Wrestling Coach 2010-2024

Statement

West Richland is a great place to live. I will do my best to keep it that way.

I will find common ground. I will hear both sides. I will make hard choices.

Please vote for me for the future of West Richland.

Contact

(509) 554-4444; bob4west@gmail.com; bob4west.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



Braden Sloughter

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

No information submitted

Other Professional Experience

IT Engineer, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Education

Columbia Basin College

Community Service

West Richland Parks and Recreation Board (2010-2015); Mid-Columbia Symphony - Secretary/Board Member (2016-2019); Richland Parks and Recreation Commission (2018-2021); West Richland Planning Commissions (2024-present)

Statement

I'm proud to have grown up here spent nearly my whole life as a West Richland resident. I've served on our Parks and Recreation Board and now serve on the West Richland Planning Commission. My family and I are rooted in this community, and I'm running to help protect what makes it special.

West Richland is growing fast. We must plan wisely—expanding our tax base through responsible development while preserving the safe, small-town feel we all value. I'll prioritize public safety, support infrastructure improvements, and ensure growth decisions reflect both our traditions and our future.

As the gateway to the Red Mountain AVA, we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to attract tourism and business while staying true to our community values.

It's time to move forward with purpose—not just replay the same tired tune we know all too well. I'd be honored to earn your vote and represent West Richland with integrity, common sense, and a deep commitment to our shared future.

Contact

info@VoteBraden.com; VoteBraden.com



Richard Bloom

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

West Richland City Council since 2010.

Other Professional Experience

Navy veteran, with 40-year experience working for DOE contractors on the Hanford and Rocky Flats sites as an environmental professional.

Education

Master of Science in physics from Louisiana State University and a Bachelor of Science in physics from Loyola University of the South, New Orleans.

Community Service

Representing the Citizens of West Richland on the Ben Franklin Transit (BFT) Board, the Benton County Mosquito Control Board, the Benton County Solid Waste Advisory Committee, the Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board, Hanford Communities and the Hanford Advisory Board (HAB).

Statement

Thank you for the opportunity to serve our community. I come to every Council meeting with the best interests of our residents in mind. I have consistently asked thoughtful questions, challenged decisions when necessary, and advocated for practical solutions.

I work to ensure your voice is heard. For example, I opposed relying solely on an online survey to determine our community's position on marijuana sales. I strongly advocated for a formal ballot measure, believing that a decision of such importance should be made by voters directly. Although the majority of Council supported the Mayor's survey approach, I regret the anguish and frustration this caused. After months of public outcry, Council ultimately agreed to bring the issue to a formal vote, where it belonged from the start.

As a voter you should be looking for a candidate who is informed, motivated, and willing to commit the time and effort required for the position. I serve on Council with the concerns of the residents first. You want to know that you have a representative on Council that has your back. I have opposed unnecessary spending and regulations that place unnecessary burdens on our residence. For this reason, I ask for your vote.

Contact

(509) 539-7630; bloomon@gmail.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



Micah Valentine

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

I served a 4 year term on the current Kennewick School Board

Other Professional Experience

Eagle Scout, Varsity Scout Coach, Scoutmaster, Cubmaster; LDS Mission in El Salvador, Sales and Marketing Manager Pro Roofing NW Inc.; National Director of Client Acquisition for Social Rocketship; Washington State Area Rep for Complete Merchant Solutions; Owner Ascend, LLC; Owner Ramp, LLC

Education

Elma HS, Elma, WA 1997; Clark College; Southern Virginia University B.A. Business Management & Spanish

Community Service

Coach through various clubs and programs. Actively engaged in a variety of youth programs for the community and church such as Shoe Box Toy Drives, Christmas Dinner Drives, Blood Drives, etc.

Statement

As a candidate for re-election to the Kennewick School Board, I am committed to transforming our schools into centers of excellence free from woke indoctrination. Parents deserve to have confidence that their children are mastering high-level math, reading, writing, and fact-based science and are not being subjected to ideological agendas. Schools must prioritize teaching over promoting equity at the expense of achievement.

As the current vice-president of the board, I've driven fiscal responsibility. Kennewick maintains the lowest tax rate among the Tri-Cities' three largest districts, while having the highest financial health indicator score. I've helped save taxpayers millions by buying down bonds, and our district also wisely used federal ESSER funds to update curriculum ensuring sustainable success.

I've championed student safety and fairness, fiercely defending Title IX to protect girls' sports and locker rooms from biological males. I also led efforts to place armed guards in every school, prioritizing your children's security.

There's more work ahead. I'm pushing to eliminate processed foods, dyes, seed oils, and sugars from school meals, fostering healthier learning environments. Re-elect me to continue demanding excellence, safeguarding your children, and ensuring our schools focus on education, not indoctrination.

See my full plan at www.micahvalentine.us

Contact

micah@micahvalentine.com; <https://micahvalentine.us/>

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



Robert Franklin

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

No information submitted

Other Professional Experience

Assistant Professor of History, Washington State University Tri-Cities, 2021-present; Assistant Director, Archivist, Historian, Hanford History Project, Washington State University Tri-Cities, 2015-present

Education

BA - History, Suma Cum Laude, University of Hawai'i at Hilo, 2011; MA - History, Washington State University, 2014

Community Service

Kennewick Historic Preservation Commission, Commissioner, 2018-2022; B Reactor Museum Association, President, 2019-2024, VP 2024-current

Statement

In today's world, politics seem to touch nearly every corner of our daily lives. But when it comes to our public schools, I believe it's time to draw a clear line. As a candidate for the Kennewick School Board, I'm committed to keeping divisive culture wars out of our classrooms and ensuring our schools remain focused on what truly matters: educating every student.

This is a non-partisan position, and I take that seriously. Our mission should be clear—providing equal access, support, and opportunity to all students across the Kennewick School District. I'm excited to work hand-in-hand with teachers, administrators, and families to build an educational environment where every student can thrive.

As a parent of two (one current student and one future student of KSD), and a college professor, I know how important a good educational foundation is. We all want what's best for our children. That shared goal should unite us. Now more than ever, we must set politics aside and come together as a community to support our schools, empower our educators, and put the future of our students first. Together we can make our schools a place where every child can thrive and reach their full potential.

Contact

robert.franklin.info@gmail.com



**Nic (Nicolas)
Uhnak**

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

No previous experience

Other Professional Experience

Chemist (2016-present)

Education

PhD in Inorganic Chemistry from Washington State University, BS in Chemistry from Boise State University

Community Service

Youth football coach, youth wrestling coach, classroom volunteer

Statement

I am a public education advocate, scientist, a committed husband of a local medical provider and father of four children, two of which are in the Kennewick School District. I am running for the Kennewick School Board to ensure the all students—regardless of background—have access to a well-funded, inclusive, and equitable education.

As a proud Kennewick resident and involved parent, I am ready to listen, lead with compassion, reason and stand up for the values that strengthen public education. My campaign aims to put students first and build a future where every child can thrive.

Contact

(509) 416-6275; nicolasuhnak@gmail.com



**Gabe
Galbraith**

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

Kennewick School Board (2021-present).

Other Professional Experience

Security Specialist (Hanford); Small Business Owner; Previously Human Resources 8+ years; Operations/Retail Management 11+ years; Former Kennewick School District substitute teacher; U.S. Marine Corps 2003-2007.

Education

Master's degree, Elementary Education (Grand Canyon University, 2018); Master's degree, Business Administration (Ashford University, 2014); Bachelor's degree, Accounting (Strayer University, 2007); High school diploma (Kamiakin, 2001).

Community Service

Former youth volunteer baseball and basketball coach; Active member of local church

Statement

I'm honored to serve as your current School Board President. I'm seeking re-election because our district deserves steady, experienced leadership—and a proven record of results.

During my time on the board, I've stood firm in defense of our students and staff, even when it meant challenging overreach from the state. I've championed and passed multiple forward-thinking policies, resolutions, and curriculums that reflect our community's values and protect local control.

One of my top priorities has been ensuring a safe learning environment for every student. That's why I was the leading voice on the implementation of an armed School Safety Officer program—designed not only to respond, but to build trust within our schools. Just as importantly, in every decision, I've worked to ensure we're spending taxpayer dollars wisely with accountability and long-term sustainability. We've strengthened our budget and kept our district on solid financial ground.

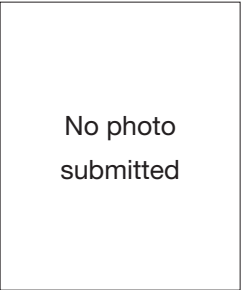
I believe leadership means listening, acting, and being transparent. I've done that—and I'm ready to keep doing it. With your support, we can continue to build a district that puts students first, stands up for what's right, and manages resources responsibly. I respectfully ask for your vote.

Contact

(509) 619-3183; gabe.galbraith@gmail.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



Lindsay
Joshlin
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

This candidate filed during a special filing period to fill a void in candidacy. Due to printing deadlines, candidate statements were not accepted from those filing in the special period.

Contact
(509) 832-2832; lindsayd.joshlin@gmail.com

Paterson School District No. 50 | Director No. 2 | 4-year term

No candidates filed for this office during the regular or special filing period, creating a void in candidacy.



Michael (Mike)
Peterson

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience
2014-2015 Deschutes Valley Water
District Director (Resigned when
moved out of Water District)

Other Professional Experience
1983-1993 - Manufacturing Positions - Safeway, Inc.
Multiple Locations; 1993-1996 - Ice Cream Plant Manager
- Humboldt Creamery Association, Fortuna, CA; 1996-2013
- Manufacturing & Logistics Senior Positions - Safeway, Inc.
Multiple Locations; 2013-2018 - Vice President Operations
- Earth2O - Culver, OR.; 2018-Current - VP Operations/
SVP Business Development - Universal Chain, Inc./Eclipse
Advantage LLC - Denver, CO/Melbourne, FL

Education
1979-1984 - Washington State University, Pullman, WA -
Food Science w/Business Option

Community Service
1990-2020 - Umpired Little League, Summer, High School &
College Baseball/Softball - California, Oregon & Washington.

Statement
I come from a family of teachers and education is important
and critical to all. Providing that education framework is
essential in all positions and I believe that we must support
our local school districts to ensure that no kids get left
behind. The traditional path of education doesn't work
for all and vocational paths should be included to fit those
that have a desire to learn.....can. But the Ki-Be School
District must be more involved in the community and
strive for transparency, urgency and support for all in the
district. Businesses have learned to do more with less by
leaning into their teams and people, while doing that with
less Administrative positions and I believe there are those
opportunities in Education at both the local and state level.
Continuing to do the same, with declining test scores and
dissatisfaction from all will not work. I want to be at the front
of those discussions and I appreciate your support and vote.

Contact
(503) 374-8158; Oregonmikep@gmail.com

Unopposed

No candidates filed for this office during the regular or special filing period, creating a void in candidacy.

Local Voters' Pamphlet
These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The
candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.

Kiona-Benton City School District No. 52

Proposition No. 1

Educational Programs and Operation Replacement Levy

The Board of Directors of Kiona-Benton City School District No. 52 adopted Resolution No. 7-2025, concerning a proposition to finance educational programs and operation expenses. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, in place of an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District, for educational programs and operation expenses not funded by the State (including athletics, music, technology support, class size, nurses, counselors, safety staff, advanced courses, and extracurricular activities):

Collection Year	Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed	Levy Amount
	Value	
2026	\$1.50	\$2,367,666
2027	\$1.50	\$2,545,241

all as provided in Resolution No. 7-2025.
Should this proposition be approved?

- [] Levy Yes
- [] Levy No

The Official Ballot title was written by the Kiona-Benton City School District No. 52 as required by law. The Benton County Auditor is not responsible for the content of arguments or statements.

Explanatory Statement

Prepared by Kiona-Benton City School District No. 52

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would allow Kiona-Benton City School District to replace an expiring educational programs and operation levy. The taxes collected by this replacement levy will be used to pay for expenses of educational programs and operation that are not fully funded by the State of Washington. These expenses include, but are not limited to: technology; athletics; smaller class sizes; school safety; instructional materials; maintenance; student activities; teaching and support staff; and other educational programs and operation expenses. Taxes collected by the proposed levy, together with state levy equalization money that is contingent on levy passage, will provide approximately 10.5% of the District's annual General Fund budget. Further information is available at the District's website www.kibesd.org.

The proposed replacement levy would authorize the collection of taxes to provide up to \$2,367,666 in 2026 and \$2,545,241 in 2027. The levy rate required to produce these levy amounts is estimated to be \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The exact levy rates and amounts to be collected may be adjusted based upon the actual assessed value of property and the limitations imposed by State law at the time of the levy. Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, call the Benton County Assessor at 509-786-2046.

Committee & Contact Information

Pro Committee

Dale Thorton
Mike Peterson

Committee Contact:
det@aol.com

Committee & Contact Information

Con Committee

After repeated recruitment attempts, no volunteers came forward to write a statement against the ballot measure.

Argument For

Residents of Kiona-Benton City school district need quality investment in student educational planning. Voting “YES” bridges the gap between federal funding and state funding enabling a well-rounded educational experience for all students. The state finances just a basic K-12 standard education with no extracurricular activities such as music, drama, clubs nor vocational training. No sports, no behavior specialists, no technology upgrades, no training for staff, not even field trips. The levy “YES” vote is reasonable, valuable and benefits our whole community.

This levy does not create a new tax or raise anyone’s payments. This is a replacement levy that collects the same estimated rate on assessed property value as the current levy continuing the necessary funding to sustain important programs and operations for the next two years. School district tax rates on Ki-Be School District residents have continually declined over the past ten years.

Ki-Be will receive state matching funds (Local Effort Assistance) when we fund schools with local taxes. A levy allows the district to potentially access these additional funds. Without the levy, the district could be leaving state assistance on the table.

During covid, Ki-Be endured a year without levy funding and the resulting lack of financial support convinced the community to support the schools, let’s not repeat that loss. The benefits of investing in our schools extends far beyond an educated society. Strong schools are a foundation to a strong community attracting further investments and producing economic structure and vitality.

Argument Against

No argument submitted

No photo
submitted

**Rory
Bush**
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

Elected Experience

Pro Levy committee president 2024-2025 Finley School district #53

Other Professional Experience

No information submitted

Education

Riverview High School graduate 2001

Community Service

Assistant 4-H leader since 2002

Volunteer firefighter for BCFD#1 2007-2012

Statement

As a proud third-generation RVHS alumnus, my spouse and I have called this district home throughout our 25 years of marriage, raising three children—two of whom have graduated from RVHS, with one still attending. This community has shaped who I am, and I'm deeply committed to giving back.

I served as a volunteer firefighter with Benton County Fire District #1 from 2007 to 2012 and have been an assistant 4-H leader since 2002. These experiences have strengthened my dedication to service, leadership, and youth development.

I'm running for School Board Director in District 2 to help ensure our schools remain safe, supportive, and high-quality learning environments for every student. I believe strong schools are built on community involvement, transparency, and a shared vision for student success. Through my years of public service and mentorship, I've witnessed the power of teamwork, trust, and accountability—values I will bring to the school board. I'm committed to supporting our educators, championing practical solutions, and listening closely to the voices of students, families, and staff.

It's an honor to serve the district that has given me so much—and to work toward an even stronger future for the next generation.

Contact

(509) 222-9512

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



**Chris
Knighten**

(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

Elected Experience

No information submitted

Other Professional Experience

Over 20 years experience in operations and maintenance management, as well as construction and project management.

Education

Winlock High School, Big Bend Community College

Community Service

2022 chairman of the Finley School District Levy Committee, Finley Ag Advisory Committee member, Finley Strong Committee member, 8 years as a volunteer Hockey Coach for the Tri-City Jr Americans, Youth group leader at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Statement

I was raised in a small agricultural town where education, community, and FFA were central to daily life. This background shaped my belief in strong, community-centered schools. For the past 12 years, I've lived on a small farm in Finley with my family. I chose Finley so my children would benefit from that same sense of connection, hard work, and tradition.

My 20 years of business operations and management experience brings practical leadership and a strong commitment to accountability. Ensuring Finley Schools continue to provide high-quality education and remain the heart of our community is my goal. The school district must operate with transparency, connectedness and responsiveness to the families it serves. The key to a powerful school board is the ability to listen to the many voices in our community.

Academics must come first, while also valuing the impact of sports and extracurriculars. As a youth hockey coach, I know how team sports and strong mentors help shape confident, capable students. I'm committed to preserving and growing similar opportunities for the Finley Community.

Finley has a long tradition of greatness, and I'm ready to work hard to protect and strengthen the Finley schools for the future.

Contact

(509) 416-6670; Chrisknighten@gmail.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



**Elisa V.
Riley**

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

Prosser School Board Director,
Position No. 3 — Current.

Other Professional Experience

Licensed Attorney Washington State. Partner Saxton Riley & Riley PLLC. 2007–April 2025. Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Benton County—Current.

Education

Prosser High School Class of 1996. Washington State University: Communication Major, Minor in Political Science. 2000. WSU Honors College Graduate 2000. Gonzaga University School of Law. 2003.

Community Service

2024 Levy Committee Secretary; Member of Prosser United Methodist Church; Prosser Rotary Club—Member since 2007, Past President (2017); Prosser Boys & Girls Club Capital Campaign Committee; Prosser Friends of the Library—Past President; Prosser Memorial Health Foundation—Past Board Member; Prosser Eagles Auxiliary Member; Edgar Whitehead Foundation—Current.

Statement

Four years ago, I asked for your vote to transform leadership within the Prosser School District (PSD). I campaigned on improving transparency, communication, and professionalism. As a community, we have witnesses these changes through new leadership in the Superintendent's Office. I ask for your vote again, to continue this work.

Immediately after hiring Superintendent Casey, our buildings and grounds looked better through improved watering schedules, and accountability. The Board adopted a facility-maintenance-schedule, and a reserve-fund-balance policy.

In February 2024, voters passed two levies. Funds paid for operational expenses, security enhancements, facility upgrades, and new additions. These projects were the result of leadership seeing the need, and making a plan to get the work done.

Establishing partnerships between PSD and the community has been essential to growth: "Friends of the Fields" pairs community members, and PSD staff to care for athletic fields. A partnership with the Princess Theatre enhances our elementary music and arts. Partnering with PMH created the Health Occupation Studies Class preparing PHS students for careers in health care.

I am committed to fiscal responsibility, following the law, and holding leadership accountable in order to maintain integrity, and continue the work of making Prosser Schools outstanding in all areas.

Contact

elisaforspsd@gmail.com



**Eric
Larez**

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

Former city of Wapato councilman, mayor pro tempore, planning commission.

Other Professional Experience

Over two decades of public education experience including positions of paraprofessional, teacher, dean of students, building administrator and district administrator.

Education

Associate of Math and Science, Heritage University; Bachelor of Arts, University of Washington; Master's in Educational Leadership, Heritage University; Doctoral student, Washington State University.

Community Service

Former volunteer firefighter/EMT for 16 years; City of Wapato, Yakima County Fire District #5, West Benton Fire Rescue

Statement

As a parent with students who attend Prosser School District, I have a vested interest in the success of the children in our community. As a taxpayer in this great town, I understand that it is important to ensure that our dollars are maximized to the benefit of our children. As a community member I have listened to your concerns and have solutions to address your concerns. As an experienced professional in education I have the knowledge and background needed to ensure that the policies and procedures that govern our school are reflective of federal and state laws but most importantly reflect the entire community of Prosser. Together we can create great schools, together we can continue to build our great community. Above all, together we can provide a strong foundation for our children so they may have the opportunity to build a brighter future.

Contact

LarezforPSD@gmail.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.

No photo
submitted

Jason
Rainer
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

No information submitted

Contact
No information submitted

Grandview School District No. 200 | Director, District 1 | 2-year Unexpired term

No photo
submitted

John (Trey)
Greene III
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

No information submitted

Contact
No information submitted

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.

**Heather Garcia****Mendoza**

(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed**Elected Experience**

Grandview School Board of Director and Washington State School Directors Association, District #8, Nominating Committee.

Other Professional Experience

Program Coordinator for the Title-I, Part C, Migrant Education Program.

Education

A.A. Yakima Valley College, B.A. in Law and Justice with minor in Psychology from Central Washington University, and currently pursuing a Master's in Communication and Leadership from Gonzaga University.

Community Service

Has served as a religious education teacher, LVYSA Soccer Coach, Grandview Middle School Site Council Member, YVCC Professor Tenure Committee Member, WAEF Scholarship Reviewer, MSLAS Scholarship Chair, Grandview High School Boys Basketball Booster Club Treasurer, and CWU's CAMP/HEP Advisory Board Member.

Statement

Heather has spent over 20 years championing equitable education programs and opportunities for students; partnering with educators statewide to remove barriers to education and promote upward mobility. As a board director, she participated in the development of the district's first strategic plan and advocated for a governance model focused on transparency and student success. Her leadership and collaborative approach has contributed to the board's recent recognition as WSSDA's 2024 Board of Distinction and Medium-Sized School Board of the Year. Committed to creating strong educational support systems, Heather will continue to advocate and create opportunities for *all* students.

Contact

Heather4Education@gmail.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



**Elena
Olmstead**

(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

This is my first time running for elected office.

Other Professional Experience

I spent nearly a decade serving as the Grandview School District's Communications Manager. This gave me a deep understanding of the district's operations. I am currently Director of Communications for Educational Service District 123, where I oversee communication, public relations and marketing strategies for all programs within the ESD and the school districts that contract for our services.

Education

Grandview High School: Diploma; Washington State
University: Bachelor of Arts, Communications/Journalism

Community Service

I regularly volunteered in my children's classrooms and with Grandview's Girl Scout Troop, and I served on the Grandview Junior Miss Committee.

Statement

I am interested in serving as your school board member, because as a lifelong resident of the district, I have a strong vested interest in the success and growth of my community. I am a second-generation Grandview High School graduate, and my children are on the path to becoming Grandview High School alumni. Grandview holds a special place in my heart, and I believe that by serving on the board, I can contribute meaningfully to the community that has shaped my life and the lives of my family members.

Contact

elenaolmstead@gmail.com

No photo
submitted

**Amanda
Rodriguez**

(Nonpartisan)

No information submitted

Contact

RODRIGUEZAN16@GMAIL.COM

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.

No photo
submitted

**Jacques
Bakhazi**
(Nonpartisan)

No information submitted

Contact

(509) 518-5528; jnkaren@yahoo.com



**Bonnie
Mitchell**
(Nonpartisan)

Elected Experience

Current RSD Board of Directors, Position 1. Appointed 9/23.

Other Professional Experience

I am a stay-at-home parent and have volunteered in schools and local communities for 30 years.

Education

Jefferson Elementary, Carmichael Jr. High, Richland High School, Eastern Oregon University.

Community Service

I have worked in volunteer and leadership positions in several PTO/PTA organizations, school music and drama clubs, and Richland High School Boosters. I have been involved in Richland as a coach, team mom, and as a board member of Richland Lacrosse Club and Central Washington Lacrosse League. I also volunteer in my church congregation and Boys & Girls Club of Benton and Franklin Counties.

Statement

I appreciate the educational and extracurricular opportunities our public schools have provided to my family. I have spent the last 17 years volunteering in Richland schools, and many of those experiences have shown me how amazing our community can be working together for our kids. When I first applied to be appointed to the school board, I said this:

"I love thinking creatively and using teamwork to solve problems. I'm tenacious and a hard worker who can organize people and get stuff done."

Those things are still true. I have learned that this job requires those skills, plus a lot of listening, patience, and difficult decision making. During the last year, our district's challenging budget situation has been an unexpected development. I will continue to work with our board on a realistic plan to manage costs while improving student outcomes as best as we can. When difficult situations arise, I listen to our staff, administration, parents, students, and community and then do my best to act in the best interest of our district's 13,000+ students. Our board is working to continue to build trust and I would like to be there to see our critical budget shortfall through to resolution.

Contact

(630) 854-4405; besmitchell@gmail.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.

**Rick
Jansons**

(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed**Elected Experience**

Richland School Board, 2001 to present. Past-President of Washington State School Directors' Association.

Other Professional Experience

US Navy Submarine Service veteran, 26 years local business owner, and 30 years bargaining unit, supervisory and management experience at Hanford.

Education

Bachelor's in Elementary and Special Education; US Navy Nuclear Power School and other military training; Western Washington University Emergency Management Certified, and nationally certified Radiation Protection Technologist.

Community Service

Parent volunteer in schools, Leadership Tri-Cities Past President, Washington Agriculture and Forestry Foundation leadership, Richland Public Facilities District Past Board Member, Hanford Advisory Board leadership and active in his church; Rick is married with 5 children and 7 grandchildren.

Statement

I am asking for your vote to help me continue improving our schools. My goal is to ensure each child has the best education possible to reach their goals and dreams. We need to work together to remove barriers, whatever they may be, that stand in the way of our students' success.

My decisions are based on what is best for students. I value community, high standards for our staff and students, fairness for all students, and local control of our schools. I will respectfully work with you and listen to you in providing the best schools possible for our students.

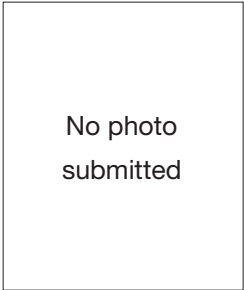
Thank you for your consideration.

Contact

(509) 528-3488; rickjansons@msn.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.



David
Jenkins
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

No information submitted

Contact
(509) 521-3991; COUNTRYMASONRY@YAHOO.COM



Steve
Rouse
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

Elected Experience
I have been fortunate enough to have been elected to my current fire commissioner position 4 times

Other Professional Experience
Taught middle school, grades 6 & 8 for 16 years; Worked for Siemens for 16 years

Education
Four year degree in education

Community Service
Boy Scout leader for 6 years for troop 205

Statement
26 years ago 3 volunteer firemen from Dist. 2 came to my 8th grade classroom and asked me to run for a fire commissioner position. We talked about courage, need, family, commitment, community, and friendship.
The rest is history.
Fire District 2 has grown, our community has grown, and our need for fire and ambulance service has grown. I've learned alot about Fire District 2 and the strong men and women who protect the homes and people in our community. I ask for your vote so we can continue to grow together as a community and a fire district.
Thank you.

Contact
No information submitted

Local Voters' Pamphlet
These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.

**Garrett
Goodwin**

(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed**Elected Experience**

Fire Commissioner 2019-current

Other Professional Experience

No information submitted

Education

Graduated from Columbia Basin College in 2013 with AA; in Fire Science; Graduated from Eastern Oregon University; in 2015 with a BS in Fire Administration with a minor in Communications

Community Service

Volunteer Firefighter for Benton County Fire District 4
2011-current

Statement

As your Fire District Commissioner, it has been a privilege to serve our community with a focus on safety, service, and fiscal responsibility. I am proud of what we have accomplished together during my tenure and am seeking re-election to continue building on this progress.

During my time in office, we have doubled our front line staffing to improve response times and better serve our growing community. We replaced five aging apparatus, ensuring our crews have reliable equipment when every second counts. I've worked hard to maintain a balanced budget while investing in long-term improvements that strengthen our emergency response capabilities. We have added important tools and equipment to enhance firefighter training and safety. The department also added its first ladder truck, significantly expanding our ability to respond to complex emergencies. Additionally, we hired our first Deputy Chief to provide leadership and support to our growing team.

These accomplishments reflect my commitment to accountability, transparency, and the safety of every resident in Benton County Fire District. I am honored to have the endorsement of IAFF Local 1052, representing the professional firefighters who serve our community every day.

Contact

Garrettgoodwin2019@gmail.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.

No photo
submitted

**Kody
Hartley**
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

This candidate filed during a special filing period to fill a void in candidacy. Due to printing deadlines, candidate statements were not accepted from those filing in the special period.

Contact

No information submitted

Fire District #6 | Commissioner Pos. 2 | 6-year term

No photo
submitted

**Dawn
Harris**
(Nonpartisan)

No photo
submitted

**Ricks
Munn**
(Nonpartisan)

This candidate filed during a special filing period to fill a void in candidacy. Due to printing deadlines, candidate statements were not accepted from those filing in the special period.

Contact

(541) 720-1340; d_hendricks123@yahoo.com

This candidate filed during a special filing period to fill a void in candidacy. Due to printing deadlines, candidate statements were not accepted from those filing in the special period.

Contact

No information submitted

West Benton Regional Fire Authority | Comm. Pos. 1 At Large | 6-year term

No photo
submitted

**Randy
Cobble**
(Nonpartisan)

Unopposed

No information submitted

Contact

(509) 832-9818; r_cobble@yahoo.com

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.

No candidates filed for this office during the regular or special filing period, creating a void in candidacy.

Plymouth Water District | Commissioner Pos. 2 | 6-year term

No photo
submitted

**Russell
Harris**
(Nonpartisan)

This candidate filed during a special filing period to fill a void in candidacy. Due to printing deadlines, candidate statements were not accepted from those filing in the special period.

Contact
(509) 991-3642; harrisrwayne@yahoo.com

No photo
submitted

**Austin A.
Wyatt**
(Nonpartisan)

This candidate filed during a special filing period to fill a void in candidacy. Due to printing deadlines, candidate statements were not accepted from those filing in the special period.

Contact
No information submitted

Tri-City Estates Water District | Commissioner Pos. 2 | 6-year term

No candidates filed for this office during the regular or special filing period, creating a void in candidacy.

Local Voters' Pamphlet

These statements are printed exactly as submitted with no spelling, grammatical or other corrections made. The candidate or campaign committee is responsible for content.

Are you mailing your ballot?



Check the collection time!

To account for delivery standards and to allow for contingencies, the USPS recommends voters mail their ballots at least 1 week prior to Election Day. If you are unable to do so, we recommend that you use one of the conveniently located drop boxes.

Official Ballot Drop Boxes are open until 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 4.

A list of Official Ballot Drop Box locations is on the following page.

Ballot Drop Box Locations

Ballot drop boxes are a convenient way for you to return your ballot on or before Election Day. These secure ballot drop boxes can be found at 11 locations throughout Benton County. Boxes are open 20 days prior to Election Day and remain open until 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. Ballot drop boxes do not require any postage and guarantee your ballot will be received by the Auditor's Office.

Kennewick

Benton County Campus, 7122 W. Okanogan Place (Drive up)
Benton County Elections, 7122 W. Okanogan Place Bldg. F
Finley Middle School, 37208 S. Finley Road
Kennewick City Hall, 524 S. Auburn Street (Drive up)

Richland

Badger Mountain Community Park, Keene Road (Drive up)
Jefferson Park, Symons Street
WSU Tri-Cities, 2770 Crimson Way (Drive up)

West Richland

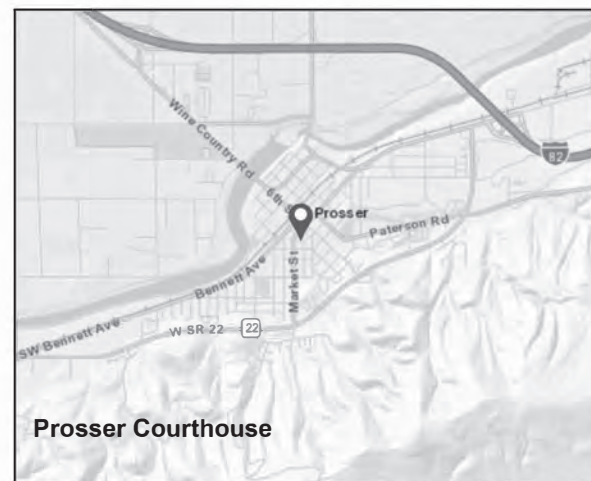
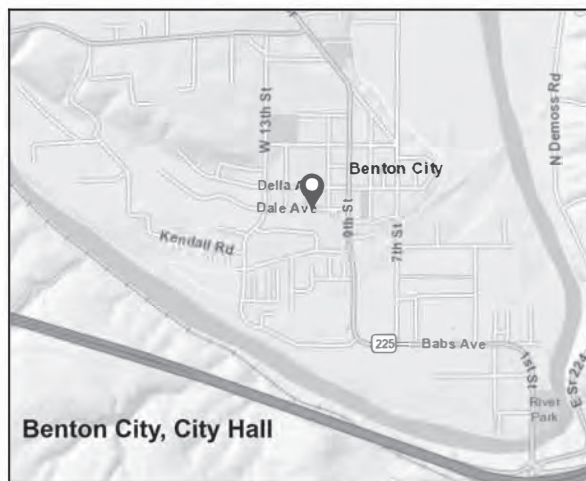
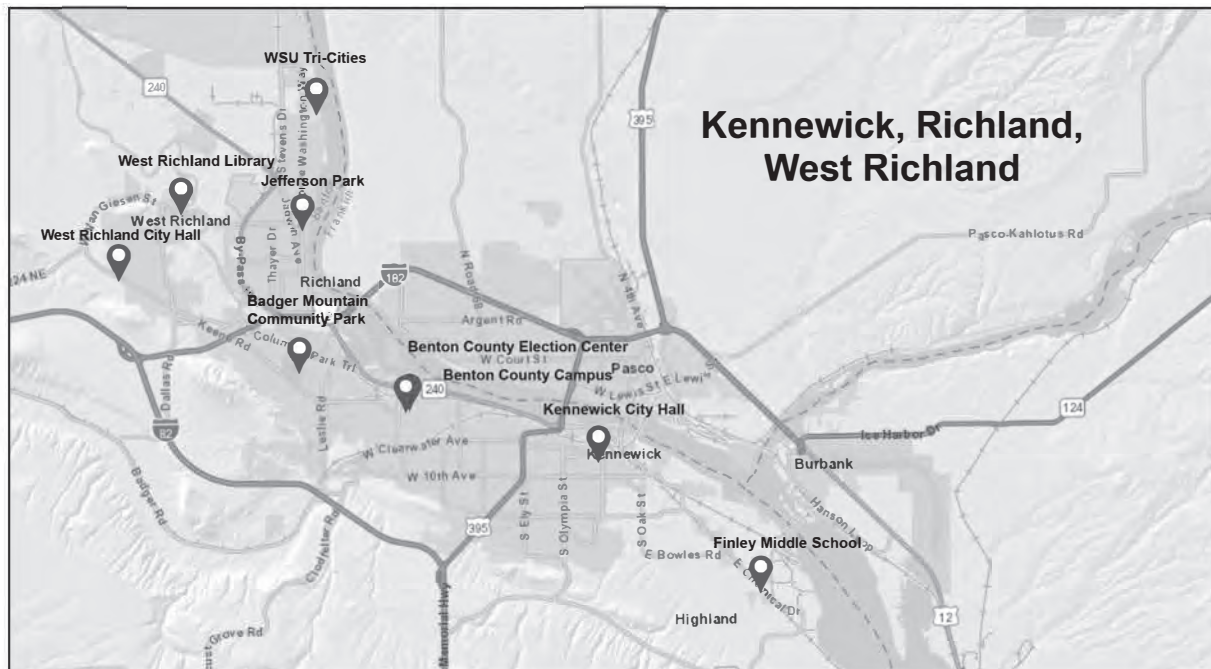
West Richland City Hall, 3100 Belmont Blvd. (Drive up)
West Richland Library, 3803 W. Van Giesen Street (Drive up)

Benton City

City Hall, 1009 Dale Avenue

Prosser

Prosser Courthouse, 620 Market Street



📢 Ballot Box Updates 📢

📍 Kennewick City Hall

The ballot drop box at Kennewick City Hall has been moved and upgraded!

The smaller box previously located near the utility payment box has been removed. A larger, more accessible ballot box has now been installed across campus, directly across from the post office.

Make sure to update your plans and drop your ballot in the new secure location. Your vote matters!



📍 Rivers Edge Plaza

Please note that the ballot drop box at the Rivers Edge Plaza has been permanently removed.

The closest available drop box is now located at the Benton County Campus:

7122 W. Okanogan Pl., Kennewick

Be sure to plan ahead and use the new location to securely return your ballot. Thank you for voting! 🗳️

YOUR *Signature* MATTERS

Sometimes signatures change. If that's the case, don't worry! We will send you a form to update your signature. If we have a phone number on file for you, we will also call you to remind you to return your form.

Need a reminder? Take a look at your Driver's License. Many people register to vote when they apply/renew their Driver's License, so that is the signature we would have on file for you. Benton County Elections Division employees are trained in signature verification. They compare your signature on the return envelope to the signature we have on file for you. To check the status of your ballot go to www.VoteWA.gov

TRACK YOUR BALLOT

visit www.VoteWa.gov

Tracking your ballot is easier than ever! Sign up for text notifications when you register or update your info.

WE HAVE MOVED

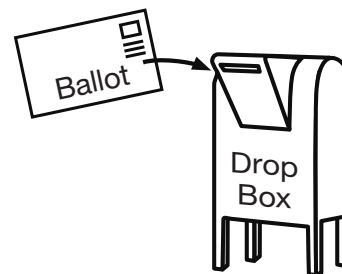
The Benton County Elections Division has moved to a new location! We are open Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. On election days, we are open from 8:30 AM to 8:00 PM.

New Address: 7122 W Okanogan Pl. Bldg. F, Kennewick, WA

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

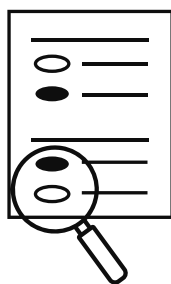
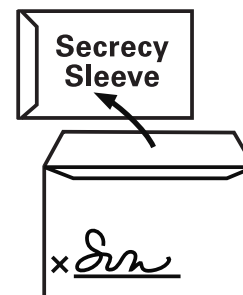
Your signature is verified

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

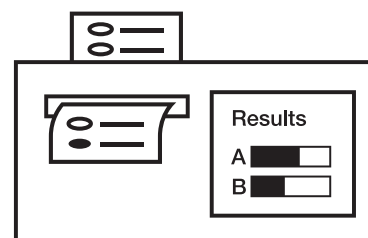
Your ballot is reviewed and scanned

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.



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

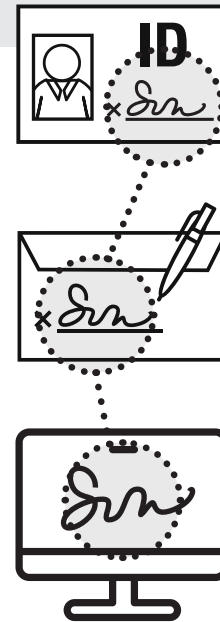
Your local election officials keep detailed records of the steps taken to process each ballot or group of ballots, creating an audit trail.

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

Why is my signature important?

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 are responsible for verifying 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**.



How do I know if something is true?

When reviewing online or printed information, think about:

- Who made this, and who is it for?
- Why did they make it?
- When was this made?
- What makes it believable?
- How might other people read this message?
- Ask the experts — Get trusted info from your county auditor or elections office. Consult a fact-checking site or ask an official source.



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.

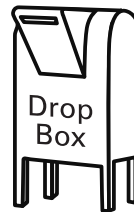
Voting System

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

Your Voting Information

Use **VoteWA.gov** to:

- Register to vote at 18 or sign up as a Future Voter as early as 16
- Check or update your voter registration information
- View a list of your elected officials
- Contact your county elections office
- View your personalized Voter Guide
- Print a replacement ballot
- Find an official ballot drop box
- Check the status of your ballot
- Sign up for text notifications



Sign in to **VoteWA.gov** to access your customized voting information.

Teachers: Classroom Activity



The Student Mock Election is a non-partisan, educational event that teaches kids to be informed voters. Over 500,000 students have participated in Washington's annual Student Mock Election since 2004.

- Students vote on candidates and measures, 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.

Free resources for educators:

- Teacher toolkit includes print-friendly Voters' Pamphlet, lessons from Teaching Elections in Washington State curriculum book, posters, and coloring sheet.

Visit **sos.wa.gov/mockelection** for more info.

Want to be notified of the next Student Mock Election?
Scan with your smartphone camera to sign up.



New Washington resident

Welcome! Register to vote online, by mail, in person, or when you get your new driver's license, permit, or ID at the Department of Licensing. You may not vote in more than one place, so cancel your previous voter registration.

**Military or overseas voter**

Register to vote anytime on or before Election Day. You may receive your ballot by mail, email, or fax. Spouses and dependents also away from home have the same voting rights.

**College student**

Register to vote using either your home or school address, but you may not vote in more than one place. Your ballot can be mailed to you anywhere in the world; however, your residential address must remain in Washington.

**Non-traditional address voter**

Use any physical location you consider your residence such as a shelter, park, or marina. Your mailing address can be general delivery at a local post office, a PO Box, or an address of a trusted friend or relative. A federally recognized tribe may designate tribal government buildings to serve as residential or mailing addresses for voters living on tribal lands.

**Seasonal resident**

Vote in Washington even if you're away during an election. To ensure you receive your ballot, update your mailing address at **VoteWA.gov** or with a county elections office. Your ballot can be mailed to you anywhere in the world; however, your residential address must remain in Washington. You may not vote in more than one place.

**Person convicted of a felony**

Your right to vote is automatically restored once you're no longer serving a sentence of total confinement in any state or federal prison, including for federal or out-of-state felony convictions. Register to vote upon your release from prison. Even if you were previously registered to vote, or voted before your felony conviction, you will need to re-register to receive a ballot.





How do I read measure text?

Language in double parentheses with a line through it is existing state law; it will be taken out of the law if this measure is approved by voters.

~~((sample of text to be deleted))~~

Underlined language does not appear in current state law but will be added to the law if this measure is approved by voters.

sample of text to be added

Complete Text

Senate Joint Resolution No. 8201

BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION ASSEMBLED:

THAT, At the next general election to be held in this state the secretary of state shall submit to the qualified voters of the state for their approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to Article XXIX, section 1 of the Constitution of the state of Washington to read as follows:

Article XXIX, section 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 5, and 7 of Article VIII and section 9 of Article XII or any other section or article of the Constitution of the state of Washington, the moneys of any public pension or retirement fund, industrial insurance trust fund, ~~((or))~~ fund held in trust for the benefit of persons with developmental disabilities, or fund to provide for long-term care services and supports for eligible seniors and

people with disabilities may be invested as authorized by law. Investment income from a fund to provide for long-term care services and supports for eligible seniors and people with disabilities is dedicated to long-term services and supports for program beneficiaries.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this amendment is a single amendment within the meaning of Article XXIII, section 1 of the state Constitution.

The legislature finds that the changes contained in this amendment constitute a single integrated plan for the fund to provide long-term care services and supports for eligible seniors and people with disabilities. If this amendment is held to be separate amendments, this joint resolution is void in its entirety and is of no further force and effect.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the legislature, pursuant to its authority under RCW 29A.36.020(3), specifies the ballot title and concise description shall read "The legislature has proposed a constitutional amendment on allowing money in Washington's long-term care fund to be invested. This amendment would allow the state fund dedicated to providing long-term care benefits for eligible seniors and people with disabilities to be invested as authorized by law.

Should this constitutional amendment be:

Approved.....

Rejected"

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause notice of this constitutional amendment to be published at least four times during the four weeks next preceding the election in every legal newspaper in the state.

--- END ---

If I am a victim of a crime, can I vote safely?

Keep your voting address confidential

You may be able to enroll in the Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) and register as a Protected Records Voter if you are:

- A survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking, stalking; or
- A criminal justice participant, election official, or protected health care worker who is a target for harassment.

To become a Protected Records Voter:

- You meet with a Certified Advocate who can assist with threat assessment, safety planning, and the program application.
- The best time to enroll is when you move or are planning to move to a location that is unknown to the offender and undocumented in public record.

Call 1 (800) 822-1065 or visit sos.wa.gov/acp.



Adams County

210 W Broadway Ave, Ste 200
Ritzville, WA 99169
(509) 659-3249
elections@co.adams.wa.us

Asotin County

135 2nd St
Asotin, WA 99402
(509) 243-2084
dmckay@asotincountywa.gov

Benton County

7122 W Okanogan Pl, Bldg F
Kennewick, WA 99336
(509) 736-3085
elections@co.benton.wa.us

Chelan County

350 Orondo Ave, Ste 306
Wenatchee, WA 98801
(509) 667-6808
elections@co.chelan.wa.us

Clallam County

223 E 4th St, Ste 1
Port Angeles, WA 98362
(360) 417-2221
elections@clallamcountywa.gov

Clark County

1408 Franklin St
Vancouver, WA 98660
(564) 397-2345
elections@clark.wa.gov

Columbia County

115 E Main St, Ste 3
Dayton, WA 99328
(509) 382-4541
auditor_elections@
co.columbia.wa.us

Cowlitz County

207 N 4th Ave, Rm 205
Kelso, WA 98626
(360) 577-3005
elections@cowlitzwa.gov

Douglas County

213 S Rainier St
Waterville, WA 98858
(509) 888-6402
elections@co.douglas.wa.us

Ferry County

350 E Delaware Ave, Ste 2
Republic, WA 99166
(509) 775-5225 ext. 1139
delections@co.ferry.wa.us

Franklin County

1016 N 4th Ave, Ste A206
Pasco, WA 99301
(509) 545-3538
elections@franklincountywa.gov

Garfield County

789 Main St
Pomeroy, WA 99347
(509) 843-1411
mlueck@garfieldcountywa.gov

Grant County

35 C St NW, Rm 203
Ephrata, WA 98823
(509) 754-2011 ext 2704
elections@grantcountywa.gov

Grays Harbor County

100 W Broadway Ave, Ste 2
Montesano, WA 98563
(360) 249-4232
elections@graysharbor.us

Island County

400 N Main St
Coupeville, WA 98239
(360) 678-8290
elections@islandcountywa.gov

Jefferson County

1820 Jefferson St
Port Townsend, WA 98368
(360) 385-9119
elections@co.jefferson.wa.us

King County

919 SW Grady Way
Renton, WA 98057
(206) 296-8683
elections@kingcounty.gov

Kitsap County

619 Division St
Port Orchard, WA 98366
(360) 307-VOTE (8683)
auditor@kitsap.gov

Kittitas County

205 W 5th Ave, Ste 105
Ellensburg, WA 98926
(509) 962-7503
elections@co.kittitas.wa.us

Klickitat County

205 S Columbus Ave, Rm 203
Goldendale, WA 98620
(509) 773-4001
voting@klickitatcounty.org

Lewis County

351 NW North St
Chehalis, WA 98532
(360) 740-1278
elections@lewiscountywa.gov

Lincoln County

450 Logan St
Davenport, WA 99122
(509) 725-4971
elections@co.lincoln.wa.us

Mason County

411 N 5th St
Shelton, WA 98584
(360) 427-9670 ext 470
elections@masoncountywa.gov

Okanogan County

149 3rd Ave N, Rm 104
Okanogan, WA 98840
(509) 422-7240
elections@co.okanogan.wa.us

Pacific County

300 Memorial Dr
South Bend, WA 98586
(360) 875-9317
elections@co.pacific.wa.us

Pend Oreille County

625 W 4th St
Newport, WA 99156
(509) 447-6472
elections@pendoreille.gov

Pierce County

2501 S 35th St, Ste C
Tacoma, WA 98409
(253) 798-VOTE (8683)
elections@piercecounywa.gov

San Juan County

55 2nd St, Ste A
Friday Harbor, WA 98250
(360) 378-3357
elections@sanjuancountywa.gov

Skagit County

700 S 2nd St
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
(360) 416-1702
scelections@co.skagit.wa.us

Skamania County

240 NW Vancouver Ave
Stevenson, WA 98648
(509) 427-3730
elections@co.skamania.wa.us

Snohomish County

3000 Rockefeller Ave
Admin West Building, 1st floor
Everett, WA 98201
(425) 388-3444
elections@snoco.org

Spokane County

1033 W Gardner Ave
Spokane, WA 99260
(509) 477-2320
elections@spokanecounty.gov

Stevens County

215 S Oak St, Rm 106
Colville, WA 99114
(509) 684-7514
elections@stevenscountywa.gov

Thurston County

2915 29th Ave SW
Tumwater, WA 98512
(360) 786-5408
elections@co.thurston.wa.us

Wahkiakum County

64 Main St
Cathlamet, WA 98612
(360) 795-3219
elections@co.wahkiakum.wa.us

Walla Walla County

315 W Main St
Walla Walla, WA 99362
(509) 524-2530
elections@co.walla-walla.wa.us

Whatcom County

311 Grand Ave, Ste 103
Bellingham, WA 98225
(360) 778-5102
elections@co.whatcom.wa.us

Whitman County

304 N Main St
Colfax, WA 99111
(509) 397-5284
elections@whitmancounty.gov

Yakima County

128 N 2nd St, Rm 117
Yakima, WA 98901
(509) 574-1340
iVote@co.yakima.wa.us

Your county elections office can help you:

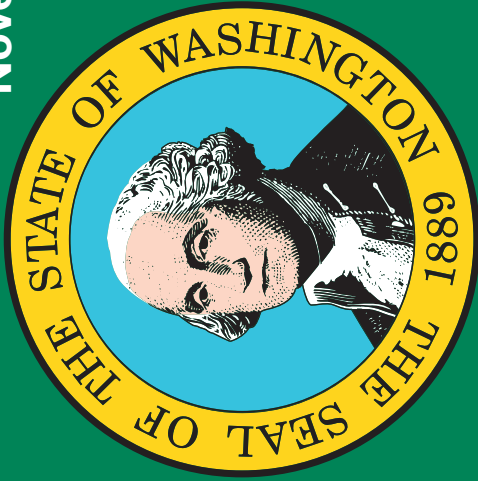
- register to vote
- update your address
- get a replacement ballot
- use an accessible voting unit
- locate your nearest ballot drop box



VOTERS' PAMPHLET

Washington State Elections
& Benton County

General Election
November 4



2025

Official Publication



WASHINGTON
Secretary of State

Ballots mailed out by October 17
1 (800) 448-4881 | sos.wa.gov/elections



WASHINGTON
Secretary of State
Elections Division

PO Box 40220
Olympia WA 98504-0220

NONPROFIT ORG.
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SEATTLE, WA
PERMIT NO. 1216



Residential Customer

EDITION 8

Benton County