

Educational Corner

When did you come to this country? How long has it been since you obtained your citizenship? Do you know what your rights as a citizen of this country are? One of your rights as a United States Citizen, and possibly the most important, is the right to vote.

The majority of citizens, originally from Latin American countries, do not know the voting process of this country. As the bilingual coordinator for the elections program of Yakima County it is my responsibility to assure that our Latin community is well informed of the voting process and their right to vote.

On this website you will find information about the election process. New articles will be added to this site periodically.

The most basic and essential step for your ability to vote is registering to vote. In this way you can choose the leaders of our country such as the nation's president, the people proposing new laws to our government, and having your voice heard through these elected officials votes. By voting you can also determine if local taxes should increase for improvements to our local schools or our roads. These are only a few examples of what your vote can do.

The requirements for registering to vote are:

- √ You must be a citizen of the United States
- √ You must be at least 18 years old
- √ You must be a resident of the State of Washington for at least 30 days before an election
- √ Not currently denied your right to vote as a cause of a felony conviction

You can register at:

- √ Online! www.sos.wa.gov
- √ Schools
- √ City Hall
- √ Department of Licensing
- √ Yakima County Auditor's Office

I hope this information is helpful to you and I invite you to contact me if you have any questions at (509) 574-1349 or at our toll-free number 1-800-833-0569. By e-mail at soraya.gonzalez@co.yakima.wa.us

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