

# Candidate & Election Guidebook

## Guía electoral y para candidatos

**Yakima County Elections Division**  
División Electoral del Condado de Yakima



# 2025

**Charles R. Ross**  
Yakima County Auditor

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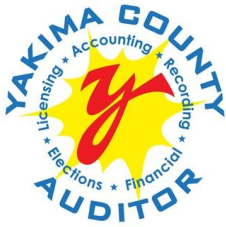
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May, 2025

Congratulations on making the decision to become a candidate for public office. Running for public office is oftentimes an exciting and unforgettable experience.

All of us in the elections division office know how important your decision to seek elected office can be to the residents of the Yakima Valley. By making the decision to be a candidate for public office you are accepting a great deal of responsibility and showing your commitment to serve this community. I wish you well on this journey.

Our elections division conducts all of the elections in Yakima County from the local level to the national level. We are available to provide you with information about the elections schedule, important dates and deadlines, voter registration forms, ballot processing tours, and many other election services detailed in this guidebook.

We all know that voting is one of the greatest rights we have as American citizens. We are committed to helping citizens become active participants in the election process and, most importantly, vote.

If you have questions or need additional information of any kind, please visit our website at [www.yakimacounty.us/vote](http://www.yakimacounty.us/vote) or call our Elections Division at 574-1340.

Sincerely,

Charles R. Ross  
Yakima County Auditor

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**Note:** This manual is for informational purposes only and does not take the place of local, state, or federal laws. The material presented is subject to change due to new legislation, judicial determination, or additional office vacancies.

# 2025 Election Calendar

Candidate calendar	
April 21	first day candidate filings accepted by mail
May 5; 8am	begin candidate filing
May 9; 5pm	end candidate filing
May 9; 5:15pm	lot drawing for ballot placement
May 12; 5pm	last day for candidates to withdraw
May 20; 5pm	candidate statements / pictures due for local voter guide
August 4	last day a void in candidacy causes that office to reopen for candidate filing
August 5; 8pm	last day to file as write-in candidate for Primary
November 4; 8pm	last day to file as write-in candidate for General Election

Primary calendar	
May 2	resolutions due for special election in conjunction with the Primary
June 20	overseas and military ballots mailed
July 17	last day to file as a write-in candidate for Primary; no filing fee required
July 18	ballots available
July 28	mail-in and online registrations must be received by an election official by this date
July 28	address changes submitted by mail, phone or online must be received in the election office by this date
August 5; 8pm	last day for in-person registration and updates
August 5	Primary
August 5; 8pm	last day to file as write-in candidate for Primary; filing fee required
August 19	election certified by counties
August 22	last day for Secretary of State to certify the Primary

# 2025 Election Calendar

General Election calendar	
August 5	resolutions due for special election in conjunction with the General Election
September 19	overseas and military ballots mailed
October 16	last day to file as a write-in candidate for General Election; no filing fee required
October 17	ballots available
October 27	mail-in and online registrations must be received by an election official by this date
October 27	address changes submitted by mail, phone or online must be received in the election office by this date
November 4; 8pm	last day for in-person registration and updates
November 4	General Election
November 4; 8pm	last day to file as write-in candidate for General Election; filing fee required
November 25	election certified by counties
December 4	last day for Secretary of State to certify the General Election
December 4	state ballots measures approved by voters declared law by Governor

Holidays			
May 26	Memorial Day	November 27	Thanksgiving
June 19	Juneteenth	November 28	Native American Heritage Day
July 4	Independence Day	December 25	Christmas
September 1	Labor Day	January 1	New Year's Day
October 13	Columbus Day courthouse open, post office closed		
November 11	Veteran's Day observance		

# 2025 Offices up for Election

Candidate filing period: **May 5 – 9** (online, in person, by email or fax) RCW 29A.24.040-050  
**April 21 – May 9** (by mail)

Office	Incumbent	Term length	Filing fee	PDC reporting
State Judicial Nonpartisan Offices				
Court of Appeals, Division III, District 3				
Judge, Position 1	Megan K. Murphy	1 year unexpired	\$2,397.55	F-1 & C- series
City &Town Nonpartisan Offices				
City of Grandview - 1 year residency required				
Council, Position 1	Joan Souders	4 years	\$54.00	F-1
Council, Position 2	Javier Rodriguez	4 years	\$54.00	
Council, Position 3	Steve Barrientes	4 years	\$54.00	
City of Granger - 1 year residency required				
Council, Position 1	Israel Bustamante	4 years	none	none
Council, Position 2	Susie Munoz	4 years	none	
Council, Position 3	Ryan Stonemetz	4 years	none	
Town of Harrah				
Council, Position 1	Ben Dulany	4 year short/full	none	none
Council, Position 2	Ann Glover	4 year short full	none	
Council, Position 3	Luisa Equihua	2 year unexpired	none	
Council, Position 5	vacant	2 year unexpired	none	
City of Mabton - 1 year residency required				
Mayor	Rachel Ruelas	4 years	\$204.00	none
Council, Position 1	Diana Castaneda	4 years	none	
Council, Position 2	Sophia Sotelo	4 years	none	
Council, Position 3	Mary Alvarado	4 years	none	
City of Moxee - 1 year residency required				
Council, Position 1	Robert Layman	4 years	\$30.00	F-1
Council, Position 2	Greg Spurgin	4 years	\$30.00	
Town of Naches				
Council, Position 1	Wayne Hawver	4 years	none	none
Council, Position 2	Tiffany Sigler	4 years	none	
Council, Position 3	Kit Hawver	4 years	none	
City of Selah - 1 year residency required				
Council, Position 1	Kevin Wickenhagen	4 years	\$39.00	F-1
Council, Position 2	Jared Iverson	4 years	\$39.00	
Council, Position 3	Elizabeth Marquis	4 years	\$39.00	

Office	Incumbent	Term length	Filing fee	PDC reporting
City of Sunnyside - 1 year residency required				
Council, District 1	vacant	4 year short/full	\$48.00	F-1 & C- series
Council, District 2	Dean Broersma	4 years	\$48.00	
Council, District 3	Vicky Frausto	4 years	\$48.00	
Council, District 4	Vicky Ripley	4 years	\$48.00	
City of Tieton - 1 year residency required				
Council, Position 1	Tadeo Saenz-Thompson	4 years	none	none
Council, Position 2	Ed Marquand	4 years	none	
Council, Position 3	Lupita Carrillo	4 years	none	
City of Toppenish - 1 year residency required				
Council, Position 1	Elpidia Saavedra	4 years	none	F-1
Council, Position 2	Cristian Sanchez	4 year short/full	none	
Council, Position 3	Josh Garza	4 year short/full	none	
Council, Position 4	vacant	4 year short/full	none	
Council, Position 6	Naila Prieto-Duval	2 year unexpired	none	
Council, Position 7	Loren Belton	2 year unexpired	none	
City of Union Gap - 1 year residency required				
Council, Position 1	John Hodkinson	4 years	\$72.00	F-1
Council, Position 2	Greg Sewell	4 year short/full	\$72.00	
Council, Position 3	Roger Wentz	4 years	\$72.00	
Council, Position 5	Carol Fredrickson	2 year unexpired	\$72.00	
Council, Position 7	Sandy Dailey	4 years	\$72.00	
City of Wapato				
Council, Position 1	Chuck Stephens	4 years	none	none
Council, Position 2	Rita Alvarado	4 years	none	
Council, Position 3	Frank Jaime	4 years	none	
Council, Position 7 at-large	Caroline Solis	2 years	none	
City of Yakima				
Council, District 2	Danny Herrera	4 years	\$129.00	F-1 & C- series
Council, District 4	Janice Deccio	4 years	\$129.00	
Council, District 6	Matt Brown	4 years	\$129.00	
City of Yakima Municipal Court				
Judge, Position 1	Troy Clements	4 years	\$2,064.57	
Judge, Position 2	Aryn Masters	4 years	\$2,064.57	
City of Zillah				
Mayor	Scott Carmack	4 years	\$120.00	none
Council, Position 1	Brian Williams	4 years	none	
Council, Position 2	Wes Argo	4 years	none	



Office	Incumbent	Term length	Filing fee	PDC reporting
School District Nonpartisan Offices				
Union Gap School District No. 2				
Director, District 3	Nicole Rivera	4 years	none	none
Director, Position 1 at-large	Daisy Villanueva	4 years	none	
Naches Valley School District No. Jt3				
Director, District 2	Bruce Drollinger	4 years	none	F-1 & C- series
Director, District 3	Chad Christopherson	4 years	none	
Yakima School District No. 7				
Director, Position 1	Graciela Villanueva	4 years	none	F-1 & C-series
Director, Position 2	Ryan Beckett	4 years	none	
Wahluke School District No. 73				
Grant County is the filing officer for Wahluke School District				
Director, District 2	Nick Trejo	4 years	none	F-1
Director, Postion 5 at-large	Luke Jenne	4 years	none	
East Valley School District No. 90				
Director, District 2	Katy Weatherley	4 years	none	F-1 & C-series
Director, District 5	Chris Hammond	4 years	none	
Selah School District No. 119				
Director, District 2	Joe Catron	4 years	none	F-1 & C-series
Director, Position 1 at-large	Jamie Morford	4 years	none	
Mabton School District No. 120				
Director, District 3	Suzy Diaz	4 years	none	none
Director, Position 1 at-large	Aurelia Mata	4 years	none	
Director, Position 2 at-large	Irma Martinez	2 year unexpired	none	
Grandview School District No. 200				
Director, District 1	vacant	2 year unexpired	none	F-1 & C-series
Director, District 2	Heather Garcia-Mendoza	4 years	none	
Director, District 5	vacant	4 years	none	
Sunnyside School District No. 201				
Director, District 1	Leticia Zesati	2 year unexpired	none	F-1 & C- series
Director, District 2	Linda Roberts	4 years	none	
Director, District 3	Jilliann Patterson	4 years	none	
Director, District 4	Jory Anderson	2 year unexpired	none	
Director, District 5	Stephen Berg	2 year unexpired	none	
Toppenish School District No. 202				
Director, District 2	Rebecca Perez	4 years	none	F-1 & C-series
Director, District 3	John Ramos	4 years	none	
Bickleton School District No. 203				
Klickitat County is the filing officer for Bickleton School District				
Director, Position 4 at-large	Mitchell Powers	4 years	none	none
Director, Position 5 at-large	Shane Wright	4 years	none	

Office	Incumbent	Term length	Filing fee	PDC reporting
Highland School District No. 203				
Director, District 2	David Barnes	4 years	none	F-1
Director, Position 1 at-large	vacant	4 years	none	
Granger School District No. 204				
Director, District 1	Rick Russell	4 years	none	F-1
Director, District 2	Kyle Shinn	4 years	none	
Zillah School District No. 205				
Director, District 1	Nikki Samaniego	4 years	none	F-1
Director, District 2	Nicole Garcia Schmelzer	4 years	none	
Director, District 5	Dennis Jones	4 years	none	
Wapato School District No. 207				
Director, District 1	Lori Garcia	4 years	none	F-1 & C- series
Director, District 2	Sarah Divina	4 years	none	
West Valley School District No. 208				
Director, District 2	Michael Thorner	4 years	none	F-1 & C-series
Director, District 3	Mark Strong	4 years	none	
Mount Adams School District No. 209				
Director, District 3	Michelle Bergevin	4 years	none	F-1
Director, District 4	Dolores Martinez	4 years	none	
Director, District 5	Lacey Simon	4 years	none	
Fire Protection District Nonpartisan Offices				
Fire Protection District No. 1				
Commissioner, Position 2	Anthony Judd	6 years	none	F-1
Fire Protection District No. 2				
Commissioner, Position 2	Daniel Boyle	6 years	none	F-1 & C- series
Fire Protection District No. 3				
Commissioner, Position 1	Emma Charlet	6 years	none	none
Fire Protection District No. 4				
Commissioner, Position 2	Les Riel	6 years	none	F-1 & C- series
Commissioner, Position 3	Tyler Brandt	2 year unexpired	none	
Fire Protection District No. 5				
Commissioner, Position 2	Timothy Smith	6 year short/full	none	F-1 & C- series
Fire Protection District No. 6				
Commissioner, Position 2	Jeff Simmons	6 years	none	F-1
Fire Protection District No. 7				
Commissioner, Position 2	Tom Mains	6 years	none	none
Fire Protection District No. 9				
Commissioner, Position 2	Steven Mack	6 year short/full	none	none
Fire Protection District No. 10				
Commissioner, Position 1	George Garcia	4 year unexpired	none	none
Commissioner, Position 2	Gary Peterson	6 years	none	
Commissioner, Position 3	Fred J. Cyr, Jr.	2 year unexpired	none	

Office	Incumbent	Term length	Filing fee	PDC reporting
Fire Protection District No. 11				
Commissioner, Position 2	Chris Boles	6 years	none	none
Fire Protection District No. 12				
Commissioner, Position 2	Ken Eakin	6 years	none	F-1 & C- series
Fire Protection District No. 14				
Commissioner, Position 1	Travis Dexter	4 year unexpired	none	none
Commissioner, Position 2	Jim Fretwell	6 years	none	
Commissioner, Position 3	Mike Van Amburg	2 year unexpired	none	
Port District Nonpartisan Offices				
Port of Grandview				
Commissioner, District 3	Frank Lyall	6 years	none	F-1 & C- series
Port of Sunnyside				
Commissioner, District 1	Arnold Martin	6 years	\$72.00	F-1 & C- series
Sewer District Nonpartisan Offices				
Terrace Heights Sewer District				
Commissioner, Position 2	Harold Sliger	6 years	none	F-1
Park & Recreation District Nonpartisan Offices				
Naches Park & Recreation District				
Commissioner, District 3	Wayne Hawver	4 years	none	none
Commissioner, District 4	vacant	2 year unexpired	none	
Commissioner, District 5	William Snyder	4 year short/full	none	
Public Hospital District Nonpartisan Offices				
Public Hospital District No. 1				
Commissioner, Position 3	Jordann Loehr	6 years	none	F-1 & C- series

# Duties and Qualifications

Candidates must possess all requirements and qualifications of the office at the time of filing. WAC 434-215-170

## Court of Appeals Judge

**Duties:** The Court of Appeals hears appeals on decisions made by lower courts and has the authority to reverse, modify, affirm, or remand that decision.

**Qualifications:** Candidates must be residents of the district for not less than one year and admitted to practice law in the courts of the State of Washington for not less than five years prior to taking office. RCW 2.06.050

## City and Town Council Members

**Duties:** The City Council acts as the official legislative and policy making body for the City adopting all laws, ordinances, and resolutions, levying taxes, and approving contracts required by the City. The Council analyzes proposals to meet community needs, initiates action for new programs and determines the ability of the City to provide financing for City operations. The Council also reviews, modifies, and approves the annual budget. Additionally, the City Council performs other miscellaneous duties, including appointments to various boards and commissions, acts as liaison with other governmental bodies, and responds to community groups and individual constituents.

**Qualifications:** A candidate for city or town council must be a registered voter in the city limits for which they are filing. • A candidate for a city council *district* must be a registered voter in the city limits **and** reside within that council district.

\* Code cities require one year residency.  
RCW 35A.12.030, 35A.13.020

Grandview*	Code (Mayor/Council)
Granger*	Code (Mayor/Council)
Harrah	4 <sup>th</sup> Class Town (Mayor/Council)
Mabton*	Code (Mayor/Council)
Moxee*	Code (Mayor/Council)
Naches	4 <sup>th</sup> Class Town (Mayor/Council)
Selah*	Code (Mayor/Council)

Sunnyside*	Code (Council/Manager)
Tieton*	Code (Mayor/Council)
Toppenish*	Code (Council/Manager)
Union Gap*	Code (Council/Manager)
Wapato	2 <sup>nd</sup> Class (Mayor/Council)
Yakima	1 <sup>st</sup> Class (Council/Manager – Charter)
Zillah*	Code (Mayor/Council)

## Municipal Court Judge

**Duties:** Municipal court has exclusive original jurisdiction over traffic infractions arising under city ordinances and exclusive original criminal jurisdiction of all violations of city ordinances duly adopted by the city. RCW 3.50.020

**Qualifications:** Candidates must be registered to vote in Yakima County and be a lawyer admitted to the Washington State Bar. RCW 3.50.057, 3.34.060

## School Board Directors

**Duties:** School Boards work with their administrators to make decisions and set policies regarding a number of matters including bond and levy elections, budget adoption, facilities, curriculum adoption, fiscal planning and oversight, employee relations, and transportation.

**Qualifications:** A candidate for School Board must be a registered voter in the school district **and** reside within the director district for which they are filing. Candidates for At Large Positions may reside anywhere within the School District boundaries. RCW 28A.343.340, 29A.24.075

## Fire District Commissioners

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**Duties:** The Board manages the affairs of the fire protection district, including maintenance and preservation of facilities and systems. Commissioners insure that the district operates within statutory requirements and establish policies under which the district operates. The Board selects the Fire Chief and delegates authority to manage day-to-day operations of the Fire District.

**Qualifications:** Candidates must be residents and registered voters of their district. RCW 52.14.010, RCW 29A.24.075

## Port District Commissioners

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**Duties:** The primary objective of the Port District is to enhance the economic development within the boundaries of the District. The Port is organized to aggressively enhance the local economy by providing new and expanding business and industry access to industrial land, industrial infrastructure and assistance with funding sources. A Port District Commission sets policy and approves all major expenditures.

**Qualifications:** Port District Commissioners must reside within the commissioner district for which they are filing and be a qualified elector of the district. RCW 53.12.010

## Sewer District Commissioners

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**Duties:** Sewer Districts are dedicated to providing environmentally responsible wastewater collection and treatment. The Commissioners set policies to promote the efficiency and professional management of the district.

**Qualifications:** Candidates must be qualified electors of their district. RCW 29A.24.07

## Park & Recreation District Commissioners

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**Duties:** The Parks and Recreation Commission plans, supervises, and evaluates operations of the entire Parks and Recreation District; including advising on policy and budgets, plans and programs, and maintenance and operation of the District's parks. The Commission coordinates services for all recreation programs and activities for the District.

**Qualifications:** Candidates for Park & Recreation Districts must be qualified electors of the park district. RCW 29A.24.075

## Public Hospital District Commissioners

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**Duties:** The commissioners of the hospital district are the governing body of the district. The board is responsible for establishing policies with respect to the district's powers established in RCW 70.44.060. This includes all decisions regarding the operations of the district, including the delivery of quality patient care.

**Qualifications** Candidates must be registered to vote within the boundary of the district. RCW 70.44.040(2) Commissioners cannot be public hospital district employees. RCW 70.44.040(3)

# Filing for office

## The Declaration of Candidacy

All candidates, except those filing for President/Vice President of the United States, are required to submit a Declaration of Candidacy to file for public elective office. At the time of filing, candidates must possess the qualifications specified by law for the office and be properly registered to vote in the geographic area, district and/or division represented by the office. RCW 29A.24.075

## Where to file

RCW 29A.24.070

**Secretary of State:**  
Federal offices  
State offices  
Legislative offices  
State Judicial offices

**County Auditor:**  
County offices  
Cities and Towns  
School Districts  
Fire Districts  
Port Districts  
Sewer Districts  
Park Districts  
Hospital Districts  
PCO

## How and When to file

Candidate filing week begins the first Monday in May and ends the following Friday.

Filings received before opening or after closing for the method of filing will not be accepted.


<b>file online</b>	It is recommended that candidate filings be submitted online. The online filing tool provides step by step instructions, sends an email confirmation notice of the filing, sends alerts when other candidates file in the same contest, and allows voter pamphlet information to be submitted electronically. An email address is required, and the filing fee may be paid using Visa, MasterCard, or American Express.	opens May 5, 8am closes May 9, 5pm visit: <a href="http://www.yakimacounty.us/vote">www.yakimacounty.us/vote</a>
<b>file in person</b>	The Yakima County Elections Division is open from 8am to 5pm to accept in person filings for offices that are wholly within Yakima County. All payment types are accepted.	opens May 5, 8am closes May 9, 5pm visit: Yakima County Auditor's Office 128 N 2 <sup>nd</sup> St Room 117 Yakima 98901
<b>file by mail</b>	Filing by mail begins 10 business days before the regular filing period begins. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Declarations received prior to April 21 will be returned and the candidate must re-submit their declaration during the filing period.</li> <li>• Declarations received after May 9, regardless of postmark, are invalid. RCW 29A.24.081</li> </ul>	begins April 21 ends May 9 mail to: Yakima County Elections PO Box 12570 Yakima WA 98909
<b>file by email or fax</b>	Declarations of Candidacy are accepted by email or fax during filing week. However, the filing is not complete until the fee is received if one is required. Petitions may not be submitted electronically. RCW 29A.04.255, WAC 434-208-060	opens May 5, 8am closes May 9, 5pm send to: <a href="mailto:ivote@co.yakima.wa.us">ivote@co.yakima.wa.us</a> or 509.574.1341

## Cost to file (filing fees) RCW 29A.24.091, 131

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All declarations of candidacy must include the filing fee if applicable.

No salary .....	No filing fee
Per-diem or by-meeting basis .....	No filing fee
Annual salary <i>under</i> \$1,000 .....	\$10.00
Annual salary <i>over</i> \$1,000.....	1% of salary

 Filing fees are **not** refundable under any circumstance.

**Filing fee petitions:** A candidate who does not have sufficient assets or income may file a filing fee petition in lieu of the filing fee. The petition must have at least one valid signature for each whole dollar of the required filing fee. Valid signatures are verified signatures of registered voters who are eligible to vote on the office in the general election. All signatures must be submitted at the time of filing the Declaration of Candidacy. Additional signatures cannot be submitted at a later date. Petitions cannot be combined with money. RCW 29A.24.091, WAC 434-215-025

## Candidate names on the ballot

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A candidate may use a nickname by which he or she is commonly known as his or her first name, but the last name must be the same name as he or she is registered to vote.

Candidates may not use a nickname that:

- implies present or past occupation, including military rank.
- implies the candidate's position on issues or political affiliation; or
- is designed intentionally to mislead voters.

RCW 29A.24.060

Candidates may not use any title, rank, or symbol instead of, or in conjunction with his or her name.

## Party Preference – nonpartisan offices

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Candidates for nonpartisan offices do not state a political party preference.

## Party Preference – partisan offices

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Candidates for partisan office may choose to state a political party preference.

Candidates are not required to obtain the approval of a political party in order to appear on the ballot as a candidate for partisan office. WAC 434-230-055(2)

Party preference does not imply that the candidate is nominated or endorsed by a political party or that a political party approves of or associates with the candidate. WAC 434-230-055(2)

There is no distinction between major party candidates, minor party candidates, or independent candidates filing for partisan offices. Party preference plays no role in determining how candidates are elected to public office. WAC 434-215-130, WAC 434-208-130

Party preference is printed on the ballot in parenthesis below the candidate's name. The first letter of each word or abbreviation is capitalized and acronyms or initialisms are printed in all caps with or without periods however the candidate records it on the Declaration. Party preference is limited to 18 characters. This includes punctuation.

Party preference may not include obscene language.

Changes to party preference between the Primary and General Election are not allowed. WAC 434-230-045 (4)(d)

## No Double Filings

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Excluding the office of precinct committee officer, a candidate's name may not appear on a ballot more than once. RCW 29A.36.201

## Withdrawal of Filings

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RCW 29A.24.131, WAC 434-215-065

Filing fees are **not** refundable.

A candidate who wishes to withdraw their name from the ballot must submit a signed request to the same office where their Declaration of Candidacy was filed. The withdrawal form must be received by the filing officer no later than the Monday following the last day of the regular filing period. A request to withdraw cannot be revoked.

There is no withdrawal period for declarations filed during a special filing period.

## Write-In Candidates

RCW 29A.24.311-320, 29A.60.021, WAC 434-215-180

Write-in candidates must file a Declaration of Write-In Candidacy to have votes counted for a race. This must be filed with the appropriate filing officer no later than 8pm on the day of the primary or election.

**Filing fees.** If the Declaration is filed before the 18 day voting period begins, there is no filing fee.

If the Declaration is filed on or after the 18 day voting period begins, a fee is required. If the office has a fixed annual salary of \$1,000 or more, a filing fee of 1% of the annual salary is required. For all other offices, the fee is \$25.

### You may not file as a write-in candidate if:

- you were a regular or write-in candidate for the same office at the preceding primary and lost;
- you already filed as a write-in candidate for the primary or election;
- you already appear on the ballot as a candidate for another office, unless the other office is precinct committee officer.

**Votes cast for write-in candidates:** Votes cast for properly filed write-in candidates need only specify the name of the candidate in the appropriate location on the ballot. Variation of the name is permitted if voter intent can be determined.

Write-in candidates are not included in the voter guide unless they qualify to have their name printed on the General Election ballot.

## Term types / what's on the ballot when

A **term** is the length of time the elected official will serve in the position.

A **full, or regular** term length varies based on the laws that govern the type of district. Common lengths of full terms are 6, 4, or 2 years.

If the term of the position expires in the *current* year, and the office holder is an appointee or the office is vacant, it will be on the ballot for a **short/full** term. The *short* term begins immediately after certification of the election and runs until the start of the *full* term. Elections for the short term are always held in conjunction with elections for the full term. RCW 29A.04.169 There is never a short term associated with school directors. All school director regular terms begin as soon as the general election is certified.

Positions are on the ballot for **unexpired** terms if:

- ✓ the office holder is an appointee or the office is vacant,
- ✓ the original term of the office doesn't expire in the current year, and
- ✓ the type of office can be placed on the ballot in the current year

### Even numbered years

Federal and State offices  
Judicial Offices  
Partisan County Offices

### Odd numbered years

City and Town positions  
School District Directors  
Special purpose districts  
Vacant partisan offices  
Vacant judicial offices (other than district court)

### Lapsed elections

**Lapsed election.** If there are no candidates for a position after the regular and special filing periods, the election for that position is lapsed and it does not appear on the ballot. The incumbent continues to serve in the position unless he/she resigns or until a successor is elected at the next election when the same types of positions are on the ballot. RCW 29A.24.201



# Vacancies in Office and Voids in Candidacy

## Vacancies

A vacancy occurs when a current office holder resigns, dies or is disqualified mid-term. This creates an unexpired term.

**If a vacancy is effective before May 5** in an office that was not regularly scheduled to be on the ballot that year, filings are accepted during the regular filing period. RCW 29A.24.171

If the filing officer is not notified of a vacancy that was effective before candidate filing week, managing the vacancy depends on *when* the filing officer is notified. WAC 434-215-005.

If the filing officer is notified *before* the close of business on Tuesday of filing week, the vacancy opens immediately. If the filing officer is notified *after* Tuesday of filing week, filings are accepted during the special 3-day filing period.

**If a vacancy is effective May 5 or later** in an office that was not regularly scheduled to appear on the ballot that year, the jurisdiction fills the vacancy by appointment and the election of the successor occurs at the next general election that the office is allowed by law to have an election.

## Voids in Candidacy

A void in candidacy occurs when: •no one files for a position; •all candidates who filed have withdrawn; or •all candidates who filed have been disqualified or have died. RCW 29A.24.141

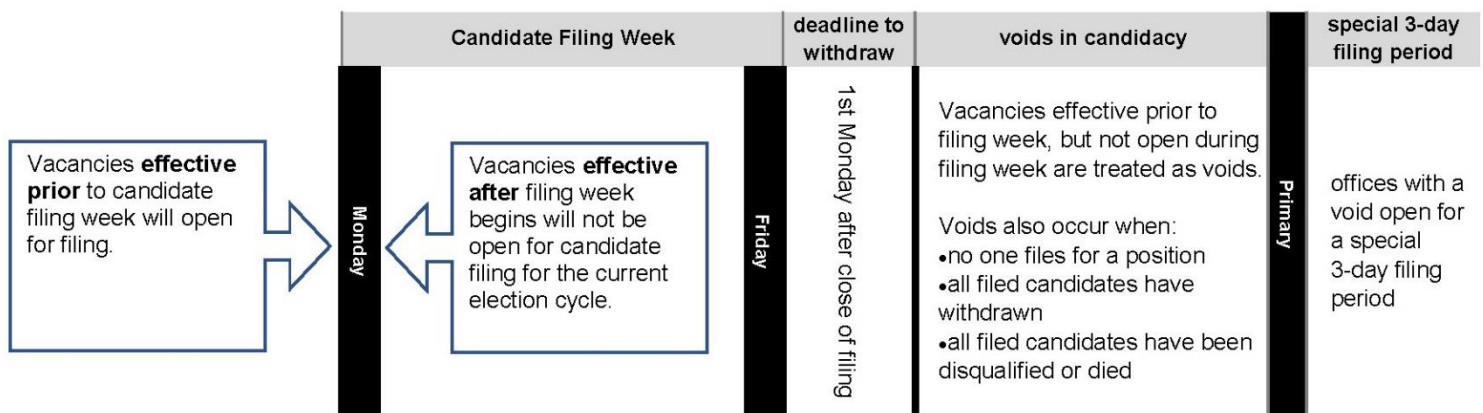
There is no void in candidacy if there is at least one candidate.

## Special Filing Period

Candidate filing during a special filing period is conducted in the same manner and with the same filing officer as the regular filing period.

A special 3-day filing period is held if a void in candidacy occurs before August 5. The filing date is set by the filing officer and candidates appear on the General Election ballot only. RCW 29A.24.181

There is no withdrawal period for declarations submitted during a special filing period. RCW 29A.24.131



# Vacancies in Office and Voids in Candidacy

continued

a vacancy in...	is addressed in...
the State executive branch, the State legislature, or a county partisan elective office	WA Constitution Art. II, Sec. 15; Art. III, Sec. 13; RCW 42.12.040
the U.S. Senate, or a Congressional office	U.S. Constitution Art. 1, Sec. 2, clause 4; RCW 29A.28

**Partisan offices:** Elections for the unexpired term are held in an odd-numbered year. RCW 29A.04.321

**Nonpartisan offices:** Unexpired terms for cities and special purpose districts are held in conjunction with the next regular election for that district. RCW 29A.52.240 The process for filling nonpartisan vacancies is addressed in RCW 42.12.070.

**School director vacancies:** Vacancies due to residency are addressed in RCW 28A.343.350.

## Judicial offices:

a vacancy in...	is addressed in...
Supreme Court	WA Constitution Art. IV, Sec. 3; RCW 2.04.100
Court of Appeals	RCW 2.06.080
Superior Court	WA Constitution Art. IV, Sec. 5; RCW 2.08.120
District Court	RCW 3.34.100 AGLO 1973 No. 76
Municipal Court	City Code 1.60.040F

## Local Voters' Guide

Yakima County posts an online Local Voters' Guide for all elections ([www.yakimacounty.us/vote](http://www.yakimacounty.us/vote)) and a printed Local Voters' Guide is also mailed to all Yakima County registered voters approximately one week before ballots are mailed.

The State Voter's Pamphlet is distributed by the Post Office to every postal customer in the county approximately 3 weeks prior to the General Election.

Rules for the local voters' guide are provided to candidates during the filing period and are posted on the Yakima County Election Division website.

Rules and deadlines are specific to the office for which you are a candidate.

If you are a candidate for a ...	contact ...
county partisan office, city or town position, school board director, special purpose district, or District Court Judge position	Yakima County Elections
federal office, state office, legislative office, or judicial position not mentioned above	Secretary of State

# Primary

A primary is the process of reducing the number of candidates running for an office.

The two candidates with the highest number of votes cast in a primary race advance to the general election. Candidates must also receive at least 1% of the total votes cast for that office in order to advance to the general election. RCW 29A.36.170

Candidate names appear on the ballot in an order determined by lot drawing. RCW 29A.36.131, WAC 434-230-045(2)(a)

**All partisan offices** participate in the Primary. The one exception to this rule is if: •the office is a partisan county office, •the election is filling an unexpired term, **and** •there is only one candidate after the deadline to withdraw. RCW 29A.52.112

**County Commissioner:** The names of candidates for County Commissioner appear **only** on the ballots within their commissioner district. RCW 36.32.040

**For nonpartisan offices**, there is only a Primary if three or more candidates file for the same position. Candidates are notified if there is not a Primary for their position. RCW 29A.52.220

**Sunnyside City Council:** Candidates for city council **district** positions appear only on ballots within their council district. RCW 35.18.020 2(b), 35A.12.180. At-Large council positions appear on all ballots within the City.

**Yakima City Council:** Candidates for city council positions appear only on ballots within their council district. *Rogelio Montes, et al. v. City of Yakima, et al. NO: 12-CV-3108-TOR Final Injunction and Remedial Districting Plan February 2015*

**Sunnyside School District:** Candidates for Sunnyside school board appear only on ballots within their director district. *ELLA v. Sunnyside School District September 2024*

**School Districts:** School district directors are voted on district-wide and not by director district. RCW 28A.343.340, 29A.24.075

**Port Districts:** Port district commissioners are nominated by commissioner district in the Primary, and are elected district wide in the General Election. RCW 53.12.010

**Park Districts:** Regardless of the number of candidates, a Primary is not held for Park District Commissioners. All candidates appear on the General Election ballot and the person receiving the largest number of votes for each position is elected. RCW 36.69.090, RCW 29A.52.220(2)

**Judicial offices:** A primary is only held when three or more candidates file for a position.

# of candidates	Supreme Court Court of Appeals District Court Municipal Court RCW 29A.52.220	Superior Court  State Constitution, Article IV, Section 29
	Primary	Primary
1	no	no certificate of election issued after candidate filing
2	no	no
3 +	yes	yes

# General Election

All contests that did not appear on the Primary ballot will appear on the General Election ballot. Candidate names in those contests appear on the ballot in order determined by lot drawing. RCW 29A.36.131

The two candidates who received the highest number of votes cast in a primary race advance to the general election. The candidate who received the most votes will be listed first on the ballot and the candidate who received the next highest number of votes will be listed second. RCW 29A.36.170, WAC 434-230-045

**In partisan offices**, the political party that each candidate prefers is irrelevant to the order in which the candidates appear on the ballot. WAC 434-230-045

**County Commissioner:** The names of candidates for County Commissioner appear **only** on the ballots within their commissioner district. *Aguilar et al. v Yakima County et al. Final Order October 2021*

**Sunnyside City Council:** All positions appear on all ballots within the city limits.

**Yakima City Council:** Candidates for city council positions appear only on ballots within their council district. *Rogelio Montes, et al. v. City of Yakima, et al. NO: 12-CV-3108-TOR Final Injunction and Remedial Districting Plan February 2015*

**Sunnyside School District:** Candidates for Sunnyside school board appear only on ballots within their director district. *ELLA v. Sunnyside School District September 2024*

**Port Districts:** Commissioners are elected district-wide at the General Election. RCW 53.12.010

## Judicial offices:

# of candidates	Supreme Court Court of Appeals District Court Municipal Court RCW 29A.36.170	Superior Court  State Constitution, Article IV, Section 29
	General	General
1	yes	no certificate of election was issued after candidate filing
2	yes	yes
3 +	yes	yes

# Post Election Information

## Results

Unofficial election results for Yakima County are available at approximately 8:15 p.m. on election night at the Ballot Processing Center, Room B-16 of the county courthouse. Results are also posted on the elections website at [yakimacounty.us/vote](http://yakimacounty.us/vote). Statewide results can be found at [sos.wa.gov/elections](http://sos.wa.gov/elections).

Yakima County Election staff continue to verify, open, and tabulate ballots daily or as needed until certification of the election. Updates are typically posted by 3:30 p.m. RCW 29A.60.160

## Certification

Election results are official and certified 10 days after a Special Election, 14 days after a Primary and 21 days after a General Election. RCW 29A.60.190  
This process includes a reconciliation of all voters credited for voting vs. all ballots counted and an audit of the ballot counting system RCW 29A.60.170(3), WAC 434-262-013

**State Measures:** Thirty days after the election, state ballot measures approved by the voters become law upon proclamation by the Governor.  
RCW 29A.60.260, State Constitution Art. II, Sec. 1D

**Legislature Convenes:** Regular sessions of the legislature shall be held annually, commencing on the second Monday of January.

Sessions for even numbered years are 60 days and sessions for odd numbered years are 105 days. RCW 44.04.010, State Constitution, Art. II, Sec. 12

## Assuming office

U.S Senator and Representative	January 3 US Constitution, Amend. 20, Sec 1
State Offices	Wednesday after the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday in January RCW 43.01.010
State Legislators Supreme Court Court of Appeals Superior Court District Court	2nd Monday in January RCW 44.04.021, 43.01.010, 2.04.071, 2.06.070, 2.08.070, 3.34.070
County Offices	January 1 RCW 29A.60.280(2)
Municipal Court Cities and Towns Special Purpose Districts	January 1 RCW 29A.60.280
School Districts	First meeting after the General Election is certified RCW 28A.343.360, 29A.60.280

**Short/Full terms** are sworn in as soon as the General Election is certified, and again at the regular swearing-in to begin the new full term. RCW 29A.24.020, 29A.60.270

**Unexpired terms** assume office as soon as the General Election is certified. RCW 29A.60.270

## Oaths of office

### Who may administer oaths of office?

Judges and Notary Publics	RCW 5.28.010
Clerks of the Courts	RCW 2.32.050
County Commissioners	RCW 36.32.120
County Auditors and Deputies	RCW 36.22.030
Town Clerks and Deputies	RCW 35.27.220
Town Mayor	RCW 35.27.160
School Officials	RCW 28A.343.360

### When may an oath be administered?

All officials must take an oath of office prior to commencing the duties of the office. RCW 29A.04.133

Elected officials of counties, cities, towns, and special purpose districts may take an oath up to ten days before the term of office begins or at the last regular meeting of the governing body for which they were elected. RCW 29A.60.280(3)

### Where are oaths of office filed?

U.S Senator and Representative	verbal oath US Constitution, Art. VI
State Legislators	verbal oath US Constitution, Art. VI
State Offices Supreme Court Court of Appeals Superior Court	written oath filed with Secretary of State State Constitution, Art. IV, Sec. 28, RCW 43.01.020, 43.08.020, 43.09.010, 2.04.080 2.06.085, 2.08.080
District Court County Offices	written oath filed with County Auditor RCW 3.34.080, 36.16.060
Municipal Court Cities and Towns School Districts Special Purpose Districts	written oath filed with County Auditor RCW 35.27.120, 35.23.081, 35A.12.080, 28A.343.360, 52.14.070-080

There is no provision for mandatory recounts for local ballot measures or state advisory votes. Any group of five or more registered voters may file an application for a requested recount of any ballot measure. Requested recount fees are applicable.

by machine*			
all races and statewide measures	less than 2,000 votes...	... <b>and</b> less than	.5% of the total votes cast for both candidates

\*It is the policy of the Yakima County Auditor to conduct all mandatory recounts by hand.

by hand			
statewide races and measures	less than 1,000 votes...	... <b>and</b> less than	.25% of the total votes cast for both candidates
regional or local races	less than 150 votes...	... <b>and</b> less than	.25% of the total votes cast for both candidates

Primary vs General	
Primary	conducted when the difference between the 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> place candidates meet the threshold
General	conducted when the difference between the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> place candidates meet the threshold

requested recounts
Any political party officer or person for whom votes were cast may request a recount if the results are outside the threshold of a mandatory recount.
Applications must be submitted within two business days after the canvassing board or secretary of state has certified the results of the primary or election for the office or issue for which the recount is requested.
<b>Deposit and fees.</b> If a <i>hand</i> recount is requested, a deposit of twenty-five cents (\$.25) for each ballot cast in the jurisdiction or the portion of the jurisdiction to be counted is required. If a <i>machine</i> recount is requested, a deposit of fifteen cents (\$.15) for each ballot is required.

# Public Disclosure Reporting

In 1972, I-276 was adopted which gave the public the right to know the financial affairs of candidates and elected officials. The initiative also declared that the financing of election campaigns should be known and reported to the people.

**For state, county, and local offices**, specific questions regarding public disclosure reporting or contribution limits should be directed to PDC.

The Federal Election Commission has jurisdiction over Federal Offices. Contact [www.fec.gov](http://www.fec.gov) or 1-800-424-9530.

## Beginning your campaign reporting

Some Public Disclosure forms must be filed within 2 weeks (14 days) of the beginning of your campaign. According to Public Disclosure law, a citizen becomes a candidate when they: raise or spend money for a campaign, reserve space or purchase advertising to promote their candidacy, authorize someone else to do any of these activities on their behalf, state publicly that he or she is seeking office, or file a Declaration of Candidacy, whichever comes first.

## Required reports

Reporting requirements are based on the office, the size of the district as of the last general election, and campaign revenues.

Statewide and County offices; District has over 5,000+ voters; Will receive \$5,000+ in contributions	F-1 & C-series
District has 2,000 – 4,999 voters; Will not exceed \$4,999 in contributions	F-1
District has less than 2,000 voters; Will not exceed \$4,999 in contributions	no reporting

If you have a current F-1 on file for the same office for which you are filing, you do not need to submit another report.

## Electronic reporting

Candidates are required to file all reports electronically. RCW 42.17A.055 Visit [www.pdc.wa.gov](http://www.pdc.wa.gov) for instructions and information.


## District size at 2024 General Election

Cities and Towns		School Districts		Fire Districts		Port Districts	
Grandview	4,506	East Valley #90	11,692	1	2,595	Grandview	6,815
Granger	1,307	Grandview #200	6,498	2	8,611	Sunnyside	10,471
Harrah	299	Granger #204	2,540	3	993	<b>Sewer Districts</b>	
Mabton	737	Highland #203	3,298	4	11,768	Terrace Heights	4,884
Moxee	2,572	Mabton #120	1,281	5	17,566	<b>Park &amp; Recreation</b>	
Naches	560	Mount Adams #209	2,011	6	2,764	Naches	1,495
Selah	4,859	Naches #JT3	5,869	7	54	<b>Hospital District</b>	
Sunnyside	6,048	Selah #119	13,115	9	880	No. 1	19,487
Tieton	632	Sunnyside #201	10,116	10	440		
Toppenish	3,258	Toppenish #202	5,863	11	323		
Union Gap	3,048	Union Gap #2	1,725	12			
Wapato	1,825	Wapato #207	6,094	14	714		
Yakima	49,409	West Valley #208	23,047				
Zillah	1,740	Yakima #7	36,879				
		Zillah #205	3,079				



# Political Advertising

Political advertising includes any advertising displays, newspaper ads, billboards, signs, brochures, articles, tabloids, flyers, letters, radio or television presentations or other means of mass communication, used for the purpose of appealing, directly or indirectly, for votes or for financial or other support in any election campaign.

 Questions regarding political advertising should be directed to PDC.

## Public Disclosure Commission

711 Capital Way, Room 206  
PO Box 40908  
Olympia WA 98504-0908  
1-877-601-2828  
pdc@pdc.wa.gov  
www.pdc.wa.gov

Sign installers must have the permission of private property owners or residents of the property prior to installing a sign.

A person who removes or defaces lawfully placed political advertising is guilty of a misdemeanor under RCW 9A.20.021. The defacement or removal of each item constitutes a separate violation. RCW 29A.84.040

Campaigning or gathering petition signatures within a voting center and within 100 feet measured radially from the entrance to a voting center is forbidden during the voting period. RCW 29A.84.510, 29A.84.520

Obstructing the doors or entry to a building in which a voting center or ballot drop location is located or preventing free access to and from any voting center or ballot drop location is prohibited. RCW 29A.84.510

Campaigning or gathering petition signatures within 25 feet measured radially from a ballot drop box is forbidden during the voting period. RCW 29A.84.510, 29A.84.520

## Political Sign Ordinances

**State regulations:** ■ Signs cannot exceed 32 square feet. ■ They must be removed within 10 days after the election. ■ It is illegal to post signs within the right-of-way of all state highways. Contact Department of Transportation (360) 705-7296.

**Pacific Power regulations:** Utility poles are private property and persons posting signs on Pacific Power poles are considered to be trespassing.

**County regulations:** ■ Refer to County Code Chapter 19.20.040(10). ■ Contact Yakima County Roads 574-2300.

Sign placement regulations are set by the geographical area's governing body. Check with the appropriate jurisdiction for placement and timeline regulations.

Grandview	882-9200	Tieton	673-3162
Granger	854-1725	Toppenish	865-2080
Harrah	848-2432	Union Gap	248-0432
Mabton	894-4096	Wapato	877-2334
Moxee	575-8851	Yakima	575-6037
Naches	653-2647	Zillah	829-5151
Selah	698-7328		
Sunnyside	837-5206		

# Ballots

Yakima County has conducted all elections by mail ballot since the 2005 General Election. Legislation in 2011 converted all of Washington State to vote by mail.

## When are ballots available?

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Ballots must be mailed to all eligible voters at least 18 days prior to any election. Ballots for military and overseas voters must be mailed at least 30 days before each special election and 45 days before each Primary or General election. RCW 29A.40.070

**Replacement ballots.** If a ballot is destroyed, spoiled, lost, or is not received by a voter, replacement ballots are available. Requests may be made online, in person, by phone, by email, or in writing by the voter, a family member, or a registered domestic partner. RCW 29A.40.070, WAC 434-250-080.

**Reissued ballots.** If a voter submits a timely address update that changes their voting precinct, the ballot is reissued for the voter's new precinct if the voter has not yet cast a ballot.

## Ballot return options

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**By mail.** No postage is required. To ensure an on-time postmark, mail must be deposited in a USPS mailbox prior to the last indicated collection time.

**In person.** A ballot deposit box is located inside the courthouse entrance prior to the security checkpoint and is open Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm.

A second ballot deposit box is located near the voting area outside Room 117 and is open Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm.

On election day, these ballot boxes are open from 8am-8pm.

## Official ballot drop boxes open 24/7

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All City and Town Hall campuses throughout the county have an outdoor ballot box that is open 24/7 and closes promptly at 8pm election night.

Additional 24/7 ballot drop boxes maintained by the Yakima County Auditor's Office are located in these areas:

<i>Parker</i>	360 Columbia Rd by the Fire Station
<i>Sunnyside</i>	the corner of 8 <sup>th</sup> St and E Edison Ave by the Fire Station
<i>Toppenish</i>	401 Fort Rd in the Yakama Nation Main Agency Offices parking lot, across from Legends Casino
<i>White Swan</i>	240 Curtis St by the Fire Station
<i>Yakima</i>	on the north side of E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd across from the courthouse  PNWU campus – enter from S 31 <sup>st</sup> St or Inspiration Dr

*Other locations that may offer ballot collection are unofficial and are not associated with the Yakima County Auditor's Office.*

## e-ballots

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An online ballot solution is available to military and overseas voters. This solution is also available for out of town or traveling voters and for last minute replacement ballots. Through a secure website, voters can access their specific ballot style by entering their name and date of birth. This online solution is *not* online voting.

The voted ballot and signed ballot declaration must be returned to the elections office by 8pm on election night.

State election law prohibits the return of voted ballots by electronic means for voters who are not in the military or are living overseas.

## Deadline for returning voted ballots

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If a ballot is returned by mail, it must be postmarked no later than the day of the election to be valid for counting. If the postmark is missing or illegible, the date on the ballot declaration to which the voter has attested determines the date mailed. RCW 29A.40.110

For military and overseas voters, the date of the signature is considered the date of mailing. RCW 29A.40.110(4)

## Accessible Voting

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An accessible ballot marking device is available at the County Auditor's office for voters with language or physical disability needs.

The County Auditor's Office accessible device is available for use 18 days prior to an election from 9am to 4pm and on election day from 8am to 8pm.

## Primary-only voters

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A 17-year old can participate in the August Primary if they will be 18 on or before the day of the subsequent November General Election. They cannot; however, vote for any ballot measures on the Primary ballot or any office which the candidate is deemed elected at the Primary; e.g. Precinct Committee Officer. A Primary-only voter ballot will contain only the contests for which they are eligible to participate. ESB 6313, 2020; RCW 29A.08.170, RCW 29A.04.061, WAC 434-232-020, 030

## Signature verification, unsigned ballots

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**Signature verification:** RCW 29A.40.110(3), WAC 434-250-120, 434-261-052 A ballot is only valid for counting if the ballot declaration is signed by the voter and compares with the signature(s) in their registration file. Power of Attorney cannot be used to sign a ballot for someone else and it is against the law to forge a signature or cast another person's ballot. If a voter is not physically able to write their name, the voter must make a mark, witnessed by two other people. Designated Canvassing Board representatives are trained in signature verification by the Washington State Patrol and Office of Secretary of State prior to verifying any signatures.

**Mismatched signatures:** WAC 434-261-053, RCW 29A.60.165 If the signature on a ballot declaration does not appear to compare to a signature in the voter's registration file, the voter is notified by mail, phone, text and email. For the ballot to be counted, the voter must either appear in person at the County Auditor's Office and sign a new registration form or return a signature update form that was provided to them. The signature on the update form must match the signature that was returned with the ballot for the ballot to be valid. Alternatively, the voter can provide valid secondary identity verification. Otherwise, the determination made by the County Canvassing Board will stand.

**Unsigned ballots:** RCW 29A.60.165, WAC 434-261-053 If a voter doesn't sign the ballot declaration they are notified by mail, phone, text and email. For the ballot to be counted, the voter must either appear in person at the County Auditor's Office and sign the ballot declaration or return a signed copy of the declaration that was provided to them. This declaration may be returned electronically. It must be received by the County Auditor no later than 4pm the day before certification of the election.

## Ballot opening

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RCW 29A.60.125, WAC 434-261-070

Only ballots that have been signature verified and accepted are opened by election extra help staff. All voting response positions on every ballot are inspected to ensure it will be properly read by the vote tabulating system. Ballots that are physically damaged or contain marks considered unreadable or uncountable by the tabulation system are duplicated or referred to the County Canvassing Board. The voter's original ballot cannot not be altered.

Pursuant to *Bush v. Gore* (2000) and the Help America Vote Act (2002), the Washington Secretary of State's Office, in conjunction with County Auditors and County Canvassing Boards developed statewide standards for determining voter intent to ensure consistency across the state. These rules are codified in WAC 434-261-086.

## Canvassing Board

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The County Canvassing Board is the official county election governing body. Members are the County Auditor, who is the chair, the County Prosecuting Attorney, and the Chair of the County Commissioners. The Board may adopt written rules that authorize and delegate the county elections staff to perform tasks assigned to them by law. They cannot; however, delegate the authority to reject ballots. RCW 29A.60.140, WAC 434-262-015

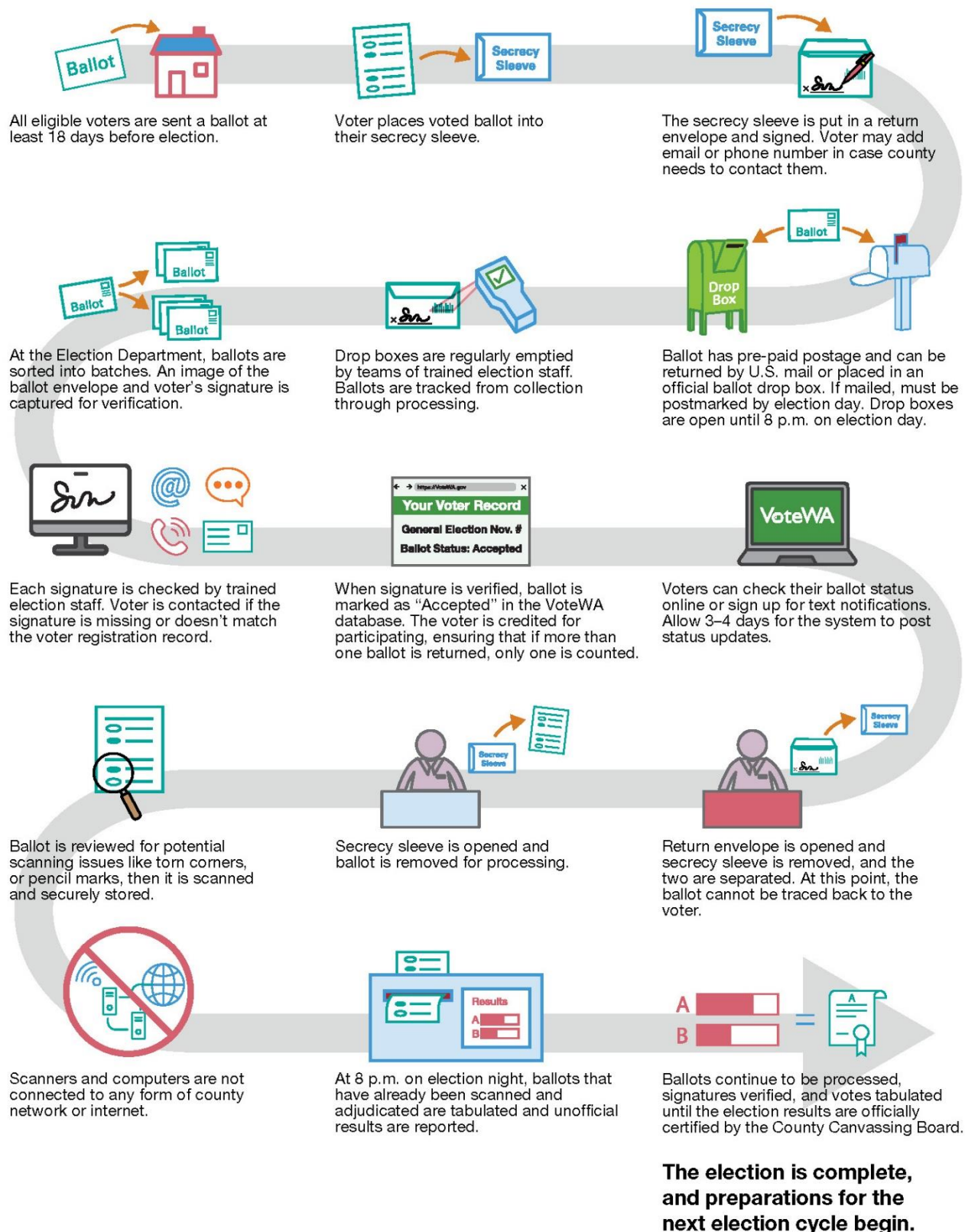
If a member of the canvassing board appears as a candidate on a ballot, they must designate a deputy to perform their duties whenever possible. RCW 29A.60.150

## Public access

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Anyone may observe all aspects of ballot processing. All observers must sign in and adhere to established guidelines.

# The path of a ballot in Washington State



# Voter Registration Information

In compliance with the Help America Vote Act of 2002, a centralized statewide voter registration database was created. This was an interactive database that connected all 39 individual voter registration databases. In 2019, the state elections modernization project created one unified system used by all 39 counties that allows for improved real-time data sharing.

## Qualifications

**To register to vote an individual must be:** ■A U.S. citizen. ■A resident of Washington ■At least sixteen years old ■Not disqualified from voting due to a court order ■Not currently serving a sentence of total confinement under the jurisdiction the Department of Corrections for a Washington felony conviction ■Not currently incarcerated for a federal or out-of-state felony conviction.

**#FutureVoter.** 16- and 17-year-olds may sign up as future voters by completing a voter registration form. When they turn 18, they will automatically be registered to vote.

**Minimum information required:** Name, date of birth, residence address, a signature attesting to the truth of the information provided, and a mark in the check box confirming U.S. citizenship are required. If the driver's license or last 4 digits of the Social Security number provided by the applicant cannot be verified by DOL or SSA, or if identification is not provided, the applicant is provisionally registered to vote and their ballot will not be counted until the applicant confirms their identity. RCW 29A.08.010, 107

## Deadlines

**By mail or online.** Applications and updates must be received no later than 8 days before the election. *Received* means being physically received by an election official by close of business if submitted by mail, and by midnight if submitted online or electronically.

**In person.** Registering or updating an address in person at a county auditor's office continues until 8 p.m. on election day.

**Missing the deadline.** If a registered voter fails to update their residential address, they can still vote a ballot specific to their previous address. RCW 29A.08.140

Applications and updates submitted after the deadline take effect after the current election.

## Where and how to register

Voter registration can be done in person, by mail, or online. Forms are available at many locations:

- Yakima County Auditor's Office, Room 117
- City and Town Halls
- Most Libraries
- All Public Schools
- Fire Stations
- [www.yakimacounty.us/vote](http://www.yakimacounty.us/vote) or ■ [www.votewa.gov](http://www.votewa.gov)

The Department of Motor Vehicles has provided voter registration services when renewing or applying for a driver's license since 1992. Effective 2019, applicants for an enhanced driver's license or identocard are automatically registered to vote.



Since January 2008, qualified citizens who have a valid driver's license or state ID card can register to vote online. A digital copy of the applicant's signature is obtained from the department of licensing and transmitted to the appropriate county. Voters may also register online by using the last 4 digits of their social security number and uploading an image of their signature.

**Automatic registration.** When providing proof of U.S. citizenship to complete certain transactions with Washington state agencies, a person is automatically registered to vote. Washington state lawmakers first approved AVR in 2018. Registrants receive a notice in the mail with instructions on how to decline voter registration.

**Universal registration.** Since 2020, state law allows a voter to register in any elections office or vote center in Washington and receive a current ballot for their county of registration.

## Voter registration satellite office

For Primary and General Elections, Yakima County opens a voter registration satellite office at Sunnyside Neighborhood Health, 617 Scoon Road. Voter registration services and a ballot drop box are offered at this location. This location is open on election day **only** from 8am-8pm.



# Voter Registration Information

continued

## New residents to Yakima County

A registration form must be completed to register or transfer a registration from another county or state. Any previous registration will be cancelled.

## Moving within Yakima County

Voters moving within Yakima County must notify the County Elections Division and must meet the applicable deadlines to be valid for the current election.

**call:** (509) 574-1340, 1-800-833-0569  
**email:** [ivote@co.yakima.wa.us](mailto:ivote@co.yakima.wa.us)  
**online:** [www.votewa.gov](http://www.votewa.gov)

## Name changes

Voters who change their name must notify the Elections Division and provide an updated

signature. A voter registration form may be completed, or the voter may submit a notice, like their signed ballot declaration, that identifies the name under which they are registered to vote, their new name, and their residence. RCW 29A.08.440

## Inactive voters

If election mail is returned as undeliverable from the Post Office without an in-county address correction, the voter is placed on "inactive" status and is sent a forwardable postage paid notice to all known addresses. The voter is returned to "active" status if they vote or notify the Election Division of a current address. RCW 29A.08.620, 29A.08.630

Federal and State law dictates that a voter's registration cannot be cancelled until the voter has been designated as "inactive" and has remained inactive through two federal general elections. RCW 29A.08.630

# Available Voter Data

The use of voter registration information is limited to non-commercial purposes. RCW 29A.08.720 Voter registration data is a snapshot in time. Registrations change on a daily basis as voters move, change their name, become registered, or become ineligible to vote.

## Estimated costs

A minimum fee of \$10.50 is required when order is placed. All payment types are accepted.

USB: \$11.79 email: \$10.50  
copies: \$.15 cents/page

## How to place an order

A voter data request form must be completed and returned to the elections division with the appropriate fee. The signed request may be emailed to [iVote@co.yakima.wa.us](mailto:iVote@co.yakima.wa.us) however, payment is due before the order is processed. The elections division assumes no responsibility for orders that are not what the purchaser requested. Orders may require a 5 day turnaround time.

## Public information

RCW 29A.08.710

•voter ID #	•gender	•name
•registration date	•year of birth	•voting record
•precinct	•address	

## Data format and options

### Information can be requested by:

- an individual district or precinct
- voters in one specific district who participated in specific elections
- voters in a current election – by voted or not voted (matchbacks)

### Formats available:

Excel or csv

## Maps and election results

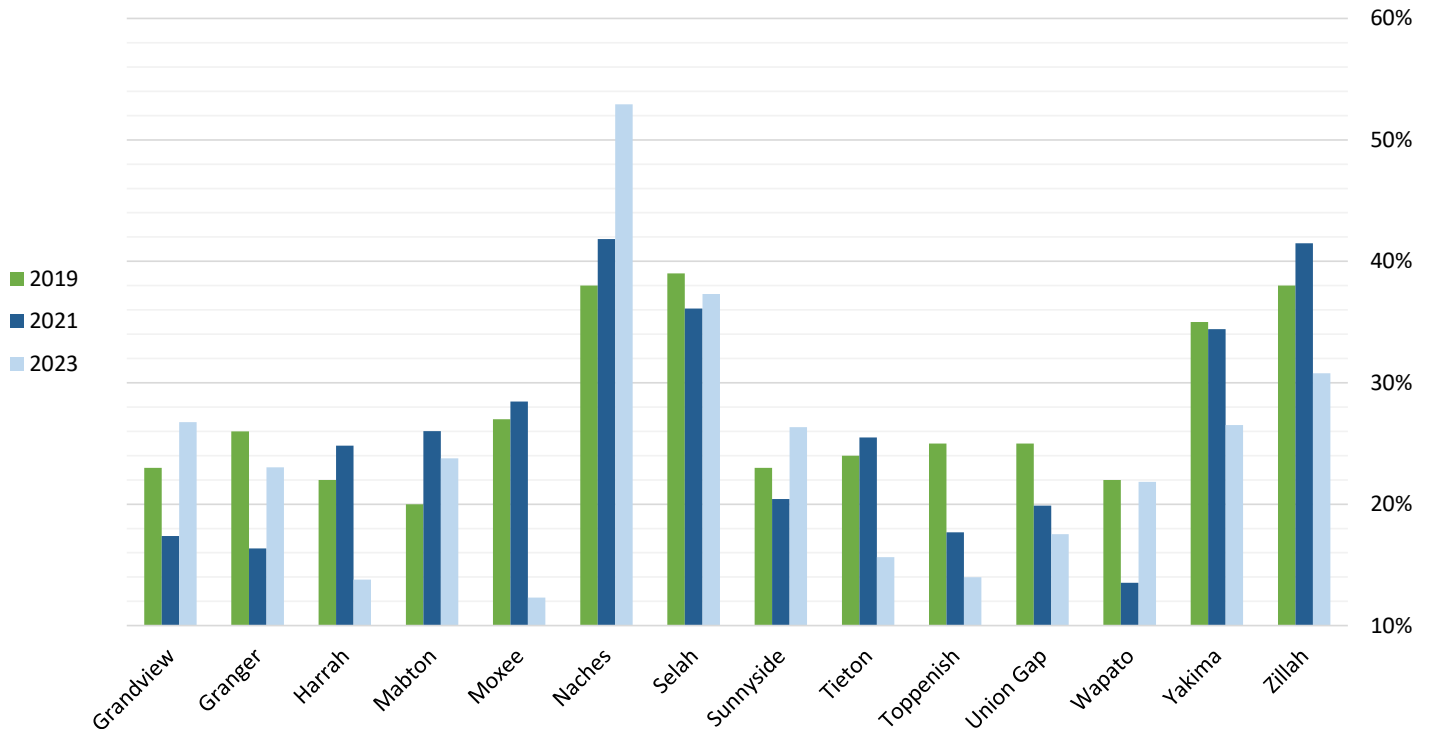
**Maps:** Large format area precinct maps are available on the elections division website in addition to interactive maps for certain types of districts. Custom maps are available for purchase through GIS in Room 100. 574-2990

**Election results:** Please visit the elections website at [www.yakimacounty.us/vote](http://www.yakimacounty.us/vote) for current and past election results and statistics.

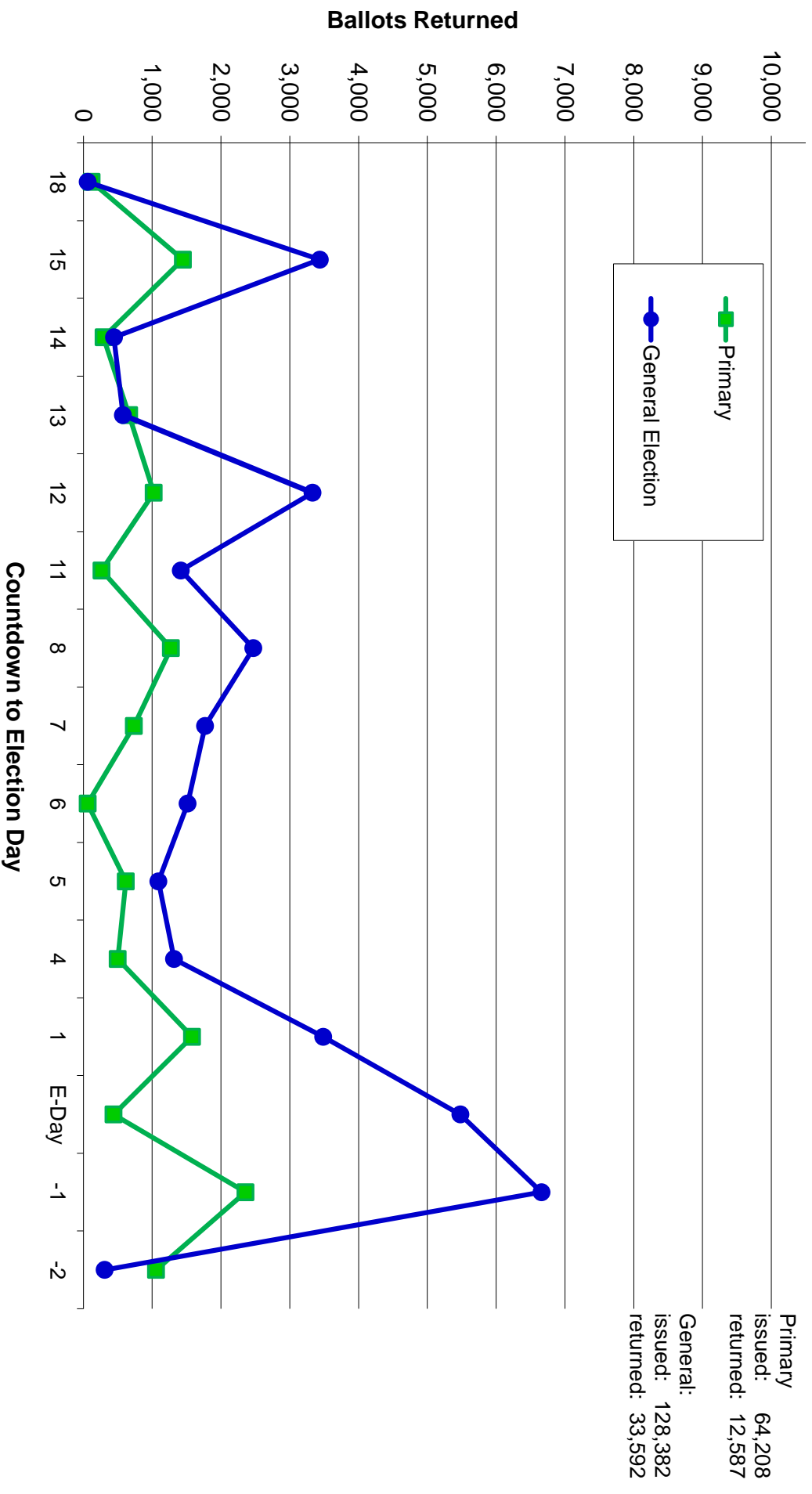
# Statistics

Election		Registered Voters	Ballots Cast	Turnout
2023	General	128,382	33,149	25.82%
	Primary	64,208	12,376	19.27%
2021	General	127,349	40,843	32.07%
	Primary	89,410	18,993	21.24%
2019	General	119,198	40,678	34.13%
	Primary	47,097	13,026	27.66%
2017	General	114,669	32,207	28.09%
	Primary	41,338	10,083	24.39%
2015	General	108,263	35,403	32.70%
	Primary	40,331	10,613	26.31%

## participation by community in General Elections



## Yakima County Ballot Rate of Return 2023 Primary and General Election





# 2025 - 2026 election calendar

2025			2026			
Election Date	Aug 5 2025	Nov 4 2025	Feb 10 2026	Apr 28 2026	Aug 4 2026	Nov 3 2026
Resolution Due	May 2	Aug 5	Dec 12	Feb 27	May 1	Aug 4
8 day by mail or online registration and update deadline	July 28	Oct 27	Feb 2	Apr 20	July 27	Oct 26
in-person registration and update deadline	Aug 5 8 pm	Nov 4 8 pm	Feb 10 8 pm	Apr 28 8 pm	Aug 4 8 pm	Nov 3 8 pm
Overseas/military ballots mailed	June 20	Sept 19	Jan 9	Mar 27	June 19	Sept 18
Ballots available	July 18	Oct 17	Jan 23	Apr 10	July 17	Oct 16
Election certified	Aug 19	Nov 25	Feb 20	May 8	Aug 18	Nov 24

## dates explained

<b>resolutions</b>	February or April election Primary General Election	60 days before e-day Friday before candidate filing the day of the Primary
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RCW 29A.04.330

If a resolution needs to be withdrawn, the same dates apply.

<b>ballots mailed</b>	Military/overseas  all others	30 days before February or April election 45 days before Primary and General Election 18 days before e-day
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RCW 29A.40.070

<b>election certified</b>	February or April election Primary General Election	10 days after e-day 14 days after e-day 21 days after e-day
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RCW 29A.60.190

<b>candidate filing</b>	Candidate filing week begins the first Monday in May. Candidate filing for 2026 is May 4-8; 8am-5pm.
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RCW 29A.24.050

<b>voter registration and updates</b>	by mail or online  in person	Applications for new registrations or updates must be <i>received</i> by an elections official no later than 8 days before the election. close of business by mail; online by midnight  Applicants must appear in-person at the County Auditor's Office no later than 8pm on the day of the election to register or update their current registration.
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# Contact Information

## Office of Secretary of State

Elections Division  
416 Sid Snyder Ave SW  
PO Box 40229  
Olympia WA 98504-0229  
(360) 902-4180  
1-800-448-4881  
elections@sos.wa.gov  
www.sos.wa.gov/elections

## Public Disclosure Commission

711 Capitol Way Room 206  
PO Box 40908  
Olympia WA 98504-0908  
(360) 753-1111  
1-877-601-2828  
www.pdc.wa.gov

## Federal Election Commission

1050 First Street NE  
Washington DC 20463  
1-800-424-9530  
www.fec.gov

## Washington State Legislature

1-800-562-6000  
www.leg.wa.gov

## Yakima County Auditor's Office

Election Division  
128 N 2<sup>nd</sup> St Room 117  
Yakima WA 98901  
PO Box 12570  
Yakima WA 98909  
(509) 574-1340  
1-800-833-0569  
www.yakimacounty.us/vote  
ivote@co.yakima.wa.us

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**Kathy  
Fisher**

Elections Manager

**Alexandrea  
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Bilingual Office Specialist

**Nancy  
Tongate**

Voting Systems Program  
Rep

**Martha  
Jiménez**

Bilingual Program Analyst &  
Office Coordinator

**Rochelle  
Saucedo Mendoza**  
Bilingual Office Specialist

**Note:** The information in this manual is specific to the offices up for election at the time of publication. This manual is for informational purposes only and does not take the place of local, state, or federal laws. The material presented is subject to change due to new legislation, judicial determination, or additional office vacancies.