

# Candidate & Election Guidebook

## Guía electoral y para candidatos

Yakima County Elections Division  
División Electoral del Condado de Yakima



# 2023

Charles R. Ross  
Yakima County Auditor



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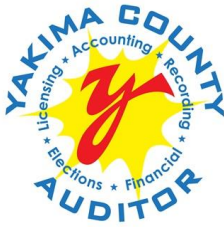
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509.574.1340 or 1.800.833.0569



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May, 2023

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.

# 2023 Election Calendar

Candidate calendar	
May 1	first day candidate filings accepted by mail
May 15	begin candidate filing
May 19	end candidate filing
May 19; 4:30pm	lot drawing for ballot placement
May 22; 4pm	last day for candidates to withdraw
May 26; 4pm	candidate statements / pictures due for local voter guide
July 31	last day a void in candidacy causes that office to reopen for candidate filing
August 1; 8pm	last day to file as write-in candidate for Primary
November 7; 8pm	last day to file as write-in candidate for General Election

Primary calendar	
May 12	resolutions due for special election in conjunction with the Primary
June 16	overseas and military ballots mailed
July 13	last day to file as a write-in candidate for Primary; no filing fee required
July 14	ballots available
July 24	mail-in and online registrations must be received by an election official by this date
July 24	address changes submitted by mail, phone or online must be received in the election office by this date
August 1; 8pm	last day for in-person registration and updates
August 1	Primary
August 1; 8pm	last day to file as write-in candidate for Primary; filing fee required
August 15	election certified by counties
August 18	last day for Secretary of State to certify the Primary

# 2023 Election Calendar

General Election calendar	
August 1	resolutions due for special election in conjunction with the General Election
September 22	overseas and military ballots mailed
October 19	last day to file as a write-in candidate for General Election; no filing fee required
October 20	ballots available
October 30	mail-in and online registrations must be received by an election official by this date
October 30	address changes submitted by mail, phone or online must be received in the election office by this date
November 7; 8pm	last day for in-person registration and updates
November 7	General Election
November 7; 8pm	last day to file as write-in candidate for Primary; filing fee required
November 28	election certified by counties
December 7	last day for Secretary of State to certify the General Election
December 7	state ballots measures approved by voters declared law by Governor

Other important dates	
April 23	regular legislative session scheduled to end
July 7	last day to submit signatures supporting initiatives to the people
July 22	last day to file referendum measure petition signatures
December 15	resolutions due for February 13, 2024 special election
December 29	last day to submit signature petitions supporting initiatives to the legislature
January 5	first day to file initiatives to the people with the Secretary of State 2023
January 8	regular legislative session begins 2024

Holidays			
May 29	Memorial Day	November 23	Thanksgiving
July 4	Independence Day	November 24	Native American Heritage Day
September 4	Labor Day	December 25	Christmas
October 9	Columbus Day courthouse open, post office closed	January 1	New Year's Day
November 10	Veteran's Day observance		

# 2023 Offices up for Election

Candidate filing period: **May 15 – 19** (online, in person, by email or fax) RCW 29A.24.031-050  
**May 1 – 19** (by mail)

Office	Incumbent	Term length	Filing fee	PDC reporting
<b>County Judicial Nonpartisan Office</b>				
Yakima County Superior Court Judge, Department 5	Jared Boswell	1 year unexpired	\$2,031.69	F-1 & C-series
Yakima County Superior Court Judge, Department 7	Sonia Rodriguez-True	1 year unexpired	\$2,031.69	
<b>City &amp; Town Nonpartisan Offices</b>				
<b>City of Grandview</b> - 1 year residency required				
Mayor	Gloria Mendoza	4 years	\$64.80	F-1
Council, Position 3	Jessie Espinoza	2 year unexpired	\$36.00	
Council, Position 4	Robert Ozuna	4 years	\$36.00	
Council, Position 5	Bill Moore	4 years	\$36.00	
Council, Position 6	David Diaz	4 years	\$36.00	
Council, Position 7	Laura Flores	4 year short/full	\$36.00	
<b>City of Granger</b> - 1 year residency required				
Mayor	Jose Trevino	4 years	\$120.00	none
Council, Position 4	Juan Isiordia	4 years	none	
Council, Position 5	Hilda Guzmán	4 years	none	
<b>Town of Harrah</b>				
Mayor	Barbara Harrer	4 years	\$60.00	none
Council, Position 3	Christina Cordova-Rodriguez	4 years	none	
Council, Position 4	Avelina Garcia	4 years	none	
Council, Position 5	Kathryn Henry	4 years	none	
<b>City of Mabton</b> - 1 year residency required				
Council, Position 2	Antonio Moreno	2 year unexpired	\$10.00	none
Council, Position 3	vacant	2 year unexpired	\$10.00	
Council, Position 4	Vera Zavala	4 years	\$10.00	
Council, Position 5	Arturo De La Fuente	4 years	\$10.00	
<b>City of Moxee</b> - 1 year residency required				
Mayor	LeRoy Lenseigne	4 years	\$72.00	F-1
Council, Position 3	Jan Hutchinson	4 years	\$30.00	
Council, Position 4	David Roy	4 years	\$30.00	
Council, Position 5	Larry Frank	4 years	\$30.00	

Office	Incumbent	Term length	Filing fee	PDC reporting
<b>Town of Naches</b>				
Mayor	Paul Williams	4 years	\$122.40	
Council, Position 2	Susan Schneider	2 year unexpired	none	none
Council, Position 4	Robert Weekes	4 years	none	
Council, Position 5	Suzi Williams	4 years	none	
<b>City of Selah - 1 year residency required</b>				
Mayor	Sherry Raymond	4 years	\$120.00	
Council, Position 4	Clifford Peterson	4 years	\$39.00	
Council, Position 5	Roger Bell	4 years	\$39.00	F-1
Council, Position 6	Michael Costello	4 years	\$39.00	
Council, Position 7	Russell Carlson	4 years	\$39.00	
<b>City of Sunnyside - 1 year residency required</b>				
Council, Position 5	Mike Farmer	4 years	\$48.00	F-1
Council, Position 6	James Restucci	4 years	\$48.00	&
Council, Position 7	Craig Hicks	4 years	\$48.00	C- series
<b>City of Tieton - 1 year residency required</b>				
Mayor	Dewane Ashbrooks	4 years	\$168.00	
Council, Position 1	Tadeo Saenz	2 year unexpired	none	none
Council, Position 4	Nancy Newberry	4 years	none	
Council, Position 5	Robert Adams	4 year short/full	none	
<b>City of Toppenish - 1 year residency required</b>				
Council, Position 4	Kyle Pettit	2 year unexpired	none	
Council, Position 5	George Garcia	4 years	none	F-1
Council, Position 6	Naila Prieto-Duval	4 years	none	
Council, Position 7	Loren Belton	4 years	none	
<b>City of Union Gap - 1 year residency required</b>				
Council, Position 4	Jack Galloway	4 years	\$72.00	
Council, Position 5	David Hansen	4 years	\$72.00	F-1
Council, Position 6	Julie Schilling	4 years	\$72.00	
<b>City of Wapato</b>				
Mayor	Margaret Estrada	4 year short/full	\$120.00	
Council, Position 2	Rita Alvarado	2 year unexpired	none	
Council, Position 4	Ken Workman	4 year short/full	none	none
Council, Position 5	Frances Ayres	4 years	none	
Council, Position 6	Elizabeth Villa	4 years	none	
Council, Position 7 at-large	Caroline Solis	2 years	none	
<b>City of Yakima</b>				
Council, District 1	Eliana Macias	4 years	\$129.00	
Council, District 3	Patricia Byers	4 years	\$129.00	F-1
Council, District 5	Soneya Lund	4 years	\$129.00	&
Council, District 7	Holly Cousens	4 years	\$129.00	C- series



Office	Incumbent	Term length	Filing fee	PDC reporting
<b>City of Zillah - 1 year residency required</b>				
Council, Position 3	Douglas Stewart	4 years	none	
Council, Position 4	Janice Gonzales	4 years	none	none
Council, Position 5	Beth Husted	4 years	none	
<b>School District Nonpartisan Offices</b>				
<b>Union Gap School District No. 2</b>				
Director, District 1	Jen Silver	4 years	none	
Director, District 2	Dianna Grunlose	4 years	none	none
Director, Position 1 at-large	Maira Gonzalez	2 year unexpired	none	
Director, Position 2 at-large	Maria Laura Gutierrez	4 years	none	
<b>Naches Valley School District No. Jt3</b>				
Director, District 1	Marcie Carrell	4 years	none	F-1 & C-series
Director, District 4	Patti Hyatt	4 years	none	
Director, District 5	Brandi Lippold	4 years	none	
<b>Yakima School District No. 7</b>				
Director, Position 3	Norm Walker	4 years	none	F-1 & C-series
Director, Position 4	Raymond Navarro, Jr.	4 years	none	
Director, Position 5	Martha Rice	4 years	none	
<b>East Valley School District No. 90</b>				
Director, District 1	Wescott Edwards	4 years	none	F-1 & C-series
Director, District 3	Seth Basford	4 years	none	
Director, District 4	Ray Wiseman	4 years	none	
<b>Selah School District No. 119</b>				
Director, District 1	Sarah Michael	4 years	none	F-1 & C-series
Director, District 3	Jeff Hartwick	4 years	none	
Director, Position 2 at-large	Dan Peters	4 years	none	
<b>Mabton School District No. 120</b>				
Director, District 1	James Adams	4 years	none	
Director, District 2	Wendy Morrow	4 years	none	
Director, District 3	Susana Diaz	2 year unexpired	none	none
Director, Position 1 at-large	Jose Torres-Sanchez	2 year unexpired	none	
Director, Position 2 at-large	Elma Calixto	4 years	none	
<b>Grandview School District No. 200</b>				
Director, District 1	Andrea Arteaga	4 years	none	
Director, District 2	Heather Garcia-Mendoza	2 year unexpired	none	F-1 & C-series
Director, District 3	Charles Stegeman	4 years	none	
Director, District 4	Daniel Hall	4 years	none	
<b>Sunnyside School District No. 201</b>				
Director, District 1	Silvia Ramos	4 years	none	F-1 & C-series
Director, District 4	Sandra Linde	4 years	none	
Director, District 5	Stephen Berg	4 years	none	

Office	Incumbent	Term length	Filing fee	PDC reporting
<b>Toppenish School District No. 202</b>				
Director, District 1	vacant	4 years	none	F-1 & C-series
Director, District 4	Else Washines	4 years	none	
Director, District 5	Sherri Darrow	4 years	none	
<b>Highland School District No. 203</b>				
Director, District 1	Lupita Flores	4 years	none	F-1
Director, District 3	Cynthia Reed	4 years	none	
Director, Position 2 at-large	Carlos Lopez	4 years	none	
<b>Granger School District No. 204</b>				
Director, District 3	Dalia Chavez-Isiordia	4 years	none	F-1
Director, District 4	Paul Golob	4 years	none	
Director, Position 1 at-large	Ron Fleming	4 years	none	
<b>Zillah School District No. 205</b>				
Director, District 3	Thomas Fender	4 years	none	F-1
Director, District 4	Jeff Brady	4 years	none	
<b>Wapato School District No. 207</b>				
Director, District 3	María AR Erickson	4 years	none	F-1 & C- series
Director, District 4	Lorenzo Alvarado	4 years	none	
Director, District 5	John Francisco	4 years	none	
<b>West Valley School District No. 208</b>				
Director, District 1	Michael Meyer	4 years	none	F-1 & C-series
Director, District 4	Mark Mochel	4 years	none	
Director, District 5	Dave Jaeger	4 years	none	
<b>Mount Adams School District No. 209</b>				
Director, District 1	Larry Garcia	4 years	none	none
Director, District 2	Todd Spencer	4 years	none	
Director, District 3	Michelle Bergevin	2 year unexpired	none	
Director, District 4	Dolores Martinez	2 year unexpired	none	
<b>Fire Protection District Nonpartisan Offices</b>				
<b>Fire Protection District No. 1</b>				
Commissioner, Position 1	Sam Glanzer	6 years	none	F-1 & C-series
Commissioner, Position 2	Anthony Judd	2 year unexpired	none	
<b>Fire Protection District No. 2</b>				
Commissioner, Position 1	Brad Helms	6 years	none	F-1 & C- series
<b>Fire Protection District No. 3</b>				
Commissioner, Position 3	Chad Greenwalt	6 year short/full	none	F-1 & C- series
<b>Fire Protection District No. 4</b>				
Commissioner, Position 1	Ben St. Mary	6 years	none	F-1 & C- series
<b>Fire Protection District No. 5</b>				
Commissioner, Position 1	Ernest Gasseling	6 years	none	F-1 & C- series

Office	Incumbent	Term length	Filing fee	PDC reporting
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**Fire Protection District No. 6**

Commissioner, Position 1	Tom Robbert	6 years	none	F-1
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**Fire Protection District No. 7**

Commissioner, Position 1	Gordon King	6 years	none	none
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**Fire Protection District No. 9**

Commissioner, Position 1	Ted Vander Houwen	6 years	none	none
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**Fire Protection District No. 10**

Commissioner, Position 1	George Garcia	6 year short/full	none	
Commissioner, Position 2	Gary Peterson	2 year unexpired	none	none
Commissioner, Position 3	vacant	4 year unexpired	none	

**Fire Protection District No. 11**

Commissioner, Position 1	Thomas Sevigny	6 years	none	
Commissioner, Position 2	vacant	2 year unexpired	none	none
Commissioner, Position 3	Ken McAllister	4 year unexpired	none	

**Fire Protection District No. 12**

Commissioner, Position 1	Jim Borst	6 years	none	F-1 & C- series
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**Fire Protection District No. 14**

Commissioner, Position 1	Kevin Jorgensen	6 years	none	none
Commissioner, Position 2	Jim Fretwell	2 year unexpired	none	

**Port District Nonpartisan Offices**

**Port of Grandview**

Commissioner, District 1	Richard Shenyer	6 years	none	F-1 & C- series
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**Port of Sunnyside**

Commissioner, District 2	Tyler Schilperoort	6 years	\$30.48	F-1 & C- series
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**Sewer District Nonpartisan Offices**

**Terrace Heights Sewer District**

Commissioner, Position 1	Craig Nance	6 year short/full	none	F-1
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**Park & Recreation District Nonpartisan Offices**

**Naches Park & Recreation District**

Commissioner, District 1	Paul Stanton	4 years	none	
Commissioner, District 2	vacant	4 year short/full	none	
Commissioner, District 3	Wayne Hawver	2 year unexpired	none	none
Commissioner, District 4	vacant	4 year short/full	none	

# Duties and Qualifications

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

## Superior Court Judge

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**Duties:** Superior Court has jurisdiction over civil matters, domestic relations, felony criminal cases, juvenile matters, and appeals from courts of limited jurisdiction.

**Qualifications:** Must be a registered voter in the state and admitted to practice law in the courts of record. State Constitution, Article IV, Section 17

## City and Town Council Members

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**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)

## School Board Directors

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**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

# 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 | multi-county  
 Judicial offices | multi-county

### County Auditor:

Legislative offices | single county  
 Judicial offices | single county  
 County offices  
 Cities and Towns  
 School Districts  
 Fire Districts  
 Port Districts  
 Sewer Districts  
 Park Districts

## How and When to file

Candidate filing week begins the Monday two weeks before Memorial Day and ends the following Friday.

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


<p><b>file online</b></p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>opens May 15, 9am          closes May 19, 4pm          visit: <a href="http://www.yakimacounty.us/vote">www.yakimacounty.us/vote</a></p>
<p><b>file in person</b></p>	<p>The Yakima County Elections Division is open from 9am to 4pm to accept in person filings for offices that are wholly within Yakima County. All payment types are accepted.</p>	<p>opens May 15, 9am          closes May 19, 4pm          visit: Yakima County Auditor's Office          128 N 2<sup>nd</sup> St Room 117          Yakima 98901</p>
<p><b>file by mail</b></p>	<p>Filing by mail begins 10 business days before the regular filing period begins.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Declarations received prior to May 1 will be returned and the candidate must re-submit their declaration during the filing period.</li> <li>• Declarations received after May 19, regardless of postmark, are invalid. RCW 29A.24.081</li> </ul>	<p>begins May 1          ends May 19          mail to: Yakima County Elections          PO Box 12570          Yakima WA 98909</p>
<p><b>file by email or fax</b></p>	<p>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</p>	<p>opens May 15, 9am          closes May 19, 4pm          send to: <a href="mailto:ivote@co.yakima.wa.us">ivote@co.yakima.wa.us</a> or          509.574.1341</p>

**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 434-215-120

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 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 15** in an office that was not 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 15 or later** in an office that was not 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

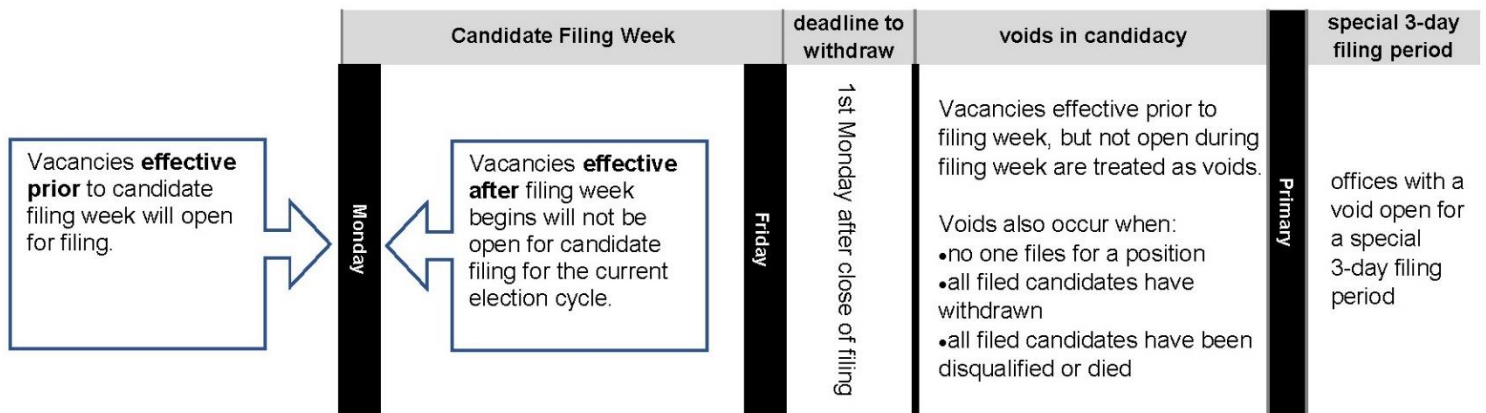
There is no void in candidacy if there is at least one candidate.

## 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 1. 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...
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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
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the U.S. Senate, or a Congressional office	U.S. Constitution Art. 1, Sec. 2, clause 4; RCW 29A.28
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**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

**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 the respective 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 the respective 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*

**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(3)

**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	Superior Court
	RCW 29A.52.220 Primary	State Constitution, Article IV, Section 29 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 the respective 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*

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

## Candidate qualifications

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Candidates must be registered to vote within the boundary of the proposed district. RCW 70.44.040(2)

Commissioners cannot be public hospital district employees. RCW 70.44.040(3)

## Filing fee

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There is no filing fee for PHD commissioner candidates. Commissioners receive \$128 per diem for each day or portion of the day spent in actual attendance at official meetings of the district commissioners, or in performance of other services or duties on behalf of the district. Total annual compensation shall not exceed \$12,288. This amount is adjusted for inflation every 5 years. RCW 70.44.050

## Public Disclosure Reporting

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Candidates are required to submit an F-1 and all C-series forms for a district with a voter registration count of greater than 5,000 at the last general election. The proposed public hospital district voter registration count is 18,732.

## Terms of office

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Commissioners are nonpartisan positions with staggered 6-year terms.

For the initial election of commissioners, the candidate receiving the greatest number of votes will serve the longest term – 6 years.

5<sup>th</sup> place candidate serves 2 years.

4<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place candidates serve 4 years.

2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> place candidates serve 6 years.

RCW 70.44.040(1)(b)

## Voting

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Only the voters within the proposed PHD may vote.

Voting precincts include:

501, 701, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2501, 2502, 2701, 2702, 3002, 3103, 3104, 3303, 3309, 3310, 3311, 3313, 3401, 3701, 3902, 4001, 5012.

The question to authorize the formation of the proposed district and the election of commissioners are on the same ballot. RCW 70.44.040(1)

If the formation question fails, the election of commissioners is null and void. RCW 70.44.040(1)

# Post Election Information

## Results

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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

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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. RCW 44.04.010, State Constitution, Art. II, Sec. 12

2024 = 60 day session  
2025 = 105 day session

## Assuming office

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Municipal Court Cities and Towns Special Purpose Districts	January 1, 2022 RCW 29A.60.270, 280
Superior Court	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday, January RCW 2.08.070
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

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### 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
City and Town Clerks	RCW 35.27.220
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?

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
Superior Court	written oath filed with Secretary of State State Constitution, Art. IV, Sec. 28, 2.08.080

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
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><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.</p>

# 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 2022 General Election

Cities and Towns		School Districts		Fire Districts		Port Districts	
Grandview	4,087	East Valley #90	11,214	1	2,468	Grandview	6,323
Granger	1,235	Grandview #200	6,027	2	8,401	Sunnyside	9,749
Harrah	284	Granger #204	2,415	3	952		
Mabton	714	Highland #203	3,156	4	11,247	Sewer Districts	
Moxee	2,375	Mabton #120	1,230	5	16,952		
Naches	554	Mount Adams #209	1,947	6	2,714	Terrace Heights	4,696
Sunnyside	5,524	Selah #119	12,729	9	857		
Tieton	561	Sunnyside #201	9,416	10	439	Park & Recreation	
Toppenish	3,152	Toppenish #202	5,690	11	330		
Union Gap	2,984	Union Gap #2	1,693	12	8,492	Naches	1,436
Wapato	1,734	Wapato #207	5,785	14	718		
Yakima	47,049	West Valley #208	22,052				
Zillah	1,663	Yakima #7	35,243				
		Zillah #205	2,991				



# 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. Yakima County Elections has no role in the regulation of campaign signs.

## Public Disclosure Commission

711 Capital Way, Room 206  
PO Box 40908  
Olympia WA 98504-0908  
**toll free:** 1-877-601-2828  
**email:** [pdc@pdc.wa.gov](mailto:pdc@pdc.wa.gov)  
**web:** [www.pdc.wa.gov](http://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	837-3782		

# 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 in the Auditor's office Room 117 and is open Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm.

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

### Official ballot drop boxes open 24/7:

*Parker* - 360 Columbia Rd by the Fire Station

*Sunnyside* - the corner of 8<sup>th</sup> St and E Edison Ave by the Fire Station

*Toppenish* - 401 Fort Rd in the Yakama Nation Main Agency Offices parking lot, across from Legends Casino

*White Swan* - 240 Curtis St by the Fire Station

*Yakima* - on the north side of E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd across from the courthouse

Additionally, 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.

## 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, 04.061, WAC 434-232-110

## Signature verification, unsigned ballots

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**Signature verification:** RCW 29A.40.110(3), WAC 434-250-120 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 instructed in the signature verification process established by the Washington State Patrol prior to verifying any signatures.

**Mismatched signatures:** If the signature on a ballot declaration does not compare to the signature in the voter's registration file, the voter is notified by mail and by phone. For the ballot to be counted, the voter must either: •appear in person at the County Auditor's Office; •or return a signed signature update/ballot declaration 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. Otherwise, the determination made by the County Canvassing Board will stand.

**Unsigned ballots:** RCW 29A.60.165, WAC 434-261-050 If a voter doesn't sign the ballot declaration they are notified by mail and by phone. For the ballot to be counted, the voter must either: •appear in person at the County Auditor's Office and sign a 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

Election extra help staff open and inspect all voting response positions on every ballot 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.

# 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

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**To register to vote an individual must be:** ■A U.S. citizen. ■A resident of Washington for at least 30 days before the next election at which they vote. ■At least eighteen 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

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**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 the 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

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

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

**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

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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.

## New residents to Yakima County

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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

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Voters moving within Yakima County must notify the County Elections Division and must meet the applicable deadline 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

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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

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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

## Estimated costs

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

CD or USB: \$11.79

email: \$10.50

copies: \$.15 cents per page

## How to place an order

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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

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RCW 29A.08.710

- voter ID #
- gender
- name
- registration date
- date of birth
- date last voted
- precinct
- address (residence and mailing)

## Data format and options

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### 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

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**Maps:** Large format area maps are available on the elections division website.

- Countywide
- Mid valley
- Yakima urban
- Lower valley
- Upper valley
- Selah / vicinity
- East Yakima / Terrace Heights / Moxee

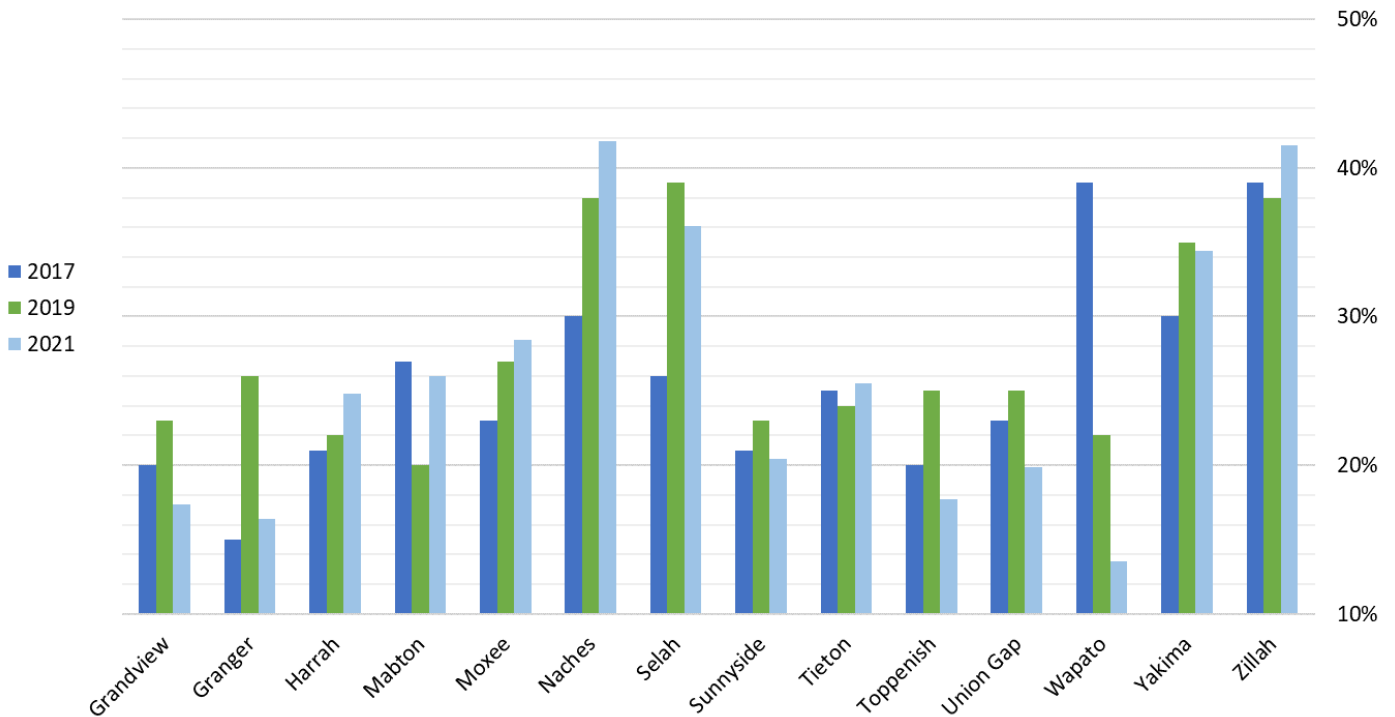
Custom maps are available for purchase through GIS in Room 116. 574-2990

**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

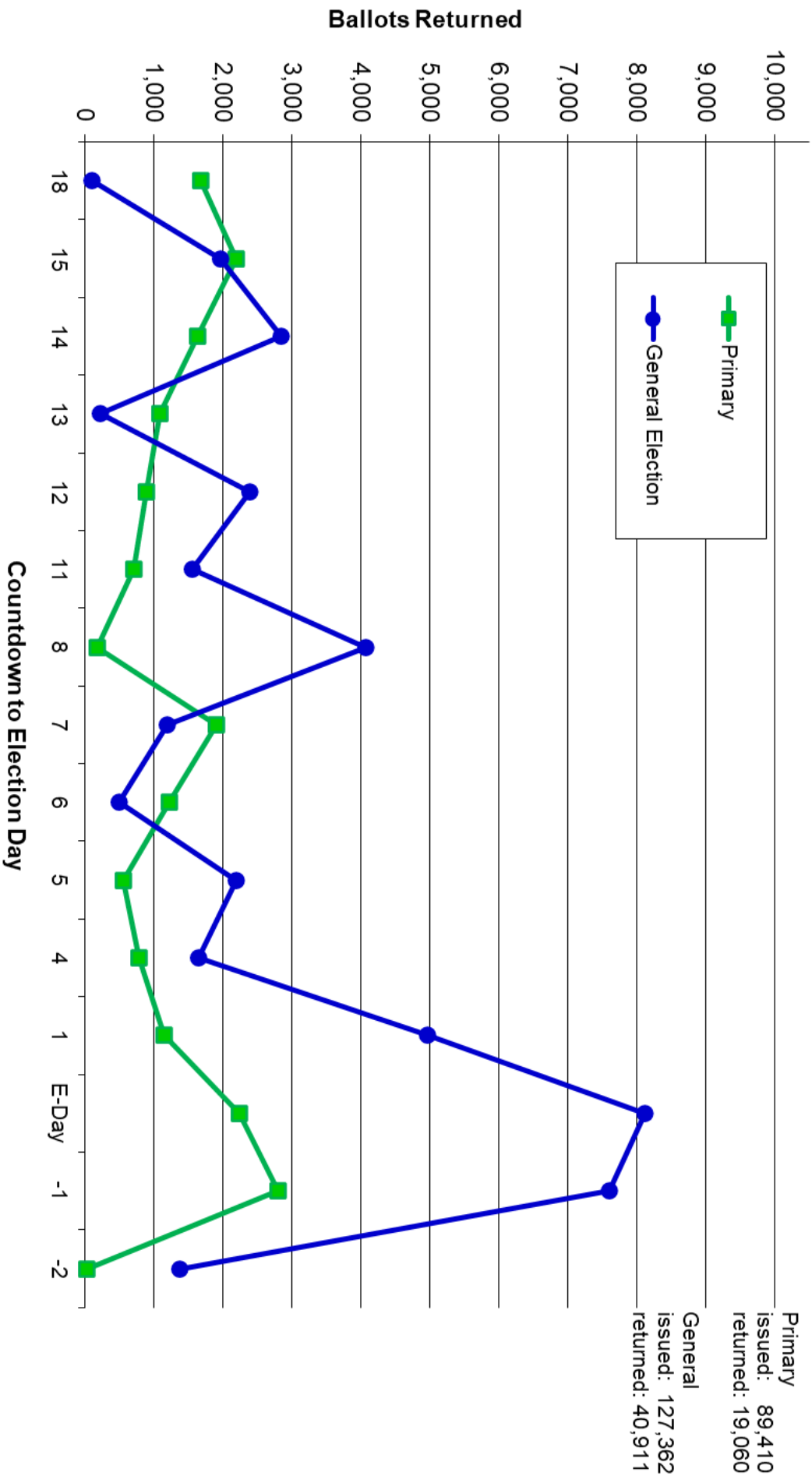
# Statistics

Election		Registered Voters	Ballots Cast	Turnout
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%
2013	General	106,479	39,913	37.48%
	Primary	53,907	13,706	25.43%

participation by community



## Yakima County Ballot Rate of Return 2021 Primary and General Election



# 2023 - 2024 election calendar

## 2023

Election Date	Aug 1 2023	Nov 7 2023
Resolution Due	May 12	Aug 1
8 day by mail or online registration and update deadline	July 24	Oct 30
in-person registration and update deadline	Aug 1 8 pm	Nov 7 8 pm
Overseas/military ballots mailed	June 16	Sept 22
Ballots available	July 14	Oct 20
Election certified	Aug 15	Nov 28

## 2024

Feb 13 2024	Mar 12 Pres Pri	Apr 23 2024	Aug 6 2024	Nov 5 2024
Dec 15	n/a	Feb 23	May 3	Aug 6
Feb 5	Mar 4	Apr 15	July 29	Oct 28
Feb 13 8 pm	Mar 12 8 pm	Apr 23 8 pm	Aug 6 8 pm	Nov 5 8 pm
Jan 12	Jan 26	Mar 22	June 21	Sept 20
Jan 26	Feb 23	Apr 5	July 19	Oct 18
Feb 23	Mar 22	May 3	Aug 20	Nov 26

## dates explained

<b>resolutions</b>  RCW 29A.04.330	February or April election Primary General Election	60 days before e-day Friday before candidate filing the day of the Primary
If a resolution needs to be withdrawn, the same dates apply.		
<b>ballots mailed</b>  RCW 29A.40.070	Military/overseas  all others	30 days before February or April election 45 days before Primary and General Election 18 days before e-day
<b>election certified</b>  RCW 29A.60.190	February or April election Primary General Election	10 days after e-day 14 days after e-day 21 days after e-day
<b>candidate filing</b>  RCW 29A.24.050	Candidate filing week begins the first Monday in May. Candidate filing for 2024 is May 6-10.	
<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.



# Contact Information

## Office of Secretary of State

Elections Division  
520 Union Avenue SE  
PO Box 40229  
Olympia WA 98504-0229  
(360) 902-4180  
1-800-448-4881  
[elections@sos.wa.gov](mailto:elections@sos.wa.gov)  
[www.sos.wa.gov/elections](http://www.sos.wa.gov/elections)

## Public Disclosure Commission

711 Capitol Way #206  
PO Box 40908  
Olympia WA 98504-0908  
(360) 753-1111  
1-877-601-2828  
[www.pdc.wa.gov](http://www.pdc.wa.gov)

## Federal Election Commission

999 E Street NW  
Washington DC 20463  
1-800-424-9530  
[www.fec.gov](http://www.fec.gov)

## Washington State Legislature

1-800-562-6000  
[www.leg.wa.gov](http://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](http://www.yakimacounty.us/vote)  
[ivote@co.yakima.wa.us](mailto:ivote@co.yakima.wa.us)

Charles R. Ross

Yakima County Auditor

Kathy  
Fisher

Elections Manager

Martha  
Jiménez

Bilingual Program Analyst  
& Office Coordinator

Rochelle  
Saucedo Mendoza

Bilingual Office Specialist

Alexandrea  
Ramirez  
Bilingual Office Specialist

Nancy  
Tongate  
Voting Systems Program  
Rep

**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.