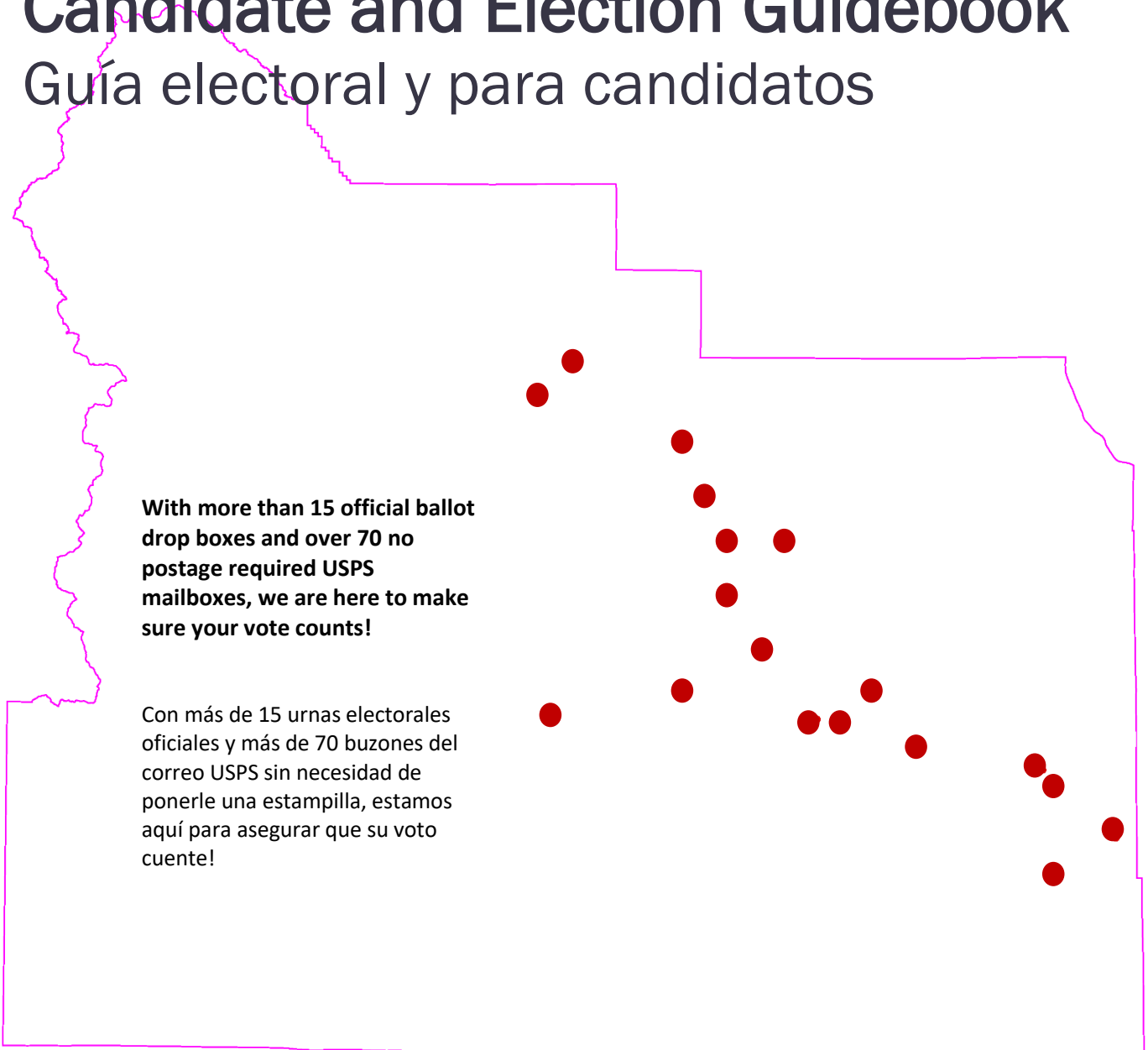


2020

Candidate and Election Guidebook Guía electoral y para candidatos



With more than 15 official ballot drop boxes and over 70 no postage required USPS mailboxes, we are here to make sure your vote counts!

Con más de 15 urnas electorales oficiales y más de 70 buzones del correo USPS sin necesidad de ponerle una estampilla, estamos aquí para asegurar que su voto cuente!

Yakima County Elections División Electoral del Condado de Yakima

Charles R. Ross
Yakima County Auditor

PO Box 12570; Yakima 98909
128 N 2nd St Room 117; Yakima 98901

509.574.1340
1.800.833.0569

www.yakimacounty.us/vote
iVote@co.yakima.wa.us



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May, 2020

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 or call our Elections Division at 574-1340.

Sincerely,

Charles R. Ross
Yakima County Auditor

Table of Contents

Ballots	17-19	Political advertising	16-17
Accessible voting		Post-election	14
Availability		Certification	
Canvassing Board		Legislature convenes	
Deadlines		Oaths of Office	
Drop off sites		Short term / Unexpired term	
e-ballots		State measures	
Processing boards		When terms begin	
Public access		Precinct Committee Officer	13
Calendar of Events	1-2	Primary	11-12
Candidate information	3-11	Public disclosure information	16
• Offices Open for 2020	3-4	Recounts	15
Duties		Registration & voting	19-20
Fees		Deadlines	
Length of term		Electronic registration	
Qualifications		Inactive status	
• Filing for Office	8-11	Moving	
Fees		Name changes	
Where and when to file		Qualifications	
Withdrawing		Statewide database	
Write in candidates		Where to register	
Vacancies		Statistics	22-24
Contact information	26	Voter guide	11
Data / information available	21	Write-in candidates	9
Costs, format options, public information			
Future election dates	25		
General Election	12		

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.

2020 Election Calendar

Candidate calendar	
April 27	first day candidate filings accepted by mail
May 11	begin candidate filing
May 15	end candidate filing
May 15; 4:30pm	lot drawing for ballot placement
May 18	last day for candidates to withdraw
May 22	candidate statements / pictures due for local voter guide
August 3	last day a void in candidacy causes that office to reopen for candidate filing
August 4	last day to file as write-in candidate for Primary
November 3	last day to file as write-in candidate for General Election

Primary calendar	
May 8	resolutions due for special election in conjunction with the Primary
June 19	overseas and military ballots mailed
July 16	last day to file as a write-in candidate for Primary; no filing fee required
July 17	ballots available
July 27	mail-in and online registrations must be received by an elections official by this date
July 27	address changes submitted by mail, phone or online must be received in the elections office by this date
August 4; 8pm	last day for in-person registration and updates
August 4	Primary
August 4; 8pm	last day to file as write-in candidate for Primary; filing fee required
August 18	election certified by counties
August 21	last day for Secretary of State to certify the Primary

2020 Election Calendar

General Election calendar	
August 4	resolutions due for special election in conjunction with the General Election
September 18	overseas and military ballots mailed
October 15	last day to file as a write-in candidate for General Election; no filing fee required
October 16	ballots available
October 26	mail-in and online registrations must be received by an elections official by this date
October 26	address changes submitted by mail, phone or online must be received in the elections office by this date
November 3; 8pm	last day for in-person registration and updates
November 3	General Election
November 3; 8pm	last day to file as write-in candidate for Primary; filing fee required
November 24	election certified by counties
December 3	last day for Secretary of State to certify the General Election
December 3	state ballots measures approved by voters declared law by Governor

Other important dates	
March 12	regular legislative session scheduled to end
June 10	last day to file referendum measure petition signatures
July 2	last day to submit signatures supporting initiatives to the people
December 11	resolutions due for February 9, 2021 special election
December 31	last day to submit signature petitions supporting initiatives to the legislature
January 4	first day to file initiatives to the people with the Secretary of State 2021
January 11	regular legislative session begins 2021

Holidays			
May 25	Memorial Day	November 26	Thanksgiving
July 4	Independence Day	November 27	Day after Thanksgiving
September 7	Labor Day	December 25	Christmas
October 12	Columbus Day courthouse open, post office closed	January 1	New Year's Day
November 11	Veteran's Day observance		

2020 Offices up for Election

Candidate filing period: **May 11 - 15** (by email, online, in person)
April 27 - May 15 (by mail)

RCW 29A.24.031-050

Office	Incumbent	Term length	Where to file	Filing fee
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Federal Partisan Offices

President	Donald Trump (R)	4 years		none
Vice President	Michael Pence			
U.S. Representative Congressional District 4	Dan Newhouse (R)	2 years	OSOS	\$1,740.00

State Partisan Offices

Governor	Jay Inslee (D)	4 years	OSOS	\$1,821.79
Lieutenant Governor	Cyrus Habib (D)	4 years	OSOS	\$1,111.80
Secretary of State	Kim Wyman (R)	4 years	OSOS	\$1,305.60
Treasurer	Duane Davidson (R)	4 years	OSOS	\$1,491.03
Auditor	Pat McCarthy (D)	4 years	OSOS	\$1,281.20
Attorney General	Bob Ferguson (D)	4 years	OSOS	\$1,673.81
Commissioner of Public Lands	Hilary Franz (D)	4 years	OSOS	\$1,458.60
Insurance Commissioner	Mike Kreidler (D)	4 years	OSOS	\$1,326.00

State Nonpartisan Office

Superintendent of Public Instruction	Chris Reykdal	4 years	OSOS	\$1,458.60
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State Legislative Partisan Offices

Legislative District 13

Representative, Position 1	Tom Dent (R)	2 years	OSOS	\$527.66
Representative, Position 2	Alex Ybarra (R)	2 years	OSOS	\$527.66

Legislative District 14

Senator	Curtis King (R)	4 years	OSOS	\$527.66
Representative, Position 1	Chris Corry (R)	2 years	OSOS	\$527.66
Representative, Position 2	Gina Mosbrucker (R)	2 years	OSOS	\$527.66

Legislative District 15

Representative, Position 1	Bruce Chandler (R)	2 years	County Auditor	\$527.66
Representative, Position 2	Jeremie Dufault (R)	2 years	County Auditor	\$527.66

County Partisan Offices

Commissioner, District 1	Vicki Baker (R)	4 year short/full	County Auditor	\$1,070.52
Commissioner, District 2	Ron Anderson (R)	4 years	County Auditor	\$1,070.52

2020 Offices up for Election

Office	Incumbent	Term length	Where to file	Filing fee
Judicial Nonpartisan Offices				
State Supreme Court Justice, Position 3	Raquel Montoya-Lewis	6 year short/full	OSOS	\$2,107.32
State Supreme Court Justice, Position 4	Charles W. Johnson	6 years	OSOS	\$2,107.32
State Supreme Court Justice, Position 6	Helen Whitener	2 year unexpired	OSOS	\$2,107.32
State Supreme Court Justice, Position 7	Debra L. Stephens	6 years	OSOS	\$2,107.32
Court of Appeals, Division III, District 3 Judge, Position 1	Rebecca Pennell	6 years	OSOS	\$2,006.03
Yakima County Superior Court Judge, Department 1	Kevin Naught	4 years	County Auditor	\$1,909.85
Yakima County Superior Court Judge, Department 2	Elisabeth Tutsch	4 year short/full	County Auditor	\$1,909.85
Yakima County Superior Court Judge, Department 3	Doug Federspiel	4 years	County Auditor	\$1,909.85
Yakima County Superior Court Judge, Department 4	Blaine G. Gibson	4 years	County Auditor	\$1,909.85
Yakima County Superior Court Judge, Department 5	David Elofson	4 years	County Auditor	\$1,909.85
Yakima County Superior Court Judge, Department 6	Ruth E. Reukauf	4 years	County Auditor	\$1,909.85
Yakima County Superior Court Judge, Department 7	Gayle M. Harthcock	4 years	County Auditor	\$1,909.85
Yakima County Superior Court Judge, Department 8	Richard H. Bartheld	4 years	County Auditor	\$1,909.85
Precinct Committee Officer				
all voting precincts		2 years	County Auditor	none

Duties and Qualifications

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

President / Vice President

Duties: To ensure that all laws are faithfully executed via a system of executive agencies that includes cabinet-level departments. The president appoints all cabinet heads and most other high-ranking officials of the executive branch, and nominates all judges of the federal judiciary, including the members of the U.S. Supreme Court. In addition, the president is the commander in chief of the nation's armed forces and has the power to make treaties with foreign governments, though the Senate must approve such treaties. Finally, the president has the power to approve or reject the laws passed by Congress. The Vice President serves as the presiding officer of the U.S. Senate and becomes President in the event the President dies, resigns, or is removed from office. No person may serve more than two consecutive terms as president.

Qualifications: The President must be at least 35 years old, a natural-born citizen of the United States, and must have resided in the U.S. for 14 years. U.S. Constitution, Article 2, Section

United States Senator & Representative

Duties: The Constitution assigned the Senate and House equal responsibility for declaring war, maintaining the armed forces, assessing taxes, borrowing money, minting currency, regulating commerce, and making all laws necessary for the operation of the government.

Qualifications: A Senator must be at least 30 years of age and a citizen of the United States for 9 years. A Representative must be at least 25 years of age and a citizen of the United States for 7 years. Candidates must also be a resident of the state for which they are chosen. U.S. Constitution, Article 1, Section 3

Governor

Duties: The Governor is responsible for overall administration of the affairs of the state of Washington. Washington State Constitution Section 5-13, RCW 43.06.

Qualifications: Must be a registered voter in the state.

Lieutenant Governor

Duties: The Lieutenant Governor presides as President of the Senate, serves as executive chairman of the Senate Rules Committee, chairman of the Legislative Committee on Economic Development and serves as a member to a variety of other committees. If the Governor is unable to perform his/her official duties, the Lieutenant Governor will act as Governor. RCW 43.15

Qualifications: Must be a registered voter in the state.

Secretary of State

Duties: The Secretary of State is the state's chief elections officer, chief corporations officer, and supervisor of the State Archives. RCW 43.07

Qualifications: Must be a registered voter in the state.

State Treasurer

Duties: The State Treasurer is responsible for formulating and executing policy for the management of the state treasury and related financial resources of the State. RCW 43.08

Qualifications: Must be a registered voter in the state.

State Auditor

Duties: Conducts financial and legal compliance audits of all state agencies and local governments in Washington and administers the state employee Whistleblower Act. RCW 43.09, 43.88

Qualifications: Must be a registered voter in the state.

Attorney General

Duties: Acts as the State's chief legal officer and serves as legal counsel to the Governor, members of the legislature, state officials, and more than 230 state agencies, boards and commissions, colleges and universities. The Office of Attorney General enforces consumer protection statutes. RCW 43.10

Qualifications: Must be a qualified practitioner of the supreme court of the state and must be a registered voter in the state. RCW 43.10.010

Commissioner of Public Lands

Duties: The Commissioner of Public Lands is the head of the Department of Natural Resources and oversees the management of 5 million acres of forest, agricultural, range, tidal and shore lands of the state. RCW 43.12, 43.30

Qualifications: Must be a registered voter in the state.

Insurance Commissioner

Duties: Regulates insurance companies, licenses agents and brokers, reviews policies and rates, and examines the operations and finances of insurers. RCW 48.02.060

Qualifications: Must be a registered voter in the state.

Superintendent of Public Instruction

Duties: Supervises the public schools in the state and acts in an advisory capacity to other areas of public education. Regulatory duties include certification of teaching personnel, approval of accreditation programs, and apportionment of state and local funds. RCW 28A.300

Qualifications: Must be a registered voter in the state.

State Senator & Representative

Duties: Legislators introduce bills during each session that affect public policy. Public hearings are held, issues are debated, and votes are taken. Bills that pass both houses of the Legislature are sent to the Governor for signature. They provide for the levy and collection of taxes and other revenue to support state government and appropriate funds to local governments. The Senate has the exclusive power to confirm certain gubernatorial appointments. The House has the exclusive power to bring impeachment proceedings.

Qualifications: Candidates must be qualified voters in the legislative district from which they are chosen. State Constitution, Article II, Section 7

County Commissioner

Duties: The Board of County Commissioners is responsible for the overall administration of Yakima County government. Some responsibilities of the county legislative authority include adopting the annual budget, approving and enacting ordinances and resolutions, and making appointments to advisory boards and commissions.

Qualifications: Must be a registered voter in the commissioner district for which they are a candidate. RCW 29A.20.021, 36.32.040

State Supreme Court Justice

Duties: The Supreme Court is the state's highest court. It is the final rule-making authority for all of the state's courts. The Supreme Court also has administrative responsibility for operation of the state court system and has a supervisory role over the State Bar Association including attorney disciplinary matters.

Qualifications: A prospective justice must be admitted to practice law in Washington State and must be a resident elector of their district. State Constitution, Article IV, Section 17

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

Superior Court Judge

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

Precinct Committee Officer

Duties: PCOs elect a chair and vice chair of their political party's county and legislative district central committees. They serve as the grass-roots link between voters in their precincts and the political party organizations.

Qualifications: Candidates must be residents and registered voters of the precinct for which they are filing. RCW 29A.80.040 Candidates must be affiliated with a major political party. Party affiliation is affirmed with a statement appearing after the name of each candidate on the ballot.

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

When to file

Candidate filing begins the Monday two weeks before Memorial Day (May 11) and ends the following Friday (May 15).

Candidate filings are also accepted by mail beginning April 27, 10 business days before the regular filing period begins. Declarations received prior to April 27 will be returned and the candidate must re-submit their declaration during the filing period. Declarations received after May 15, regardless of postmark, are invalid. RCW 29A.24.081

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

Filing Fees

RCW 29A.24.091, 131

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 *under* \$1,000 \$10.00
Annual salary *over* \$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

Filing by email

Declarations of Candidacy may be submitted by fax or email. 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

Candidate names on the ballot

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

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

Party Preference – partisan offices

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

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

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, May 18. 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: No filing fee is required if the Declaration is filed after the close of the filing period and more than 18 days before the primary or election.

If the Declaration is filed on or after the 18th day before the primary or election and 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, a filing fee of \$25 is required.

A person may not file as a write-in candidate if:

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

Vacancy in Office and Void 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 11 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 11 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.

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

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

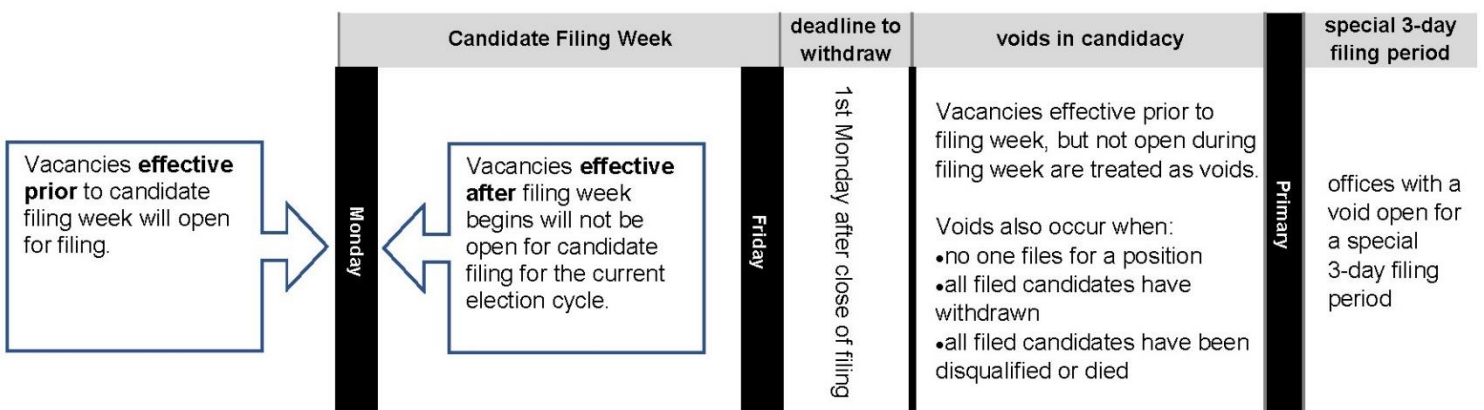
There is no void in candidacy if there is at least one candidate.

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 3. 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



Lapsed elections, short terms

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

Short term: A “short term” begins immediately after the general election is certified and ends with the start of the full term. It is applicable only when a position is held by an appointee filling a vacancy. A short term exists when a vacancy occurs after the last election at which the office could have been on the ballot for an unexpired 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.

Local Voters’ Guide

Yakima County posts an online Local Voters’ Guide for both the Primary and General Elections. (www.yakimacounty.us/vote)

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

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

Precinct Committee Officer: The office of precinct committee officer is voted upon at the primary in each even-numbered year. If no one files for the office, the political party may fill the position by appointment RCW29A.80.031. If, after the last day to withdraw, only one candidate has filed for the office in a precinct, that candidate is deemed elected and the auditor shall issue a certificate of election. Only contested races appear on the ballot.

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

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: Candidates for County Commissioner appear on **all** ballots in the General Election. RCW 36.32.040

Precinct Committee Officer: PCOs are elected in the Primary. They do not appear on the General Election ballot.

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

Precinct Committee Officer

Responsibilities

Precinct Committee Officers, or PCO's, serve as the grass-roots link between voters in their precincts and the political party organizations.

Each precinct committee officer is a member of the county central committee who elects members to the state central committee. RCW 29A.80.020 The state central committee has the authority to:

- Call caucuses and conventions
- Provide for the election of delegates to national nominating conventions
- Provide for the nomination of presidential electors

Either the county or state central committee usually determines specific duties and responsibilities of precinct committee officers. The following duties are commonly assigned to Precinct Committee Officers by their party organization:

- Keep informed on current issues and candidates and study the party platform
- Attend meetings of county committees and actively participate in fund-raising activities
- Establish a record of eligible voters and party members within the precinct
- Encourage voter registration and voter participation within the precinct
- Distribute party election materials during election campaigns
- Hold precinct caucuses at certain selected times for the purpose of adopting resolutions and selecting delegates to the county conventions

Ballot information

The position is non-salaried and appears on the Primary ballot only. Precinct Committee Officers hold a two year term.

A candidate for PCO must be a resident and registered voter of the precinct for which he or she is filing and must be affiliated with a major political party. Party affiliation is affirmed by the following statement appearing after the name of each candidate: "I affirm I am a Democrat." if the candidate is a Democrat, or "I affirm I am a Republican." if the candidate is a Republican.

Each precinct is eligible to elect a Republican and Democrat PCO.

If there are multiple candidates within the same party, candidate names appear in order determined by lot drawing.

If no one files for the office, the office shall be filled in accordance with RCW 29A.80.031. If, after the last day to withdraw, only one candidate has filed for the office in a precinct, that candidate is deemed elected and the auditor shall issue a certificate of election. Only contested races appear on the ballot.

The following instructions appear on the ballot: "In order to vote for precinct committee officer, a partisan office, you must affirm that you are a Democrat or a Republican and may vote only for one candidate from the party you select. Your vote for a candidate affirms your affiliation with the same party as the candidate. This preference is private and will not be matched to your name or shared."

If a voter votes for candidates from both parties, the votes cast in the election for precinct committee officer on that ballot will not be tabulated and reported.

Vacancies

If a vacancy occurs, the county chair of the county central committee shall fill the vacancy by appointment. If the vacancy exists because of failure to elect, the vacancy may not be filled until after the organization meeting of the county central committee and the new county chair has been selected. RCW 29A.80.031

Post Election Information

Results

Unofficial election results for Yakima County are available at approximately 8:15 p.m. on election night at the Election Processing Center, Room B-16 of the county courthouse. Results are also posted on the elections website at yakimacounty.us/vote. Statewide results can be found at 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. RCW 44.04.010, State Constitution, Art. II, Sec. 12

2020= 60 day session
2021 = 105 day session

Assuming office

U.S. Senator U.S. Representative	January 3, 2021 US Constitution, Amendment 20, Sec 1
State Offices State Legislators Supreme Court Court of Appeals Superior Court District Court	2 nd Monday, January 2021 RCW 44.04.021, 43.01.020, 2.04.071, 2.06.070, 2.08.070, 3.34.070
County Offices	January 1, 2021 RCW 29A.20.010
Precinct Committee Officer	December 1, 2020 RCW 29A.80.051

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
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?

U.S. Senator U.S. Representative	verbal oath US Constitution, Art. VI
State Legislators	verbal oath US Constitution, Art. VI, RCW 29A.04.133
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 2.06.085
District Court County Offices	written oath filed with County Auditor RCW 3.34.080, 36.16.060
Precinct Committee Officer	no oath required

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...	... and 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...	... and less than	.25% of the total votes cast for both candidates
regional or local races	less than 150 votes...	... and less than	.25% of the total votes cast for both candidates

Primary vs General	
Primary	conducted when the difference between the 2 nd and 3 rd place candidates meet the threshold
General	conducted when the difference between the 1 st and 2 nd 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>Deposit and fees. 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 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.

County offices; District has 5,000+ voters; Will receive \$5,000+ in contributions	F-1 & C-series
District has 1,000 – 4,999 voters; Will not exceed \$4,999 in contributions	F-1
District has less than 1,000 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 who expect to spend \$10,000 or more must file campaign finance reports electronically. RCW 42.17.3691 Visit www.pdc.wa.gov for instructions and information.

Where to file PDC reports

All PDC reports are filed with the Public Disclosure Commission in Olympia.

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
web: www.pdc.wa.gov

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

Campaigning or gathering petition signatures within 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

Within twenty-five feet of a ballot deposit site that is not located within a voting center, no person may electioneer, circulate campaign material, solicit petition signatures, or interfere with or impede the voting process. WAC 434-250-100(3)

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

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?

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.

Ballot return options

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 deposit boxes are open from 7am-8pm.

24/7. Yakima County has five 24/7 ballot deposit locations:

1. *Parker* - 360 Columbia Rd by the Fire Station
2. *Sunnyside* - the corner of 8th St and E Edison Ave by the Fire Station
3. *Toppenish* - 401 Fort Rd in the Yakama Nation Main Agency Offices parking lot, across from Legends Casino
4. *White Swan* - 240 Curtis St by the Fire Station
5. *Yakima* - on the north side of E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd across from the courthouse

On election day, these boxes close promptly at 8pm.

Community drop boxes. Each City and Town Hall throughout the county has a drop box inside their building. The boxes are open during the regular business hours of the city leading up to election day and are open until 8pm election night.

e-ballots

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.

Deadline for returning voted ballots

If a ballot is returned by mail, it must be postmarked no later than the day of the election in order 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



An Accessible Voting Unit (AVUs) is available at the County Auditor's office for voters with language or physical disability needs.

The County Auditor's Office Accessible Unit is available for use 18 days prior to an election from 9am to 4pm and on election day from 7am to 8pm.

Signature verification; unsigned ballots

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 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.

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. In order 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 the day before certification of the election.

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. In order 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 in order for the ballot to be valid. Otherwise, the determination made by the County Canvassing Board will stand.

Ballot opening

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

Processing boards 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

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 auditor's 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

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

An individual must be: ■A U.S. citizen. ■At least eighteen years old when he or she votes. ■Not under the supervision of the Department of Corrections for a Washington felony conviction. ■A resident of their address in Washington for 30 days before the next election at which they vote. ■Not disqualified from voting due to a court order.

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 considered to be 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 in the elections office 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. Voters must appear in their county of residence.

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
Courthouse Room 117
- City and Town Halls
- All Public Schools
- Most Libraries
- Fire Stations
- www.yakimacounty.us/vote
- www.vote.wa.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.

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 **only** from 8am-8pm.

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 deadline to be valid for the current election.

call: (509) 574-1340, 1-800-833-0569

email: ivote@co.yakima.wa.us

online: sos.wa.gov/elections

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

Canceling registration for failure to vote

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

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
maps: \$20.00
returned ballot list: \$10.50 + \$2/each file

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

Data format and options

Information can be requested by:

- an individual district or precinct
- voters who participated in a specific election
- voters in a current election – either by voted or not voted

Formats available:

Excel or csv

Maps and election results

Maps: Specific geographical area maps are available at the elections division office for \$20.00.

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

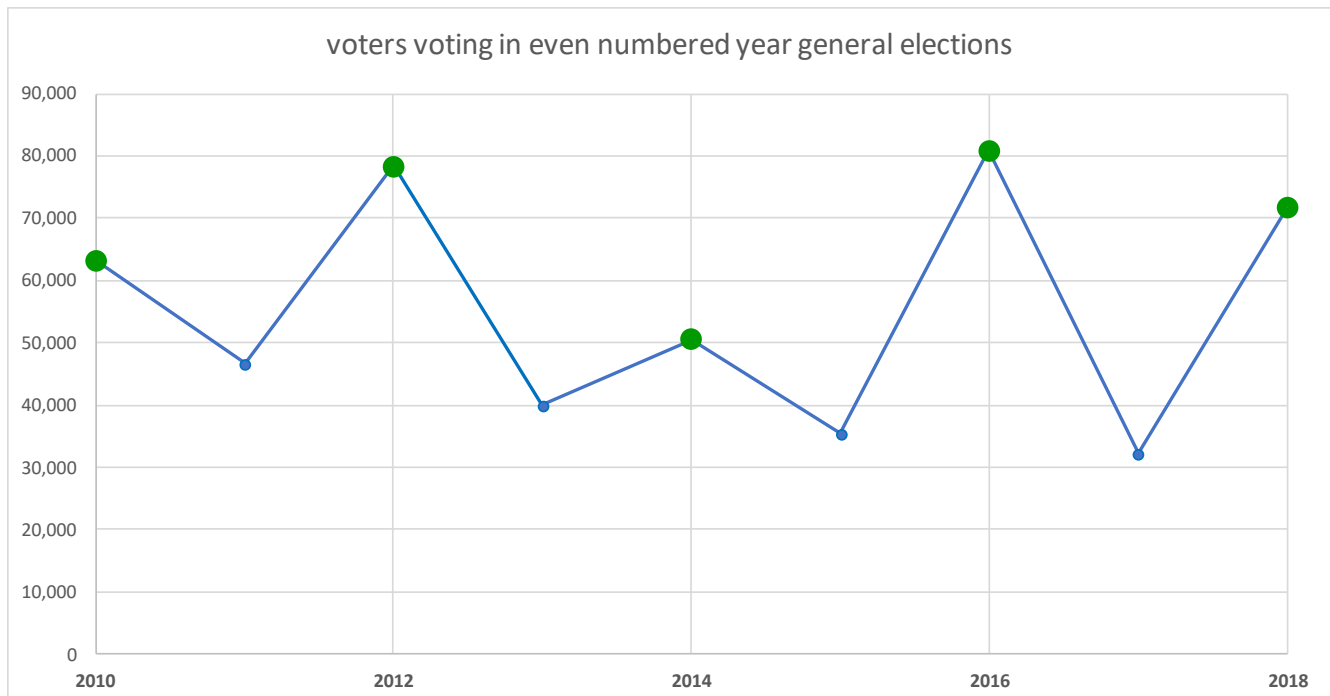
These large format area maps are also available on the elections division website. Individual precinct maps are also posted to the elections division website.

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

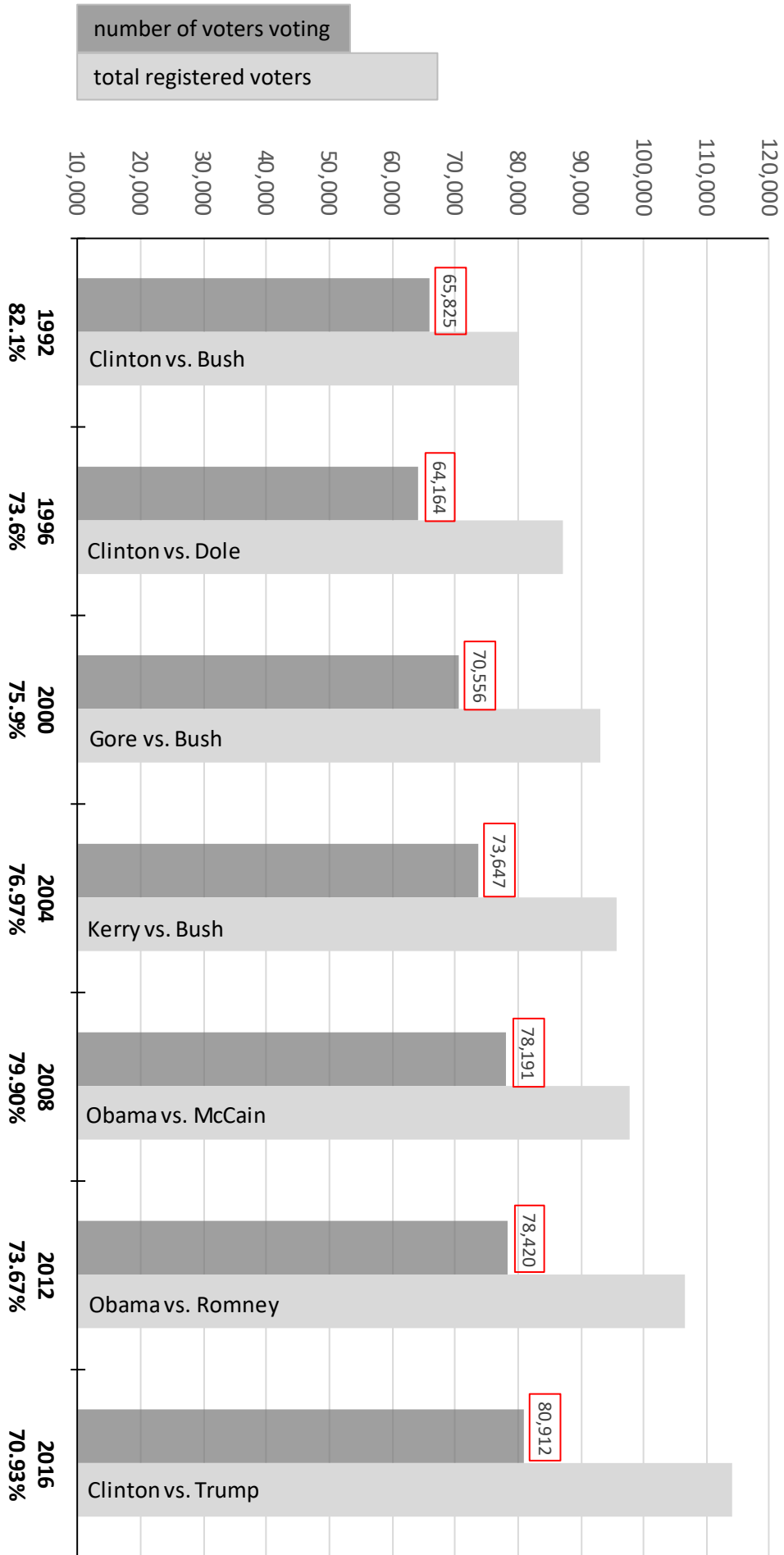
Election results: Please visit the elections website at www.yakimacounty.us/vote for current and past election results and statistics.

Statistics

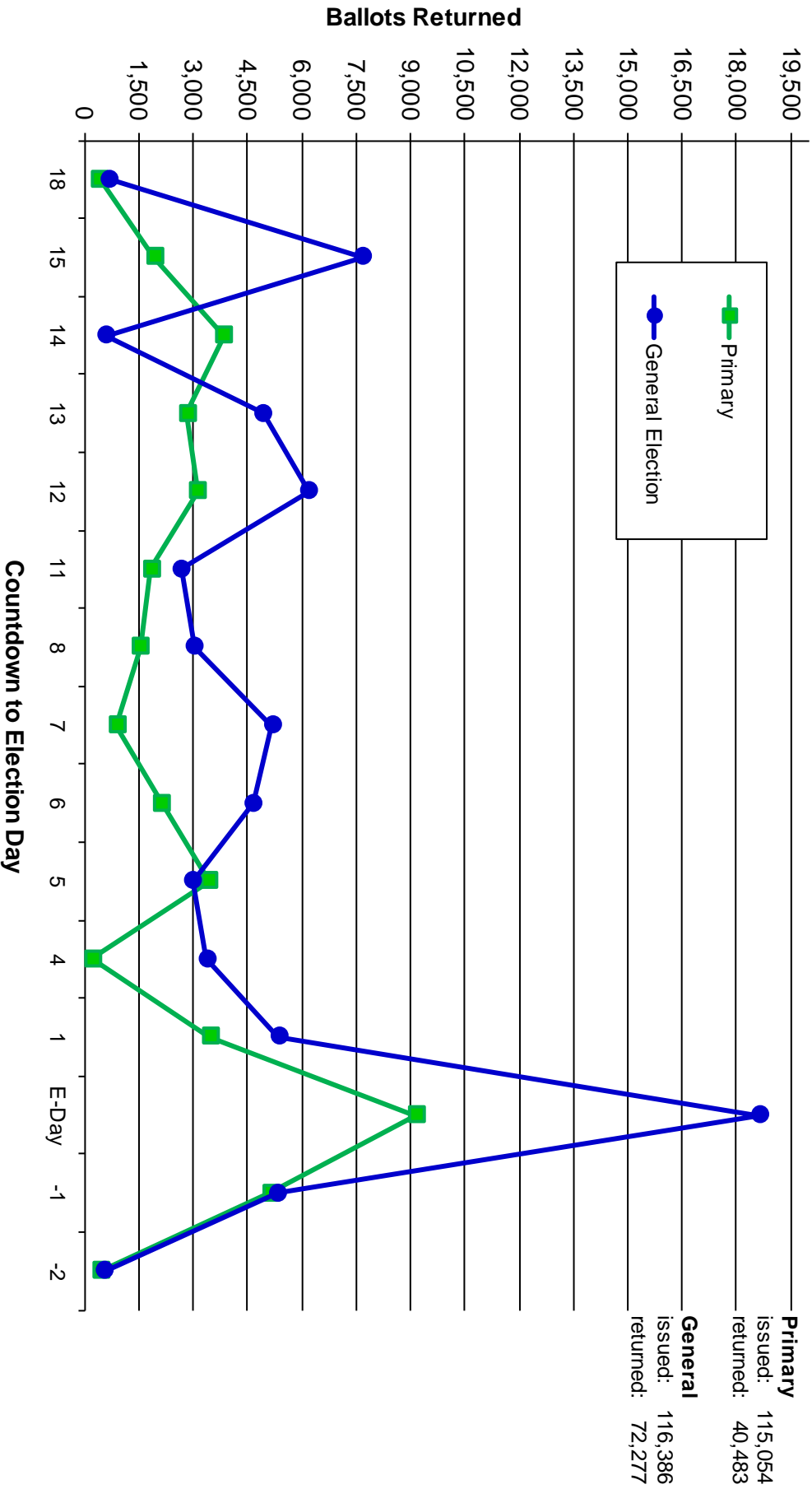
Election		Registered Voters	Ballots Cast	Turnout
2018	General	115,873	71,585	61.78%
	Primary	114,826	39,844	34.70%
2016	General	114,075	80,912	70.93%
	Primary	110,005	30,390	27.63%
2014	General	106,415	50,562	47.51%
	Primary	106,925	34,115	31.91%
2012	General	106,452	78,420	73.67%
	Primary	102,835	33,391	32.47%
2010	General	99,568	63,163	63.44%
	Primary	99,265	37,490	37.77%



Presidential Election Turnout History



Yakima County Ballot Rate of Return 2018 Primary and General Election



2020 - 2021 election calendar

2020			2021			
Election Date	Aug 4 2020	Nov 3 2020	Feb 9 2021	Apr 27 2021	Aug 3 2021	Nov 2 2021
Resolution Due	May 8	Aug 4	Dec 11	Feb 26	May 14	Aug 3
8 day by mail or online registration and update deadline	July 27	Oct 26	Feb 1	April 19	July 26	Oct 25
in-person registration and update deadline	Aug 4 8 pm	Nov 3 8 pm	Feb 9 8 pm	Apr 27 8 pm	Aug 3 8 pm	Nov 2 8 pm
Overseas/military ballots mailed	June 19	Sept 18	Jan 8	Mar 26	June 18	Sept 17
Ballots available	July 17	Oct 16	Jan 22	Apr 9	July 16	Oct 15
Election certified	Aug 18	Nov 24	Feb 19	May 7	Aug 17	Nov 23

dates explained

resolutions <small>RCW 29A.04.330</small>	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.		
ballots mailed <small>RCW 29A.40.070</small>	Military/overseas all others	30 days before February or April election 45 days before Primary and General Election 18 days before e-day
election certified <small>RCW 29A.60.190</small>	February or April election Primary General Election	10 days after e-day 14 days after e-day 21 days after e-day
candidate filing <small>RCW 29A.24.050</small>	Candidate filing is two weeks before Memorial day. Candidate filing for 2021 is May 17-21.	
voter registration and updates	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
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

Federal Election Commission

999 E Street NW
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 2nd 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

Charles R. Ross
Yakima County Auditor

Kathy Fisher
Elections Manager

Yolanda Arellano
Bilingual Program Analyst /
Office Coordinator

Bilingual Office Support
Specialist

Alexandrea Ramirez
Office Support 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.