

FEBRUARY 29, 2000

The Washington State Presidential Primary

A GUIDE TO VOTERS

PLEASE READ THIS GUIDE
IF YOU PLAN TO VOTE IN
THE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

SECRETARY OF STATE



STATE OF WASHINGTON



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INTRODUCTION

Twelve years ago, the people of Washington State joined together to create a new way for citizens to take part in selecting major political party nominees for President of the United States. Backed by 200,000 petition signatures, they won overwhelming legislative approval of an initiative establishing the Washington State Presidential Primary.

As we approach our third Presidential Primary, it is important to remember that this system gives citizens an opportunity to cast a direct vote in support of the nomination of a major political party candidate for President. The intent remains the same — to broaden public participation by letting voters express their preference through the convenience and accessibility of the regular election process.

The Presidential Primary was also created to encourage presidential candidates to campaign here and educate themselves about the issues that are important to Washington State and the Pacific Northwest. In this respect, the 2000 Presidential Primary has been especially successful with numerous visits by many of the major party candidates.

Because of its unique purpose, the Presidential Primary uses a balloting process that is different than the state's regular "blanket" primaries. This guide has been prepared to give you a better understanding of this special system and the options that will be presented to you. If you have questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to contact your county elections department or the Secretary of State's office.

Also, keep in mind that the major political party precinct caucuses are an integral part of our system of nominating presidential candidates. I urge you to attend your neighborhood precinct caucus meeting on March 7, 2000.

The 2000 Washington State Presidential Primary is your opportunity to send a message about who you would like to be nominated as a candidate for the highest office in the country. I hope you will take part in this important process.




RALPH MUNRO
Secretary of State

Looking for information about the state budget and state revenues?

Washington State Data Book

Available on the Internet at:
www.ofm.wa.gov/databook/

or contact:

Office of Financial Management
PO Box 43113
Olympia, WA 98504-3113
Phone: 360/902-0599
Fax: 360/664-8941

Where the Lottery Dollar Goes

Available on the Internet at:
www.wa.gov/lot/dollar.htm

or contact:

Washington State Lottery
PO Box 2167
Olympia, WA 98507-2167
Fax: 360/664-2630

Citizen's Guide to the Washington State Budget

Available on the Internet at:
[www.leg.wa.gov/senate/scs/
swm/other/othintro.htm](http://www.leg.wa.gov/senate/scs/swm/other/othintro.htm)

or contact:

Senate Ways & Means Committee
PO Box 40482
Olympia, WA 98504-0482
Phone: 360/786-7715
Fax: 360/786-7615

Secretary of State Voter Information Toll-Free Hotline 1-800-448-4881
(TDD Hotline for the hearing or speech impaired 1-800-422-8683)
Visit our online voters guide at www.secstate.wa.gov/vote2000

Voting in Washington State's Presidential Primary is different from other state primaries or elections. This is because the Presidential Primary is specifically designed to fit together with procedures used by the national political parties to choose nominees for President.

The Presidential Primary is also structured to accommodate our state's unique tradition of independent voting. Many voters want to express a preference for a presidential candidate without having to declare a political party affiliation as required by national party rules.

As a consequence, the Washington State Presidential Primary uses a multiple ballot system. In order to vote in the Presidential Primary, you will need to choose the type of ballot you wish to cast — a party ballot or an unaffiliated ballot.

The following questions and answers provide additional information regarding this one-of-a-kind ballot process and other issues related to the Presidential Primary. Please take a moment to study this information, and be sure to vote!

Q Who will be able to vote in the Presidential Primary?

A Any person eligible to vote in a regular primary or election held in the state - that is, any registered voter - is eligible to vote in the Presidential Primary. To be eligible to vote, you must be a citizen of the United States and at least 18 years of age at the time of the primary.

Q How do I vote in the Presidential Primary?

A Voters will select one of the following ballots to use in the Presidential Primary:

- Unaffiliated Ballot, listing all major party presidential candidates
- Democratic Ballot, listing only the candidates of the Democratic Party
- Republican Ballot, listing only the candidates of the Republican Party

Voters who choose a Democratic or Republican party ballot will be required to make a declaration of political party affiliation; there is no such requirement for the unaffiliated ballot. In any case, voters must choose one type of ballot and vote for one candidate.

Q What will the Presidential Primary ballots look like?

A Depending on each county's preference, the "unaffiliated" and "political party" candidate lists will be presented together on a single ballot, or divided accordingly among three separate ballots. (If the lists are presented together, an identifying mark or punch will be made on the ballot according to the voter's preference. The voter will then select a candidate from the appropriate party or unaffiliated list.) Each county will provide detailed instructions to poll site and absentee voters regarding the procedures to be followed. Be sure you understand and follow the instructions carefully, especially if you are voting by absentee ballot.

Q Can I vote by absentee ballot in the Presidential Primary?

A Yes. You may request an absentee ballot from your county auditor or elections department as you would for any other election. If you have applied for permanent status to receive an absentee ballot before each election, an absentee ballot for the Presidential Primary will automatically be sent to you.

Q Why is this multiple ballot system used in the Presidential Primary?

A This system was created to reconcile Washington State's tradition of independent voting with the requirements of the major political parties. Washington State does not require voters to register by party, and, unlike other states, has a "blanket" primary process. This process allows voters to alternate between political parties when voting to nominate candidates for the general election. In a Presidential Primary, however, the political parties have the right to consider only those votes cast by individuals who indicate their affiliation with the party.

Q Does this multiple ballot system apply to other state primaries or elections?

A No. The multiple ballot system applies only to the Presidential Primary.

Q How will the Presidential Primary ballots be tabulated?

A Vote totals for presidential candidates will be separated according to whether the votes were cast from political party ballots or unaffiliated ballots. Once the vote totals are certified by the Secretary of State, national and state political party rules will determine how the results will be used to allocate delegates to the national nominating conventions.

Q Does this mean my vote will have no impact on delegate allocation if I select an unaffiliated ballot?

A The Presidential Primary is your opportunity to tell the political parties who you want to be nominated as a presidential candidate. While the political parties are not obligated to use the votes of unaffiliated voters, those votes could have an influence on delegate allocations when they are finalized at the state party conventions in June.

Q Which parties will have candidates appearing in the Presidential Primary?

A Washington's Presidential Primary is limited to candidates of a "major political party", defined by state law as a political party of which at least one nominee for President, Vice President, U.S. senator, or a statewide office received at least five percent of the total vote cast at the last preceding state general election in an even-numbered year. Currently, only the Republican and Democratic parties meet this definition. (Independent and minor party candidates are nominated through a separate process. For more information contact the Secretary of State's office.)

(Continued on page 4)

Q How do the candidates qualify for the Presidential Primary ballot?

A Under state law, the Secretary of State is required to designate presidential candidates whose candidacy is “generally advocated or whose candidacy is generally recognized in the national news media.” The law also provides a petition process whereby candidates of a major political party may gain access to the Presidential Primary ballot by submitting the signatures of 1,000 people registered to vote in the state of Washington.

Q Have the precinct caucuses been eliminated?

A No. Not only do precinct caucuses remain in effect, they continue to play an integral role in our state's process of nominating presidential candidates. The caucuses, which take place on March 7, are the starting point for selecting the delegates who will ultimately attend the national nominating conventions of the major political parties. Under our new system, however, the political parties can use the results of the Presidential Primary to allocate delegates among various presidential candidates.

If you have further questions, contact your local county auditor or election department at the phone number listed on page 6 of this guide.

MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY CAUCUS AND CONVENTION PROCEDURES

In the state of Washington, candidates for most offices appearing on the state general election ballot are nominated at the state primary in September. The office of President is an important exception to this procedure. The candidates for President are nominated by the political parties at their national conventions — based on results from the Presidential Primary, party caucuses and conventions, or both.

The following information is provided to familiarize Washington citizens with these essential caucus and convention procedures. The delegates to the national conventions are selected through precinct caucuses, county or district conventions, and a state convention. Under national or state party rules, these national convention delegates may be bound or pledged to a particular candidate based on the number of votes that candidate receives at the Presidential Primary in this state.

The precinct caucus is a neighborhood-level meeting open to all members of a particular political party. This year the precinct caucuses will be held in each precinct of the state on March 7. Individuals are elected from each precinct to attend the legislative district or county convention where the delegates to the state convention are chosen. The state conventions of the major political parties will, in turn, choose delegates for the national convention at which the presidential and vice presidential nominees are selected.

In addition to the selection of delegates, those persons attending party caucuses and conventions have the opportunity to determine the party platform, resolutions and meet party candidates for a variety of local, state and national offices.

DATES OF PRECINCT CAUCUSES AND CONVENTIONS

	Democrats	Republicans
Precinct caucuses	March 7, 2000	March 7, 2000
County conventions	April 22, 2000	March-April 2000*
District conventions	April 29, 2000	March-April 2000*
State conventions	June 10, 2000	June 16, 2000
Location of state conventions	Spokane	Spokane

*Contact your county chairperson for the exact date.

RULES AND PROCEDURES

Each political party has the authority under the United States Constitution and state law to adopt rules to govern the delegate selection process and other party activities that occur in conjunction with the caucuses and conventions. These party rules specify the number of delegates from each precinct to the county or legislative district convention, the number of delegates from each legislative district or county convention to the state convention, and the procedural rules for conducting the caucuses and conventions. A copy of the rules of either party should be available in advance of the precinct caucuses from the state committee of that party.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The dates and locations of all party caucuses and conventions receive advance press coverage and are generally advertised by the parties. Specific questions about the nominating procedures should be directed to the state committee of the respective party. They may be able to respond to your inquiry directly or they may refer you to either your precinct committee person or your county or district chairperson. The addresses and telephone numbers of the state committees are as follows:

Washington State Democratic Central Committee
P.O. Box 4027
Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 583-0664
www.wa-democrats.org

Washington State Republican Party
16400 Southcenter Parkway, Suite 200
Seattle, WA 98188
(206) 575-2900
www.wsrp.org

VOTING IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

To register to vote in the state of Washington you must be:

- A citizen of the United States
- A legal resident of Washington state
- At least 18 years old by election day

In this state, you do not have to declare political party membership when you register to vote.

REGISTRATION DEADLINES

While you may sign up to vote at any time, keep in mind that there are registration deadlines prior to each primary and election. If you miss the deadline, your registration will not take effect until after the primary or election.

You must be signed up at least **30 days** in advance of a primary or election if you register by mail or through the Motor Voter program. Between **30 and 15 days** prior to a primary or election, you may register in person at the office of your county auditor or election department, or other location designated by them. You will then be permitted to vote by absentee ballot.

For your convenience, the phone number and address of your county auditor or election department is located on page 6 of this guide.

HOW TO REGISTER

Simply complete a voter registration form and put it in the mail. Forms are available from your county auditor or election department, public libraries, schools and other government offices. You may also request a form through the State Voter Hotline or the Internet (see *Information and Additional Services on this page*).

KEEP YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION UP-TO-DATE!

If your registration record does not contain your *current* name or address, you may not be able to vote in the next primary or election. You can use the mail-in voter registration form to let your county auditor or election department know when you move or change your name.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Absentee ballot requests must be made to your county auditor or election department (not the Secretary of State). You may request a ballot by phone, fax or mail as early as 45 days before a primary or election. No absentee ballots are issued on the day of the primary or election except to hospitalized voters. You may also apply **in writing** to automatically receive an absentee ballot before each primary or election. You can find an absentee ballot request form on the back page of this guide. ***If you have already requested an absentee ballot or have a permanent request for a ballot on file, please do not submit another application.***

Once you receive your absentee or mail-in ballot, vote it. **Please do not** attempt to vote at the poll site. Absentee and mail-in ballots must be signed and postmarked or delivered to your county auditor or election department **on or before** the day of the primary or election.

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY DATE AND POLL HOURS

The Presidential Primary is February 29, 2000. Polling hours for all primaries and elections are 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

INFORMATION AND ADDITIONAL SERVICES

For help with voting your ballot or locating your polling site, contact your county auditor or election department. The phone number and address of your county auditor or election department is located on page 6 of this guide.

Additional services of the Office of the Secretary of State are:

By phone

Voter information hotline 1-800-448-4881
(TDD for the hearing or speech impaired only, 1-800-422-8683).

- If you have not received a Presidential Primary Guide
- To request a Braille or cassette-tape version of this guide
- Help with finding your elected officials
- Voter registration and absentee ballot information

Via the Internet

The Secretary of State's home page is located at:

www.secstate.wa.gov

The Secretary of State's online voters guide is located at: www.secstate.wa.gov/vote2000



Request for Mail-in Voter Registration Form

(Please print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Number of forms requested: _____

MAIL TO: Office of the Secretary of State, Voter Registration, PO Box 40230, Olympia, WA 98504-0230

COUNTY AUDITOR AND ELECTION DEPARTMENT CONTACT INFORMATION

These numbers
require special
telephone
equipment to
operate.

COUNTY AUDITOR ELECTION DEPARTMENT	MAILING ADDRESS	CITY	ZIP	TELEPHONE NUMBER	TDD SERVICE ONLY for the speech or hearing impaired.
ADAMS	210 W BROADWAY	RITZVILLE	99169	(509) 659-3249	(509) 659-1122
ASOTIN	P O BOX 129	ASOTIN	99402	(509) 243-2084	1-800-855-1155
BENTON	P O BOX 470	PROSSER	99350	(509) 736-3085	1-800-855-1155
CHELAN	350 ORONDO AVE	WENATCHEE	98801	(509) 664-5432	1-800-833-6388
CLALLAM	P O BOX 3030	PORT ANGELES	98362-0338	(360) 417-2221	1-800-833-6388
CLARK	P O BOX 8815	VANCOUVER	98666-8815	(360) 397-2345	(360) 737-6032
COLUMBIA	341 E MAIN ST	DAYTON	99328	(509) 382-4541	1-800-833-6388
COWLITZ	207 4TH AVE N	KELSO	98626-4130	(360) 577-3005	(360) 577-3061
DOUGLAS	P O BOX 456	WATERVILLE	98858	(509) 884-9403	(509) 884-9477
FERRY	350 E DELAWARE AVE #2	REPUBLIC	99166	(509) 775-5208	1-800-833-6388
FRANKLIN	P O BOX 1451	PASCO	99301	(509) 545-3538	1-800-833-6388
GARFIELD	P O BOX 278	POMEROY	99347	(509) 843-1411	1-800-833-6388
GRANT	P O BOX 37	EPHRATA	98823	(509) 754-2001 EXT 377	1-800-833-6388
GRAYS HARBOR	100 W BROADWAY STE 2	MONTESANO	98563	(360) 249-4232	(360) 249-6575
ISLAND	P O BOX 5000	COUPEVILLE	98239	(360) 679-7366	(360) 679-7305
JEFFERSON	P O BOX 563	PORT TOWNSEND	98368	(360) 385-9119	1-800-833-6388
KING	500 4TH AVE RM 553	SEATTLE	98104	(206) 296-8683	(206) 296-0109
KITSAP	1026 SIDNEY AVE STE 175	PORT ORCHARD	98366	(360) 337-7128	1-800-833-6388
KITTITAS	205 W 5TH	ELLENSBURG	98926	(509) 962-7503	1-800-833-6388
Klickitat	205 S COLUMBUS MSCH 2	GOLDENDALE	98620	(509) 773-4001	1-800-833-6388
LEWIS	P O BOX 29	CHEHALIS	98532-0029	(360) 740-1164	(360) 740-1480
LINCOLN	P O BOX 28	DAVENPORT	99122	(509) 725-4971	1-800-833-6388
MASON	P O BOX 400	SHELTON	98584	(360) 427-9670 EXT 469	1-800-833-6388
OKANOGAN	P O BOX 1010	OKANOGAN	98840	(509) 422-7240	1-800-833-6388
PACIFIC	P O BOX 97	SOUTH BEND	98586	(360) 875-9317	(360) 875-9400
PEND OREILLE	P O BOX 5015	NEWPORT	99156	(509) 447-3185	(509) 447-3186
PIERCE	2401 S 35TH ST RM 200	TACOMA	98409	(253) 798-7430 1-800-446-4979	1-800-833-6388
SAN JUAN	P O BOX 638	FRIDAY HARBOR	98250	(360) 378-3357	(360) 378-4151
SKAGIT	P O BOX 1306	MT VERNON	98273	(360) 336-9305	(360) 336-9332
SKAMANIA	P O BOX 790	STEVENSON	98648	(509) 427-9420	1-800-833-6388
SNOHOMISH	3000 ROCKEFELLER AVE	EVERETT	98201	(425) 388-3444	(425) 388-3700
SPOKANE	W 1116 BROADWAY	SPOKANE	99260-0020	(509) 477-2320	(509) 477-2333
STEVENS	215 S OAK ST	COLVILLE	99114	(509) 684-7514	1-800-833-6384
THURSTON	2000 LAKERIDGE DR SW	OLYMPIA	98502	(360) 786-5408	(360) 754-2933
WAHIAKUM	P O BOX 543	CATHLAMET	98612	(360) 795-3219	1-800-833-6388
WALLA WALLA	P O BOX 1856	WALLA WALLA	99362	(509) 527-3204	1-800-833-6388
WHATCOM	311 GRAND AVE STE 103	BELLINGHAM	98225	(360) 676-6742	(360) 738-4555
WHITMAN	P O BOX 350	COLFAX	99111	(509) 397-6270	1-800-833-6388
YAKIMA	128 N 2ND ST RM 117	YAKIMA	98901	(509) 574-1340	1-800-833-6388

➤ Attention speech — or hearing — impaired Telecommunications Device for the Deaf users: If you are using an “800 number” from the list above for TDD service, you must be prepared to give the relay service operator the telephone number for your county auditor or election department.



If you need the information in this guide
in an alternate format,
please call 1-800-448-4881 (TDD: 1-800-422-8683.)



Printed on recycled paper.
Please recycle this guide!

ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION

If you have requested an absentee ballot or have a permanent request for an absentee ballot on file, please do not submit another application.

To be filled out by applicant. Please print in ink.

Registered Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Telephone: (Day) _____ (Eve.) _____

For identification purposes only (optional) Voter registration number if known: _____

Birth Date: _____ Have you recently registered to vote? Yes ☐ No ☐

I hereby declare that I am a registered voter.

Date _____

Signature  _____

To be valid, your signature must be included

Send my ballot to the following address (if different from above):

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

ZIP Code: _____ Country: _____



**Mail this
absentee ballot
request form to your
county auditor or election
department.
See previous page for
your county's mailing
address.**

This application is for:

Presidential Primary only
February 29, 2000 ☐

Permanent Request
All future Elections ☐

For office use only

Precinct Code _____

Levy Code _____

Ballot Code _____

Ballot Mailed _____

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Street Address: _____

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Telephone: (Day) _____ (Eve.) _____

For identification purposes only (optional) Voter registration number if known: _____

Birth Date: _____ Have you recently registered to vote? Yes ☐ No ☐

I hereby declare that I am a registered voter.

Date _____

Signature  _____

To be valid, your signature must be included

Send my ballot to the following address (if different from above):

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

ZIP Code: _____ Country: _____



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