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Our Vote is Our Power

Your guide to the Washington State **Aug 4th** primary



The many can defeat the money.

The Big Picture

Do you care about gas prices, cost of living, wars of choice, and the rule of law? Our votes impact what happens with these issues.

US Congress consists of the House of Representatives and the Senate. All 10 of Washington's Representatives are on the ballot this year. Their job, hold the President and Cabinet accountable with hearings and subpoenas – to debate and write laws.

State Supreme Court consists of 9 justices and 5 (a majority) will be on the ballot. This court decides the future of Washington's constitution. They are the last shield between Washingtonians and federal overreach. Their words are often final.

State Legislature consists of 49 senators and 98 representatives. They control the budget, pass voting rights laws, and set policy on everything from childcare to climate.

Local Offices span commissioners, planners, judges, prosecutors, police, school boards, and more. These are the positions closest to your daily life.

All About State Primaries

Primaries matter!

Washington State is a **top-two primary.** This means the two candidates with the most votes move on to the general election, regardless of affiliation. Our votes can ensure the best candidates appear on the November ballot.

Many statewide offices in Washington are determined during the primary when only one party's candidates advance to the general election. Many legislative and local races are settled before a single November ballot hits a mailbox.

Washington State is a **universal vote-by-mail** state. No line to wait in. Your primary ballot will be mailed to you. Just fill it out and return it.

Primary voting has more weight!

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Daily Life is on the Ballot

Prices - Gas, food, living costs, inflation, tariffs.

Economy - Jobs, career opportunity, impact of AI.

Healthcare - Insurance program, prescription drug pricing, mental health funding, patients rights.

Housing - Rent control, tenant protections, zoning reform, house prices, severe supply shortages.

Environment - Emissions standards, pollution, climate change, water and land use, data centers.

Energy - Renewables, energy security, efficiency requirements, battery infrastructure, rising prices.

Education - Curriculum, after school programs, reading levels, book bans by "Mom's for Liberty."

Women's Rights - Economic equality, gender based violence, reproductive care, body autonomy.

Minority Rights - Anti-discrimination, racial bias, combating hate speech, cultural preservation.

LGBTQ+ Rights - Bans, trans, bathroom bills.

Online Rights - Data tracking, resale brokers, age assurance, encryption, GDPR and data deletion.

Public safety - Police accountability, surveillance state, prison rates, balancing safety with privacy.

Immigration - ICE, visas, pathway to citizenship.

Wars of Choice - Iran, Venezuela, Cuba, Ukraine. Threats to NATO, Greenland, Canada, Brazil.

What's at Stake

All US Congressional House Seats

Every House seat is up for vote. They need to do their job and govern our country. WA has 10.

Five State Supreme Court Justices

Five of nine state court justices are up for election. Washington's Supreme Court is the most powerful court in our state. They interpret our constitution and state laws. Currently our constitution protects *more* rights than the US Constitution.

State-level Representatives

All state representatives (98) and half of the state Senators (24) are on the ballot. They manage the state budget and laws.

Local Elections

The quiet elections that control your life.

School board elections. City council races. County commissioners. Judges, prosecutors and police chiefs. These have the lowest turnout of any election and a small group can decide everything.

Voting Rights

Our very right to choose our leaders is at stake. Today money is buying politicians and politicians are picking voters. This is backwards! Voting in the primaries can give us better choices in the fall.

August Primaries

July 17 - Start of 18-day voting period

July 23 - Postmark completed ballot

July 27 - Online registration deadline

Aug 4 - In person registration deadline

Aug 4 - Voting! Drop off ballot by **8pm**



Make a Plan to Vote!

Step 1 - Check Your Registration

Go to sos.wa.gov and check your status.

Step 2 - Receive a Ballot in the Mail

It should show up at least 18 days before Election Day. If it doesn't, contact your county auditor immediately.

Step 3 - Gather Your People

Ask your friends and family if they have a plan. Find time to talk about issues and vote together.

Step 4 - Research Candidates & Issues

ProgressiveVotersGuide.com/Washington, local newspapers, issue summaries on the ballot.

Step 5 - Fill Out Your Ballot

Use blue/black pen and fill oval completely. Don't forget to sign ***and*** date.

Step 6 - Return Your Ballot

Best option: Drop box. Available at libraries, community centers, and government buildings in every county. Open 24/7. Secure. No waiting.

Second option: Mail it by July 23 to be safe.

Third option: Vote in person at a voting center. Open 18 days before Election Day and until 8pm.

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