

## 2017 Election Calendar

<b>May 1</b>	First day to file a candidate declaration by mail ( <a href="#">RCW 29A.24.081</a> )
<b>May 15</b>	Official candidate filing week opens ( <a href="#">RCW 29A.24.050</a> )
<b>May 19</b>	Final day for candidates to file for office ( <a href="#">RCW 29A.24.050</a> )
<b>May 19</b>	Lot draw for ballot order in the Auditor's Office, Election Division, at 4:45 pm
<b>May 22</b>	Last day for candidates to withdraw ( <a href="#">RCW 29A.24.131</a> )
<b>May 26</b>	Last day to submit candidate statement & photo for Local Voters' Pamphlet
<b>June 16</b>	Military & overseas ballots mailed for the Primary Election ( <a href="#">RCW 29A.40.070</a> )
<b>July 3</b>	Deadline for mail-in registrations or address changes and Deadline for online registrations or address changes ( <a href="#">RCW 29A.08.140</a> )
<b>July 12</b>	Ballots mailed for the Primary Election & Accessible Voting Units available to vote on at Whatcom County Auditor's Office
<b>July 14</b>	Last day to file as a declared write-in candidate for the Primary Election ( <a href="#">RCW 29A.24.311</a> )
<b>July 24</b>	Last day for in-person registration to vote in the Primary Election, for new WA state voters only ( <a href="#">RCW 29A.08.140</a> )
<b>August 1</b>	Primary Election
<b>August 15</b>	County certification of Primary Election ( <a href="#">RCW 29A.60.190</a> )
<b>August 18</b>	State certification of Primary Election ( <a href="#">RCW 29A.60.190</a> )
<b>September 22</b>	Military & overseas ballots mailed for the November General Election ( <a href="#">RCW 29A.40.070</a> )
<b>October 9</b>	Deadline for mail-in registrations or address changes and Deadline for online registrations or address changes ( <a href="#">RCW 29A.08.140</a> )
<b>October 18</b>	Ballots mailed for the General Election & Accessible Voting Units available to vote on at Whatcom County Auditor's Office
<b>October 20</b>	Last day to file as a declared write-in candidate for the General Election ( <a href="#">RCW 29A.24.311</a> )
<b>October 30</b>	Last day for in-person registration to vote in the General Election, for new WA state voters only ( <a href="#">RCW 29A.08.140</a> )
<b>November 7</b>	General Election
<b>November 28</b>	County certification of General Election ( <a href="#">RCW 29A.60.190</a> )
<b>December 7</b>	State certification of General Election ( <a href="#">RCW 29A.60.250</a> )

# The Road Starts Here . . . . .

As you consider running for office or if you've already decided to run, this guide will provide you with concise information on what you need to know *before* you file, *when* you file, *after* you file, and more!

## Filing for Office

### Requirements

Be a registered voter of the district and meet the residency requirements for the office for which you are filing. (See pages 6-8 for specific requirements)

### Before You File

The Declaration of Candidacy will ask for campaign contact information. This information will be made public. Before you file, have the following information ready:

- e-mail address;
- phone number;
- website address, if applicable; and
- campaign address if different from your residential address.

If no campaign address is given, your residential address will be used. Campaign contact information will be published in the online local voters' pamphlet and in the printed pamphlet. The Declaration of Candidacy is subject to public disclosure per [RCW 42.56.070](#).

Once filed, a Declaration of Candidacy may not be altered, except to update contact information.

Also check requirements to obtain an Internal Revenue Service number assigned for your campaign.

### How and When to File

**All information submitted during filing week is public record.**

Filing for office in 2017 can be accomplished in one of the following ways:

#### Online:

All candidates are encouraged to file online at [www.whatcomcounty.us/auditor](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/auditor) . If the office has a filing fee, Visa or MasterCard is required for payment.

**Begins** at 9:00 am, Monday, May 15, 2017

**Ends** at 4:00 pm, Friday, May 19, 2017

If you are unable to file online **and/or** you wish to pay the filing fee by cash, check, or petition, you must file your Declaration of Candidacy at the Whatcom County Auditor's Office, Election Division, in one of the following ways:

**In Person:**

Candidates will be directed to complete their filing at a computer set up in our office.

**Begins** at 8:30 am, Monday, May 15, 2017

**Ends** at 4:30 pm, Friday, May 19, 2017

**By Mail:**

If you will be unable to file during filing week, you may mail your Declaration of Candidacy with the filing fee to the Auditor's Office up to 10 business days prior to the start of filing week or you may have someone bring it in for you. The full filing fee must be included. Filings submitted by mail are retained for processing until filing opens for all candidates (RCW 29A.24.081).

Any Declaration received before the tenth business day prior to the start of filing week shall be returned to the candidate with notification that the Declaration was received too early to be processed. The candidate shall then be permitted to resubmit the Declaration during the filing period.

All Declarations of Candidacy sent through the US Postal Service must be received in our office by 4:30 pm Friday, May 19, 2017.

**Electronic (Fax, Email):**

Same deadlines and requirements apply as for in-person filing. If payment of a filing fee is required, electronic filing is not complete until receipt of the fee.

See page 20-27 for a list of filing fees.

**Filing as a Declared Write-In Candidate**

Any person who desires to be a candidate and has missed official filing week, May 15-19, 2017, can file a Declaration of Candidacy as a write-in candidate not later than July 14, 2017, and have such votes counted. Declarations of Candidacy for write-in candidates must be accompanied by a filing fee in the same manner as required of other candidates filing for the office as provided in RCW 29A.24.091. No write-in candidate may be included in any voters' pamphlet produced.

**No Double Filings**

A candidate's name shall not appear for more than one office on the ballot. ([RCW 29A.36.201](#)) The only exceptions are the office of PCO or Charter Review Commission when applicable.

### **Candidates Who Lack Funds to Pay the Filing Fee**

Candidates lacking sufficient income or assets to pay the filing fee may submit a filing fee petition. ([RCW 29A.24.091](#)). The petition must be presented with the Declaration of Candidacy. It must contain one valid (registered voter) signature for each dollar of the filing fee. For example, if the filing fee is \$200.00, the petition must contain 200 valid signatures of registered voters who reside in the district/jurisdiction of the office you are seeking. You should gather extra signatures to allow for invalid signatures. The Filing Fee Petition form is available at the Whatcom County Auditor's Office, Election Division. To download the form go to <http://www.whatcomcounty.us/1730/Candidates> or click on: [Candidate Resources](#).

No signatures may be submitted after 4:30 p.m. on Friday, May 19, 2017. Petitions cannot be combined with money for the filing fee.

### **Public Disclosure Commission (PDC)**

All information regarding reporting requirements must be obtained from the PDC. See: [www.pdc.wa.gov](http://www.pdc.wa.gov) or call the PDC at (360) 753-1111 or toll-free at (877) 601-2828.

PDC filing requirements may occur prior to filing for office. We recommend that you contact the PDC once you have decided to become a candidate. Forms, instruction manuals, and brochures are available online or call the PDC for additional assistance.

The Auditor's Office does not have PDC forms or instruction manuals available and no forms are filed at this office.

### **How Will I Find Out If My Declaration of Candidacy Has Been Approved**

You will receive an e-mail from the Secretary of State's Office to inform you if your Declaration of Candidacy has been approved. (Please adjust your computer filters so the e-mail is not sent to your spam folder, or check your spam folder.)

The e-mail will also contain a link to submit your candidate statement and photo for the voters' pamphlet. **Before you click on the link**, read the e-mail you'll receive from the Whatcom County Auditor's Election Division directing you to Whatcom County's Candidate Filing Guide. **Read** the candidate statement and photo requirements for the voters' pamphlet **before** you submit your statement through the Secretary of State's link.

### **Withdrawal of Filing**

A candidate may withdraw a Declaration of Candidacy in writing through 4:30 p.m. on Monday, May 22, 2017. There will be no withdrawal period for Declarations of Candidacy filed during special filing periods.

Filing fees are not refundable.

### **Order of Appearance on Ballot and in Local Voters' Pamphlet**

The order of candidates' names on the Primary Election ballot and in the Primary Election Local Voters' Pamphlet is determined by lot draw. The lot draw will occur after the close of filing on

Friday, May 19, 2017, at 4:45 pm, at the Whatcom County Auditor's Office, Election Division. The process is open to the public. ([RCW 29A.36.131](#))

In the General Election, the candidate that receives the most votes in the Primary Election will be listed first on the ballot, as well as in the General Election Local Voters' Pamphlet.

If no Primary Election is held for an office, candidates will appear in lot draw order on the General Election ballot.

### **Local Voters' Pamphlet**

#### **Submitting Local Voters' Pamphlet Information**

The Local Voters' Pamphlet provides a free opportunity for every candidate to publish biographical information, candidate statement, and a photo. All candidate statements and photos are **due no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, May 26, 2017**, even if you will not be on the ballot until the November General Election. For those candidates who participate in the Primary Election there will be an opportunity to submit a revised statement for the General Election. Notification of the statement deadline will be sent by e-mail after certification of the Primary.

After you file for office and your Declaration of Candidacy has been approved, you will receive an e-mail from the Secretary of State's Office. (Please adjust your computer filters so the e-mail is not sent to your spam folder or, check your spam folder.) The e-mail will contain a link to submit your candidate statement and photo for the voters' pamphlet. **Before you click on the link**, read the e-mail you'll receive from the Whatcom County Auditor's Election Division. You will be directed to the Whatcom County Candidate Filing Guide. Requirements may change from year to year; **read** the candidate statement and photo requirements.

Prepare your biography, candidate statement, and photo **before** you click on the link to submit your statement. You will only be allowed to enter through the link once. You cannot begin to enter your statement and return to it at a later time. All information must be submitted in the same sitting.

If you experience technical problems, call the Whatcom County Auditor's Election Division immediately at (360) 778-5102. Technical difficulties will not excuse candidates from meeting the deadline.

## Candidate Biographical Information

The biography may not exceed 100 words. You must use the following four (4) headings, which do not count toward the word limit:

- **Elected Experience** (Judicial candidates, use *Legal/Judicial Experience* instead)
- **Other Professional Experience**
- **Education**
- **Community Service**

“No information submitted” will be inserted next to each heading left blank. The candidate biography is governed by the same Administrative Rules as the candidate statement with the exception of the word count. **See rules below.**

## Candidate Statement

The candidate statement may not exceed 200 words and cannot exceed four (4) paragraphs.

- Hyphenated words count as two words. Statements exceeding the word limit will be shortened by deleting full sentences from the end.
- Proofread carefully. Your statement and biography will be printed exactly as submitted. Once submitted, changes to the statement will not be allowed.
- Use only *italics* to emphasize words or phrases. Bolding, underlining, and all caps are not allowed. Tables, lists, and bullets are not allowed. Text must be written in paragraphs.
- Candidate statements are printed exactly as submitted and are not checked for grammar, punctuation, spelling, or accuracy.
- Candidate statements shall be limited to those about the candidate only. They shall not contain profane, libelous, or defamatory language or any matter prohibited by federal and/or state law. Any such statements will be reviewed by the Prosecuting Attorney and the candidate will be notified of the prosecutor’s determination.

Candidates will be notified via email and/or telephone if their statement or any portion of it has been rejected for any reason. Candidates will have three (3) days after the rejection notice to re-write the statement. Candidates can file an appeal with the Auditor within two (2) days of receiving the notice of rejection. The Prosecuting Attorney will render a decision of the appeal within two (2) days, and the decision will be final. In the event a Prosecuting Attorney participated in the initial review and rejection, a second Prosecuting Attorney will review the statement on appeal. The candidate will be notified of the Prosecuting Attorney’s decision.

## Candidate Photo

Photo submissions are accepted for all candidates **except:** for any candidate that will be included in a state, judicial, city or other voters' pamphlet or for a Precinct Committee Officer.

### Photos must be:

- Current (within 5 years)
- Focused on head and shoulders
- Digital with a minimum 300 dpi resolution
- No smaller than 4 x 5 inches

### Photos must not:

- Show clothing or insignia that suggest a public office
- Show judicial robes, law enforcement, military uniforms, etc.
- Show any animal or other person than yourself

Photos will be rejected and/or altered if they contain any of the above.

## Candidate Filing Guidelines

### Residency Requirements

**US Senate:** Candidates must be at least 30 years of age, 9 years as US citizens, and residents of the state for which they shall be chosen. (Reference [US Constitution, Article 1, Section 3](#))

**US Representative:** Candidates must be at least 25 years of age, 7 years as US citizens, and residents of the state for which they shall be chosen. (Reference [US Constitution, Article 1, Section 2](#))

**State Legislature:** Candidates must be citizens of the US and qualified voters in the district at the time of filing. (Reference [State Constitution, Article II, Section 7](#); [RCW 29A.24.075](#))

**State Officers:** Candidates must be citizens of the US and qualified voters in the district at the time of filing. (Reference [State Constitution, Article III, Section 25](#); [RCW 29A.24.075](#))

**Supreme and Superior Court Judges:** Candidates must be admitted to practice law in the courts of record of the State of Washington. (Reference [State Constitution, Article IV, Section 17](#); [Parker v. Wyman 176 Wn.2d 212 \(2012\)](#))

**Court of Appeals Judges:** 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. (Reference [RCW 2.06.050](#))

**District Court Judges:** Candidates must be registered voters of

their district and admitted to practice law in the courts of record of the State of Washington. (Reference [RCW 3.34.060](#))

**Bellingham Municipal Court Judge:** Candidates must be registered voters of Whatcom County and an attorney admitted to

practice law before the courts of record of the State of Washington. (Reference [RCW 3.50.057](#) and [35.20.170](#))

**County Offices:** Candidates must be registered voters of Whatcom County at the time of filing. Council members shall also be residents of the district which they represent. (Reference [Whatcom County Home Rule Charter 4.20](#), [RCW 29A.24.075](#))

**Port Districts:** Candidates must be registered voters of Whatcom County at the time of filing and must live in the district which they represent. (Reference [RCW 53.12.010](#), [29A.24.075](#))

**Public Utility District:** Candidates must be registered voters of Whatcom County at the time of filing and must live in the district which they represent. (Reference [RCW 54.12.010](#) and [29A.24.075](#))

**City of Bellingham:** Candidates must be registered voters and residents of the City for one year immediately preceding the election. Residence and voting within the limits of any territory which has been included in, annexed to or consolidated with the City is construed to have been residence within the City.

Candidates running for City Council must be a resident of the ward for which they seek election. Candidates who have any questions whether they meet the residency requirements should contact the city prior to filing.

No City elected officer shall hold any other office or employment within the City government.

**Non-Charter Code Cities (Blaine, Everson, Ferndale, Lynden, Nooksack, Sumas):** Candidates must be registered voters of the city at the time of filing and must have been a resident of the city for a period of at least one year preceding the election. Candidates running for Blaine City Council must be a resident of the ward for which they seek election. (Reference [RCW 35A.12.030](#), [35A.13.020](#), [29A.24.075](#))

**School Districts:** Candidates must be registered voters of the district or director district at the time of filing. All school districts have director districts except Lynden and Bellingham. (Reference [RCW 28A.343.350](#), [29A.24.075](#))

**Special Purpose Districts (Fire, Water, Water & Sewer, Cemetery, Park & Recreation, Metropolitan Park, and Hospital):** Candidates must be qualified electors (registered



voters) of the district at the time of filing. ([Reference RCW 29A.24.075](#)) South Whatcom Fire Authority and Lake Whatcom Water & Sewer have director districts and candidates must be a resident of the director district for which they seek election.

**Precinct Committee Officers:** Candidates must be registered voters of Whatcom County at the time of filing and must live in the precinct for which they seek election.

**Charter Review Commission:** When applicable, at the time of filing, candidates must be registered voters of Whatcom County and must live in the commissioner district which they will represent. The Commission shall consist of fifteen (15) persons, an equal number from each Council district. The last Charter Review Commission was elected in November 2014 to serve in 2015. The commissioner serves a term of one year. ([Reference Whatcom County Charter Article 8, Section 8.11; RCW 29A.24.075](#))

**Drainage Districts:** Candidates must be both property owners in the district and registered voters in the State of Washington for thirty (30) days at the time of filing. Note: Drainage District Elections are held in February in even years. ([Reference RCW 85.38](#))

## Other Districts

The following districts conduct their own elections and the Whatcom County Auditor is not responsible for their operations:

- **Irrigation Districts:** ([Reference RCW 87.03.030](#))
- **Whatcom Conservation District:** ([Reference RCW 89.08.110](#))
- **Lummi Sewer Board:** ([Reference www.ltswd.com](http://www.ltswd.com) )

## Voids in Candidacy RCW 29A.24.141, 181

**A void in candidacy occurs when:**

- No candidate has filed for the position
- Candidates who filed have withdrawn
- Candidates who filed have died or been disqualified

If a void in candidacy exists, a special three-day filing period will be opened. ([Reference RCW 29A.24.181](#)) Notice of the special three-day filing period will be given by notifying the media and posting on our website.

If a void in candidacy is filled during the special filing period, no primary will be held regardless of the number of candidates that filed. All candidates who file during the special filing period will appear on the General Election ballot.

## Vacancy in Office RCW 29A.24.171

*If, prior to the first day of the regular filing period, a vacancy occurs in office either by resignation, death, or disqualification, filings for that office shall be accepted during the regular filing period. The position will appear on the primary and general*

election ballots unless no primary is required. (See [Article 4, Section 29 of the State Constitution for Superior Court Judge.](#))

If, on the first day of the regular filing period or later a vacancy occurs in office, no election is held for that office. The jurisdiction will fill the vacant position with an appointment until the next election for that office.

**If No One Files for a Nonpartisan Office (Lapsed Elections) RCW 29A.24.191, 201**

If no candidate files during the regular filing period and subsequent special filing period, an election for an office will not be held until the next applicable election for the office.

If after the special three-day filing period has passed and no candidate has filed for any city, town, or district position, the incumbent continues to serve until a successor is elected at the next election when such positions are voted upon.

**Primary Election Guidelines  
Partisan Races**

**Precinct Committee Officers  
RCW 29A.52.171**

Precinct Committee Officers (PCOs) are on the Primary Election ballot in even years. They are elected to a two-year term which commences the first day of December following the Primary. Two officers are elected in each precinct, one Democrat and one Republican. Candidates must affiliate with a major political party when filing. There is no filing fee. Candidates may also file for one other position on the ballot. (Reference [RCW 29A.24.075](#) and [29A.52.171](#))

Precinct Committee Officer candidates are *not* subject to Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) requirements.

If only one candidate files for a PCO position, they are considered elected and the position does not appear on the Primary ballot. If two or more candidates file for the same position, the race will appear on the Primary ballot and the candidate with the most votes is elected. PCOs do not appear on the General Election ballot.

**Partisan Offices  
RCW 29A.52, 29A.36, WAC 434-230-015 and 045**

Certain offices are designated partisan and others nonpartisan. A partisan office is an office where a candidate must declare a political party preference on his or her Declaration of Candidacy. Federal, statewide, and legislative positions and the County Prosecuting Attorney are partisan offices.

A candidate's preference does not indicate endorsement by the party. No changes to party preference will be accepted after the deadline for withdrawal of candidacy.

A Primary Election will be held for each partisan office open for

election, regardless of the number of candidates filing.

It is the voter's option to vote for partisan candidates of their choice and/or vote for any or all nonpartisan races and issues.

On the Primary Election ballot, candidates shall be listed in the order determined by lot.

The two candidates who receive the greatest number of votes cast will advance to the General Election ballot regardless of party preference. They will appear on the ballot with the candidate who receives the most votes appearing first.

### **Nonpartisan Primary Election Guidelines**

#### **Nonpartisan Races**

A nonpartisan office is an office for which candidates do not indicate a party preference. All judicial, city, and county offices (except Prosecuting Attorney) and special purpose offices are nonpartisan. No party preference appears on the ballot for these races.

A Primary Election will be held if three or more candidates file in any nonpartisan office, except for park and recreation or cemetery district positions ([RCW 29A.52.220](#)).

For park and recreation or cemetery district positions, all candidates will advance directly to the General Election ballot in lot draw order.

For all other nonpartisan offices, the two candidates with the most votes continue on to the General Election. The candidate who receives the most votes appears first on the ballot.

#### **Judicial Offices State Constitution Art IV Sec 29**

Judicial candidates will only appear on the Primary Election ballot when three or more candidates file for the office. The candidates' names will appear in lot draw order.

## Judicial Elections in Washington State

Candidates	Municipal Court District Court Court of Appeals Supreme Court		Superior Court	
	Primary	General	Primary	General
1	No <sup>1</sup>	Yes <sup>2</sup>	County population less than 100,000: No <sup>1</sup>  County population 100,000 or more: No, because certificate of election is issued after candidate filing. <sup>3</sup>	County population less than 100,000: Yes <sup>2</sup>  County population 100,000 or more: No, because certificate of election was issued after candidate filing. <sup>3</sup>
2	No <sup>1</sup>	Yes <sup>2</sup>	No <sup>1</sup>	Yes <sup>2</sup>
3 or more	Yes	Yes <sup>2</sup>	Yes	Yes <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>RCW [29A.52.220](#)

<sup>2</sup>RCW [29A.36.170](#)

<sup>3</sup>[Article IV, Section 29](#) *Note:* When applied to multi-county jurisdictions, all counties in the jurisdiction must meet the population threshold.

An election to fill a vacancy in District Court may not occur in an odd-numbered year, per AGLO 1973 No. 76 and [RCW 29A.04.321](#)(1).

### General Election Guidelines

#### **Ballot Order in General Election**

On General Election ballots, the name of the candidate who receives the greatest number of votes for the position in the Primary Election shall be listed first, followed by the name of the candidate who receives the next greatest number of votes.

If a Primary Election was not required for a nonpartisan office, the candidates' names will appear in lot draw order.

#### **Local Voter Pamphlet Candidate Statement**

Only candidates who ran in the Primary Election will have an opportunity to update the candidate statement for the Local Voters' Pamphlet in the General Election. All other statements will run as originally submitted.

### Political Signs

#### **Whatcom County Sign Regulations**

Whatcom County Executive Order 89-8, Placement of Signs on County Road Rights of Way, dated November 21, 1989, states:

**Areas where temporary signs on road rights of way will be removed:**

- On county owned traffic control or information signs.
- Along or within roadway shoulders that might be used by vehicles.
- Within 75 feet of any “Stop”, “Yield” or “Railroad crossing” signs.
- Any intersections where signs might obstruct a person’s ability to observe other vehicles, cyclists, pedestrians, etc., at intersections.

Signs removed that are not in compliance will be delivered to the Central Maintenance Shop at 901 W. Smith Rd., Bellingham. Attempts will be made by office personnel to contact the owner of removed signs; however, if 30 days after removal and the first attempted notification of the owner the signs are not picked up, Whatcom County may dispose of the signs without compensation to the owner or owners.

**Political campaign signs must be removed within ten (10) days after an election.** ([WAC 468-66-050](#))

**State Sign Regulations**

Information regarding political campaign signs can be found at the Department of Transportation’s website: [Washington State Department of Transportation](#).

The Department of Transportation outdoor advertising specialist is available to answer questions and help interpret the regulations. Call (360) 705-7282.

**City Regulations**

Individual cities may have their own regulations; check with the city.

**Complaints**

Sign violation complaints do not fall under the jurisdiction of the Whatcom County Auditor’s Election Division.

To report potential sign violations in a city, contact that city regarding regulations and requirements.

To report illegal roadside signs in Whatcom County, contact Public Works at 360-778-6200.

**Observing the Election Process**

**Public Access at the Election Center**

Citizens may view ballot processing anytime during the workday at the Whatcom County Auditor’s Election Division, 311 Grand Ave., Suite 103, Bellingham. Call the Election Division at (360) 778-5102 or check the Auditor’s website at [www.whatcomcounty.us/auditor](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/auditor) to find out when ballot processing and ballot counting are scheduled.

### After Election Day

Election Division staff will continue to verify, open, and tabulate ballots until certification. The public may observe ballot processing.

### Acts Prohibited in the Vicinity of a Voting Center or Ballot Deposit Site

[WAC 434-250-100](#),  
[RCW 29A.84.510, 540](#)

During the voting period, no person may, within a voting center or within 25 feet of a ballot drop box not located within a voting center:

- Suggest, persuade or attempt to suggest or persuade any voter to vote for or against any candidate or ballot measure
- Circulate cards or handbills of any kind
- Solicit signatures to any kind of petition
- Engage in any practice which interferes with or impedes the voting process or disrupts administration of the voting center
- Interfere with a voter attempting to vote at a voting center or ballot drop box
- Without lawful authority, remove any ballot from a voting center or ballot deposit site

### How to Get Election Results

Results are available at approximately 8:15 p.m. on election night at the Whatcom County Auditor's Office, 311 Grand Ave., Suite 103, Bellingham or online at [www.whatcomcounty.us/auditor](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/auditor).

Each day that ballots are counted, updated results will be posted online through Certification Day. Other important election information will be added as it becomes available.

## Recounts

### Mandatory/Automatic [RCW 29A.64](#)

An automatic recount applies to candidates and statewide measures and will occur if less than 2,000 votes and also less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 1% of the votes cast for that race separate candidates or issues. The recount is applicable only to candidates apparently nominated or elected and the closest defeated opponent. The automatic recount will tally only votes for the position or measure in question and will be conducted without charge to any candidate.

For statewide elections, if the difference in the number of votes cast for the apparent winner and the closest apparently defeated opponent is less than 1,000 votes and also less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  of 1% of the total number of votes cast for both candidates, the votes shall be recounted manually.

For all other elections, if the difference in the number of votes cast for the apparent winner and the closest apparently defeated opponent is less than 150 votes and also less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  of 1% of total number of votes cast for both candidates, the votes shall

be recounted manually. An alternative counting method may be used if both candidates agree in writing and the procedure is suited to the ballot system that was used for casting the votes for the office.

If a mandatory recount is required for a candidate in a jurisdiction, the costs of the recount are billed as a direct cost to the jurisdiction.

### **Local Measure, Question, or Issue**

Automatic recounts do not apply to non-statewide ballot measures, such as levy, bond and other questions or issues.

### **Requested Recounts**

All requested recounts must be submitted no later than two business days after the certification of the election. A deposit equal to \$.15 (machine recount) or \$.25 (manual recount) per ballot by certified check or cash is required. Final cost of the recount will be determined by the canvassing board and may be less or more than the deposit.

## **Purchasing Election Data**

### **Whatcom County Voter Data**

Voter information is available in the form of data or PDF reports.

The data includes:

- Voter's name
- Date of Birth
- Gender
- Residential and mailing address
- Registration number and date of most recent registration update
- Inactive/canceled voters included (if requested)
- Voting history for the last 5 elections (if specified)

During an election, lists of voters who have returned their ballots (match backs) are also available for purchase. State law does not allow phone numbers or e-mail addresses to be made public.

### **Common Data Requests:**

- Data file of all registered voters in the county or in a specific district or precinct.
- Data file of targeted voters who voted in a specific election(s).
- Data file of voters who have returned their ballots (match backs).

### **To order data or lists:**

An online printable form is available at [www.whatcomcounty.us/auditor](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/auditor). Pre-payment is required for

data orders. You may visit the Election Division to place an order or mail your payment with the order form. Your order will generally be completed within 24 hours.

**Restricted Use of Voter Data [RCW 29A.08.740](#)**

State law establishes rules and restrictions on the use of registered voter data. Voter information may not be used for commercial or other non-political purposes.

**Violations of Restricted Use of Registered Voter Data – Penalties - Liabilities**

- (1) Any person who uses registered voter data furnished under [RCW29A.08.720](#) for the purpose of mailing or delivering any advertisement or offer for any property, establishment, organization, product, or service or for the purpose of mailing or delivering any solicitation for money, services, or anything of value is guilty of a class C felony punishable by imprisonment in a state correctional facility for a period of not more than five years or a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars or both such fine and imprisonment, and is liable to each person provided such advertisement or solicitation, without the person's consent, for the nuisance value of such person having to dispose of it, which value is herein established at five dollars for each item mailed or delivered to the person's residence. However, a person who mails or delivers any advertisement, offer, or solicitation for a political purpose is not liable under this section unless the person is liable under subsection (2) of this section. For purposes of this subsection, two or more attached papers or sheets or two or more papers that are enclosed in the same envelope or container or are folded together are one item. Merely having a mailbox or other receptacle for mail on or near the person's residence is not an indication that the person consented to receive the advertisement or solicitation. A class action may be brought to recover damages under this section, and the court may award a reasonable attorney's fee to any party recovering damages under this section.
- (2) Each person furnished data under [RCW29A.08.720](#) shall take reasonable precautions designed to assure that the data is not used for the purpose of mailing or delivering any advertisement or offer for any property, establishment, organization, product, or service or for the purpose of mailing or delivering any solicitation for money, services, or anything of value. However, the data may be used for any political purpose. Where failure to exercise due care in carrying out this responsibility results in the data being used for such purposes, then such person is jointly and severally liable for damages under subsection (1) of this section along with any other person liable under subsection (1) of this section for the misuse of such data.



**Commercial Demographic Firms**

Business firms also offer various voter statistic formats and services, such as targeting, printing, designing and mailing. They may also provide phone numbers and other demographic information. Options and charges for these services vary from vendor to vendor. Check sources for a variety of products, services and fees.

**Voter Information Vendors**

Data Resources, Olympia (360) 754-8220  
Data Supply, Tacoma (253) 922-3494  
L2, Bellevue (800) 842-5478

**Whatcom County Election Division Fees  
(as of January 2017)**

<b>DATA</b>	<b>FEE</b>
Registered Voter List	\$10.00
Ballots returned data (match backs)	\$ 3.00/day \$60.00 for entire election
Whatcom County or City of Bellingham (large maps)	\$ 3.00 each
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>	<b>FEE</b>
Certificate of voter registration	Free
Miscellaneous copies (b/w)	\$ .15 per page

**Whatcom County Auditor's Office**  
 311 Grand Avenue, Suite 103  
 Bellingham, WA 98225-4038  
**Phone:** (360) 778-5102  
**Fax:** (360) 778-5101  
**email:** elections@co.whatcom.wa.us



**Debbie Adelstein**  
 County Auditor  
  
**Election Division**

**Voter List & Matchback Request**

Requested By:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Voter List Request**

- Voter lists are available by email (or CD upon request)
- Cost is \$10.00/list
- Payment options include cash, check, or credit/debit card (additional service fee applies to credit/debit card payments)
- List includes name, date of birth, gender, residential and mailing addresses, registration number and last update
- Inactive and/or cancelled voters can be included upon request

Do you want a list of the entire county *or* a specific district?

- All of Whatcom County  
 Specific district/city/precinct (list below):

Do you want voting history?

- No  
 Yes (choose up to five elections and list below):

**Matchback List Request (ballot return status)**

- Matchbacks are available by email only and cost \$3.00/day or \$60.00 for the entire election
- Payment options include cash, check, or credit/debit card (additional service fee applies to credit/debit card payments)
- Matchback files will be emailed on the dates requested by 5:00pm
- All drop sites are not picked up on a daily basis
- File includes name, registration number, residential and mailing addresses and ballot return status

For which Election would you like matchbacks? \_\_\_\_\_

When would you like the matchback files?

- Every day of the election - \$60.00  
 Individual days - \$3.00/day (list days below):

Do you want matchbacks for the entire county *or* a specific district?

- All of Whatcom County  
 Specific district/city/precinct (list below):

**Acknowledge & Sign**

As provided by state law, the voter registration data you ordered may be used for political purposes only. I agree that I will not use this data for commercial purposes and I acknowledge receipt of the state laws that pertain to the use of voter registration data. RCW 29A.08.720, 29A.08.740 and RCW 42.56.070(9).

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Use Only		
Date Received: _____	Notes: _____	Data request logged: <input type="checkbox"/>
Date Completed: _____	_____	
Completed By: _____	_____	

## Newly Elected Officials

### **I won the election. What do I need to do next?**

Candidates are considered elected when the General Election results have been certified. In order to assume duties of the office, winning candidates must take an oath of office ([RCW 29A.04.133](#)). Be aware that the term of office varies depending on the position.

Contact the city or district to which you were elected as soon as possible after certification regarding the procedure for taking the oath and the date the term begins.

#### **Who can administer oaths**

[RCW 29A.04.133](#) requires the oath of office be administered and certified by any officer or notary public authorized to administer oaths, without charge. The following are specifically qualified by statute to administer oaths:

- Judges and Notary Publics  
[RCW 5.28.010](#)
- County Auditors or Deputies  
[RCW 36.22.030](#)
- School Officials  
[RCW 28A.343.360](#)

As long as the oath is regarded by the official qualifying for office as binding, the oath may be administered in any manner by a person of authority, including a seated officer of the same jurisdiction.

Check with your district. They may make arrangements for your swearing-in.

#### **Filing your oath of office**

Once the oath of office has been taken for a local or county office, the original must be filed with the Whatcom County Auditor. Oaths of office for supreme court justice, court of appeals, and superior court judge are filed with the Secretary of State.