

2018 Election Calendar

April 30	First day to file a Declaration of Candidacy by mail (RCW 29A.24.081)
May 14	Official candidate filing week opens (RCW 29A.24.050)
May 18	Final day for candidates to file for office (RCW 29A.24.050)
May 18	Lot draw for ballot order in the Auditor's Office, Election Division, at 4:45 pm
May 21	Last day for candidates to withdraw (RCW 29A.24.131)
May 25	Last day to submit candidate statement & photo for Local Voters' Pamphlet
June 22	Military & overseas ballots mailed for the Primary Election (RCW 29A.40.070)
July 9	Deadline for mail-in registrations or address changes and Deadline for online registrations or address changes (RCW 29A.08.140)
July 18	Ballots mailed for the Primary Election & Accessible Voting Units available to vote on at Whatcom County Auditor's Office
July 20	Last day to file as a declared write-in candidate for the Primary Election (RCW 29A.24.311)
July 30	Last day for in-person registration to vote in the Primary Election, for new WA state voters only (RCW 29A.08.140)
August 7	Primary Election
August 21	County certification of Primary Election (RCW 29A.60.190)
August 24	State certification of Primary Election (RCW 29A.60.190)
September 21	Military & overseas ballots mailed for the November General Election (RCW 29A.40.070)
October 8	Deadline for mail-in registrations or address changes and Deadline for online registrations or address changes (RCW 29A.08.140)
October 17	Ballots mailed for the General Election & Accessible Voting Units available to vote on at Whatcom County Auditor's Office
October 19	Last day to file as a declared write-in candidate for the General Election (RCW 29A.24.311)
October 29	Last day for in-person registration to vote in the General Election, for new WA state voters only (RCW 29A.08.140)
November 6	General Election
November 27	County certification of General Election (RCW 29A.60.190)
December 6	State certification of General Election (RCW 29A.60.250)

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

You must be a registered voter of the district and meet the residency requirements for the office for which you are filing. (See pages 5-8) 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 2018 can be accomplished in one of the following ways:

Online:

All candidates are encouraged to file online at 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 14, 2018
Ends at 4:00 pm, Friday, May 18, 2018

**How and When to File
cont.**

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 9:00 am, Monday, May 14, 2018

Ends at 4:30 pm, Friday, May 18, 2018

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 18, 2018.

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 we have received the fee.

See page 20-21 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 14 – 18, 2018, can file a Declaration of Candidacy as a write-in candidate not later than 18 days prior to an Election, and have their votes counted. Declarations of Candidacy for write-in candidates must be accompanied by the filing fee required of other candidates filing for the office. (RCW 29A.24.091) A person cannot file as a write-in candidate for a General Election if their name appeared on the preceding Primary Election ballot for the same office. (RCW 29A.24.311) 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 18, 2018. Petitions cannot be combined with money for the filing fee.

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 21, 2018. 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 18, 2018, 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.

Public Disclosure Commission (PDC)

Public Disclosure Commission (PDC)

All information regarding reporting requirements must be obtained from the PDC. See: 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.

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)

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.

Candidate Statement

**Submitting Candidate
Statement for Local
Voters' Pamphlet**

The Local Voters' Pamphlet is a free opportunity for a candidate to provide information to every Whatcom County household. All candidate statements and photos are **due no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, May 25, 2018**, 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. We recommend using a word processing program such as Word to prepare and edit your statement. The Auditor's office will not make spelling, grammar or punctuation corrections to 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. Once

Submitting Candidate Statement for Local Voters' Pamphlet Cont.

submitted **no** changes may be made.

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

**Candidate Statement
Cont.**

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.

**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
Partisan Offices Cont.**

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.

Voters may vote for any candidate of their choice regardless of party preference. They may also 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 ¹	Yes ²	County population less than 100,000: No ¹ County population 100,000 or more: No, because certificate of election is issued after candidate filing. ³	County population less than 100,000: Yes ² County population 100,000 or more: No, because certificate of election was issued after candidate filing. ³
2	No ¹	Yes ²	No ¹	Yes ²
3 or more	Yes	Yes ²	Yes	Yes ²

¹RCW [29A.52.220](#)

²RCW [29A.36.170](#)

³[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.

Write-in Voting

No write-in vote made for any person who has not filed a declaration of candidacy will be counted if that person filed for the same office, either as a regular candidate or a write-in candidate, at the preceding primary. (RCW 29A.60.021)

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 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.

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 ½ 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.

Mandatory/Automatic cont. 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 ¼ 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 ¼ 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.

Whatcom County Voter Data cont.

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. 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.

Restricted Use of Voter Data cont.

(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)**

DATA	FEE
Registered Voter List	\$10.00
Ballots returned data (match backs)	\$ 3.00 per day \$60.00 for entire election
Whatcom County or City of Bellingham (large maps)	\$ 3.00 each
MISCELLANEOUS	FEE
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](#)
- City Clerk
[RCW 35.17.105](#)
- School Officials
[RCW 28A.343.360](#)

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.

2018 Offices Open for Election

An office may have opened subsequent to the printing of this guide. For a current listing check the Auditor's website at www.whatcomcounty.us/1730/candidates

	Office (Term)	Incumbent	File With	Filing Fee
United States	Statewide			
	U.S. Senator (6-year term, Partisan)	Maria Cantwell	State	1740.00
1st Congressional District	King, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom			
	U.S. Representative (2-year term, Partisan)	Suzan DelBene	State	1740.00
2nd Congressional District	Island, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom			
	U.S. Representative (2-year term, Partisan)	Rick Larsen	State	1740.00
40th Legislative District	San Juan, Skagit, Whatcom			
	State Representative Pos. 1 (2-year term, Partisan)	Kristine Lytton	State	477.76
	State Representative Pos. 2 (2-year term, Partisan)	Jeff Morris	State	477.76
42nd Legislative District	Whatcom			
	State Senator (4-year term, Partisan)	Doug Ericksen	Whatcom	477.76
	State Representative Pos. 1 (2-year term, Partisan)	Luanne Van Werven	Whatcom	477.76
	State Representative Pos. 2 (2-year term, Partisan)	Vincent Buys	Whatcom	477.76
Whatcom County	Whatcom			
	Prosecuting Attorney (4-year term, Partisan)	Dave McEachran	Whatcom	1690.22

	Office (Term)	Incumbent	File With	Filing Fee
Whatcom County	Whatcom			
	District Court Judge Position 1 (4-year term, Nonpartisan)	David Grant	Whatcom	1610.92
	District Court Judge Position 2 (4-year term, Nonpartisan)	Matt Elich	Whatcom	1610.92
County Council At-Large	Whatcom			
	At-Large Position B (1-year unexpired term, Nonpartisan)	Timothy Ballew II	Whatcom	312.43
Supreme Court	Statewide			
	Justice Position 2 (6-year term, Nonpartisan)	Susan Owens	State	1866.81
	Justice Position 8 (6-year term, Nonpartisan)	Steve Gonzalez	State	1866.81
	Justice Position 9 (6-year term, Nonpartisan)	Sheryl Gordon McCloud	State	1866.81
Court of Appeals, Division 1, District 3	Island, San Juan, Skagit, Whatcom			
	Judge Position 1 (6-year term, Nonpartisan)	Mary Kay Becker	State	1777.08
Public Utility District 1 All	Whatcom			
	Commissioner District 2 (6-year term, Nonpartisan)	Paul D. Kenner	Whatcom	274.20