



# *2026 Washington State General Election*

Washington State  
Senior Citizens' Lobby  
September 21, 2026

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# Washington 2026 Elections- Key Dates

## **General Election**

- Oct 16-voting period starts
- Oct 26-online/mail registrations must be received
- Nov 3 General Election; in person only registration/updates
- SOS certification of election-December 3

## **Initiative Deadlines**

- Initiatives to the Legislature:  
December 31 by 5:00 pm; 308,911 voter signatures required

# 2026 Primary Election: Turnout & Results

- ▶ **Primary Election turnout**
  - ▶ 37.28% of ballots returned; 68.87% drop box, 30.87% mail
  - ▶ 62.4% of age 65+ returned their ballots; just under 20% for those 18 to 34
- ▶ **Late-postmark ballot rejection** increased 32% statewide compared to 2024 primaries. Rural counties most affected
- ▶ [2026 Certification of Candidates to General Election.pdf](#)
- ▶ [2026 Certification of Measures to General Election.pdf](#)

# Washington 2026 General Election

- On the Ballot: 887 candidates running for 599 offices
  - Congressional races-10 representatives
  - WA Supreme Court Judges-5 seats
  - All 98 seats in the WA State House of Representatives
  - 24/49 seats in the WA State Senate
  - Initiatives-IP26-645, IP26-001, and IP26-638



# We're Paying Particular Attention to

- **Ensuring free & fair elections:** actions taken by the federal government that risk the upcoming general election
- **State Supreme Court Races:** unusual number of seats on the ballot (5). Millionaires Tax ruling on the horizon
- **Initiatives:** I-001, I-638, I-645
- **2027-2029 State Biennial Budget:** anticipate another challenging budget session

# Free & Fair Elections

- ▶ **Legislation:** SAVE America Act has not passed
- ▶ **Court cases:**
  - ▶ U.S. Supreme Court direction in *LA v. Callais*-curtails the use of race in drawing legislative boundaries. LWWWA Walk the Line event on 10/10/26 at 9 am in Yakima.
  - ▶ Challenges to executive orders-US Supreme Court declined to let Postal Service enforce executive order targeting mail-in ballots.
  - ▶ Ongoing concerns about agents/national guard being sent to polls (NAACP suit; CA legislation)

# Free & Fair Elections

## WA Secretary of State & Attorney General

- ▶ SOS reports spending \$400,000 to educate voters about using drop boxes; \$350,000 reimbursing counties for new boxes and reprinted ballot envelopes
- ▶ Federal Impacts on Washington State Elections | WA Secretary of State
- ▶ Office of the Secretary of State and Attorney General's Office release guide on state and federal election authorities | WA Secretary of State
- ▶ VoteWA Voter Portal-includes ballot box locations; can update registration and track your ballot.

# 2026 General Election: State Supreme Court

- Five of nine seats on the ballot, Positions 1, 3, 4, 5, & 7
- According to the PDC: Position 5 second most expensive state race this election year
- Independent funders of several State Supreme Court races
  - [Concerned Taxpayers of WA State](#)
  - [Beware the Attack on Our Courts](#)

## **For more information about State Supreme Court races:**

- [State Election Results](#)
- [Video Voters' Guide - TVW](#)
- [League of Women Voters of Washington - Supreme Court Candidates](#)
- [Washington State Public Disclosure Commission \(PDC\)](#)

# General Election-Initiatives on the Ballot

- IL26-001: reinstates I-2081, the Parent Bill of Rights (reversing legislative changes); badly written, actually reduces parents' rights. [League of Women Voters of Washington - Vote NO on I-638-and-I-001](#)
- IL26-638: prohibits “biologically male” students from competing in sports intended for female students only; *sex verification required for all girls in sports*. [League of Women Voters of Washington - Vote NO on I-638-and-I-001](#)
- IP26-645: repeal of SB 6346 (Millionaires Tax). Would leave unfair and imbalanced tax structure in place; state would lose \$3-4 billion in annual revenue; shortfall exacerbated by other tax changes without providing a way to pay for them. [League of Women Voters of Washington - Vote NO on I-645 Millionaires Tax](#)

# 2027-2029 State Biennial Budget



- 2027-2029 State Biennial Budget process expected to be challenging
- Issues include-changes in legislature; federal impacts; Millionaire Tax-doesn't begin until 1/1/28.
- Governor directive to agencies-no new programs, review programs created/expanded after 1/1/19
- August 14 Economic & Revenue Update-revenue up somewhat but job growth down

# General Election Reminders - Nov 3, 2026



Voters can register:

- ▶ By Oct 26 -Online and mail registrations must be received 8 days before election day.
- ▶ On Nov 3-Can register to vote or update registration in person up to 8:00 pm on Election Day.

To Vote:

- ▶ Ballots must be in an official drop box by 8:00 pm on Election Day; or
- ▶ Postmarked by Election Day (not recommended, use drop box instead!)

Recommendation-Use a drop box to be sure your ballot is counted

► Thank you!



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