



2024 Presidential Primary FAQ



Washington's Presidential Primary will be held March 12, (one week after Super Tuesday).

Legislation passed in 2019 changed the date-setting process, how candidates gain access to the ballot, and how parties use the results. The more eligible voters who participate, the more influence our state will have in the nomination process.

What is the Presidential Primary?

The 2024 Presidential Primary is a chance to participate in the nomination process for the office of US President. It was first created in 1989 through a citizens' Initiative to the Legislature to include more voters in the process.

This is the only election in which Washington's voters are required to mark and sign party declarations written by the major political parties.

Why are the Democratic Candidates listed first?

The order of political parties and candidates is determined by the number of votes cast for the office of US President at the last presidential election. The major political party that received the highest number of votes from the electors of this state for the office of president at the last presidential election must appear first.

In 2020, the Democratic Party received the highest number of votes and must appear first. Candidates are placed on the ballot in alphabetical order within each party.

Minor and independent candidates do not participate in the Presidential Primary and must comply with a different convention process.

What are Uncommitted Delegates?

Each major political party decides which candidates are printed on their side of the ballot. On January 9, each major party submitted its final list of names to the Secretary of State's Office for ballot materials.

The uncommitted option was available to both parties. The Democratic Party requested an uncommitted delegates option. The Republican Party did not request the option. Once the party's list of candidates was submitted to the Secretary of State, changes could not be made (RCW 29A.56).

What if a Candidate drops out of the race?

On January 9, each political party decided which candidates would be printed on their side of the ballot.

Once the list of candidates was submitted to the Office of the Secretary of State, changes could not be made (RCW 29A.56).

What is the difference between a primary and a caucus?

The Presidential Primary is a process of collecting votes for presidential candidates from Washington voters that sign a political party declaration and return a ballot. Caucuses are run by each party to determine issues for party platforms and to select the delegates who will participate in state and national party conventions. Both parties will be using the results of the Presidential Primary for delegate allocation.



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