

## President and Vice President

# Minor Party & Independent Candidates

Guide to Washington State's 2024 Ballot and General Election  
Voters' Pamphlet

**Required Documents**

3

**Hold a Nominating Convention**

4

**File a Certificate of Nomination**

10

**Voters' Pamphlet Instructions**

14



**WASHINGTON**  
Secretary of State

Elections Division

Updated 01/2023

The fundamental right to participate in our nation’s political system is a key foundation of our democracy. The process by which eligible U.S. citizens run for President and Vice President of the United States is firmly rooted in the tradition of encouraging Americans from all walks of life to help shape the future of our country.

This publication outlines Washington state’s requirements to appear on our 2024 Presidential ballot. Please note that this publication is not intended to supersede the statutes governing this process. Rather, it should be read in conjunction with the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) Title 29A, Chapters 32 and 56. RCWs may be found online at [app.leg.wa.gov/rcw](http://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw).

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the Office of the Secretary of State’s Elections division. We will be happy to assist you.



Steve Hobbs  
Secretary of State

Office of the Secretary of State  
Elections Division  
PO Box 40229  
Olympia, Washington 98504-0229  
Phone: 1 (800) 448-4881  
Fax: (360) 664-4619  
Email: [elections@sos.wa.gov](mailto:elections@sos.wa.gov)  
Website: [sos.wa.gov/elections](http://sos.wa.gov/elections)



Alternate document formats are available upon request.



Candidate Resources

# Required Documents

## Required documents

Due by **10 days** after convention adjourns:

- Slate of electors

Due by **August 2, 2024**:

- Affidavit(s) of public notice of convention
- Pledges signed by each elector (x12)
- Petition with at least 1,000 valid signatures
- Certificate of Nomination
- Consent to Nomination (President)
- Consent to Nomination (Vice President)
- Voters' Pamphlet statement & photos

Call (360) 902-4180 to schedule an in-person appointment, or submit by mail to:

Office of the Secretary of State  
Elections Division  
PO Box 40229  
Olympia, Washington 98504-0229

## Important dates

May 4	First day to hold convention
July 27	Last day to hold convention
August 2	All required documents due
August 6	Last day to submit slate of electors

## What's a minor political party or independent candidate?

A *minor party* in Washington state is any political party or organization whose nominees for President and Vice President failed to receive at least 5% of the total votes cast at the last (2020) presidential election. Washington state does not require prior registration of a political party. By completing this nominating process, your party will be recognized.

An *independent candidate* is not affiliated with a political organization.

## No filing fee

Washington state does not collect filing fees for the offices of President and Vice President.

## Report campaign funding

All candidates expending or collecting funds for a federal office must register with the Federal Election Commission (FEC) at [fec.gov](https://www.fec.gov).

## Campaign signs

Political signs are not allowed on state highways. Contact the Washington State Department of Transportation for more information at (360) 705-7282 or [wsdot.wa.gov](https://www.wsdot.wa.gov).

For local highway and city street rules, contact the respective local authority.

## Write-in candidates

If you do not qualify to be printed on the ballot, you may submit a declaration of write-in candidacy no later than 8 p.m. on Election Day. Write-in candidates must meet all the qualifications for the office. Forms are available at [sos.wa.gov/elections/candidates/running-for-president-of-the-united-states.aspx](https://sos.wa.gov/elections/candidates/running-for-president-of-the-united-states.aspx).



## Republicans & Democrats should not use this guide

Presidential candidates for the Republican and Democratic parties are selected by delegates attending that party's national convention.

# Hold a Nominating Convention

## Checklist

- Publish a printed public notice
- Hold a nominating convention
- Obtain 1,000 petition signatures
- Submit slate of electors within **10 days** after convention adjourns

## Public notice & Affidavit of Publication

At least 10 days before the convention begins, you must publish a newspaper notice within the county where the convention will be held.

The notice must include:

- The date, hour, and place of the convention.
- The mailing address of the person or organization sponsoring the convention.

Submit the Affidavit(s) of Publication for the notice of convention with the Certificate of Nomination. The newspaper can provide a notarized affidavit (see example, p. 5).

## Convention requirements

A nominating convention is an organized meeting of registered Washington voters supporting political party or independent candidates for President and Vice President. A convention may only nominate one candidate for President and one candidate for Vice President.

Multiple meetings may be held at different times and locations and still qualify as a single convention. At least 100 registered Washington voters must attend each meeting, and you must publish notices for each event.

**Conventions must be held between May 4 – July 27, 2024.**

## Slate of electors

**No later than 10 days** after adjourning the convention, the presiding officer must provide the names and mailing addresses of the 12 electors selected at the convention to the Secretary of State (use form on p. 6-7).

## Pledge of Elector's Intent

Each elector must sign a pledge of their intent to vote for the nominated candidates, and provide their name and address.

Pledges of intent must accompany the Certificate of Nomination (use form on p. 8).

## Petitions

At least 1,000 registered Washington voters attending the convention must sign the petition to nominate candidates for President and Vice President (use petition sheet on p. 9).

No person may sign more than one nominating petition for the same office. If a person signs more than one petition, all instances of that signature will be disqualified.

If multiple meetings are held, petitions signed at qualifying meetings may be combined to reach the required 1,000 signatures.

Nominating petition sheets must:

- Clearly identify the names of **both** candidates as they appear on the Certificate of Nomination.
- Contain a statement that the person signing the petition is a registered Washington state voter.
- Provide space for the voter's signature, printed name, and address.

Submit petition signatures with the Certificate of Nomination.

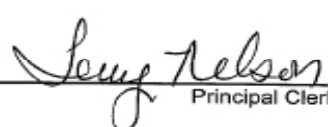
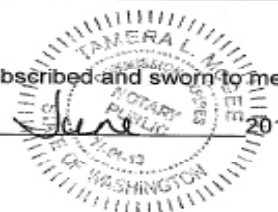
# Examples

## A. Public notice of convention

The **[party name]** of Washington State, pursuant to **RCW 29A.56.620**, will hold a convention for the purpose of selecting electors and nominating candidates for President and Vice President of the United States on **[date]**, **[hour]** at **[name of building]**, **[street address]** in **[city]**, WA. For information, contact **[name of convention organizer]**, **[convention organizer's mailing address]**.

## B.

### Affidavit of Publication

<p>STATE OF WASHINGTON County of Thurston County</p> <p>Legal #1581 <b>Notice of Convention</b></p> <p>The Justice Party of Washington State, pursuant to RCW 29A.20.131, is holding a convention from June 17-July 2, 2012, at the Olympia Food Center, 3511 Pacific Ave SE &amp; 921 Rogers St NW, Olympia, WA, from 10am-12pm and 4pm-6pm to nominate candidates for President and Vice President of the United States. JMS: Chris Stegman, 360-705-3536, 5175 Carpenter Hill, P.O. Box 98503.</p> <p>Published June 6, 2012</p>	<p>SS. The undersigned being first duly sworn on oath deposed and says: That she is the Principal Clerk of The Olympian which is a legal newspaper printed and published in the city of Olympia, Thurston County, Washington: of general circulation in said City, County and State;</p> <p>that the <b>Notice of Convention</b> In the case of <b>Justice Party of Washington State</b></p> <p>of which the attached is a printed copy, was published in said newspaper:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">On the</td> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">6<sup>th</sup></td> <td style="width: 15%;">day of</td> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">June</td> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: right;">2012</td> </tr> <tr> <td>the</td> <td></td> <td>day of</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">2012</td> </tr> <tr> <td>the</td> <td></td> <td>day of</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">2012</td> </tr> <tr> <td>the</td> <td></td> <td>day of</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">2012</td> </tr> <tr> <td>the</td> <td></td> <td>day of</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">2012</td> </tr> </table> <p>that the said newspaper was generally circulated during all of said time, and has been published for more than six months prior to the dates of the publication of this legal document, and that said notice was published in the newspaper proper and not in supplement form.</p> <p>The amount of fee charged for this publication – <b>\$66.45 – PREPAID</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">               _____              Principal Clerk         </p> <p>Subscribed and sworn to me this <u>10<sup>th</sup></u> day of <u>June</u> 2012</p> <p style="text-align: center;">               _____              Tamera L. McBe              Notary Public in and for the State of Washington              Residing at Olympia, Thurston County, Washington         </p> <p style="font-size: small;">The Olympian has been appointed as a legal newspaper by order of the Superior Court of the State of Washington for Thurston County, dated July 10, 1941, in the county in which said newspaper is published in accordance with RCW 65.16.020 and RCW 63.16.040.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Note – The above affidavit and fee is in compliance with RCW 63.16.030 and Sec. 3, Chapter 34, Laws of 1977.</p>	On the	6 <sup>th</sup>	day of	June	2012	the		day of		2012	the		day of		2012	the		day of		2012	the		day of		2012
On the	6 <sup>th</sup>	day of	June	2012																						
the		day of		2012																						
the		day of		2012																						
the		day of		2012																						
the		day of		2012																						

# Slate of Electors

Submit no later than 10 days following convention (RCW 29A.56.660)

**party or  
candidate  
name**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Party
- Independent Candidate's name \_\_\_\_\_

**signature**

I, the presiding officer of the convention, verify that the following list of electors is true and correct.

\_\_\_\_\_  
presiding officer's signature

**electors**

1. name

address

2. name

address

3. name

address

4. name

address

5. name

address

6. name

address

# Slate of Electors (continued)

---

**electors**

7. name

address

8. name

address

9. name

address

10. name

address

11. name

address

12. name

address

# Pledge of Elector's Intent

*Each elector must sign an affidavit (RCW 29A.56.084)*

**party or  
candidate  
name**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Party
- Independent Candidate's name \_\_\_\_\_

**elector's  
pledge**

I, \_\_\_\_\_,

if selected for the position of elector, I agree to serve and to mark my ballots for the president and vice president for the nominees for those offices of the party that nominated me.

\_\_\_\_\_  
elector's signature



# Nominating Petition for U.S. President / Vice President (RCW 29A.56.630)

**name & party of nominees**

Party

Presidential nominee: \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_

Vice Presidential nominee: \_\_\_\_\_  Independent Candidates

**voter's oath**

I, the undersigned, declare that,

- I am a registered voter of the State of Washington.
- I personally attended a nominating convention held on \_\_\_\_\_, 2024 in the city of \_\_\_\_\_.
- I support with my signature the nominees listed above.
- I have not signed another nominating petition for this election year.

SIGNATURE	PRINT FIRST NAME	PRINT LAST NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	ADDRESS	CITY	ZIP
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						

# File a Certificate of Nomination

## Checklist

- Sign the Certificate of Nomination
- Sign the Presidential nominee's consent
- Sign the Vice Presidential nominee's consent

## Certificate of Nomination

The Certificate of Nomination must:

- Identify the political party or independent candidate holding the convention.
- List the nominees in the appropriate office section, including residence, and desired ballot name.
- Document all conventions attended by at least 100 registered voters where petition signatures were gathered.
- Be verified by both the presiding convention officer and secretary.

(Use form on p. 11-12)

If candidates run as independent, that description must accompany the pair of candidates. The first letter of each word in the description must be capitalized.

For example: Independent Candidates

The order that candidates appear on the ballot is based on their political party, as established by **RCW 29A.36.161**. Independent candidates and minor parties must follow major parties and be listed in the order of qualification with the Office of the Secretary of State.

Minor party and independent candidate nominating petitions are processed in the order of receipt with the Office of the Secretary of State.

## Consent to Nomination

Both nominees, President and Vice President, must sign a consent form (see p. 13).

## Finalizing the nominations

The Office of the Secretary of State will determine if all requirements for certificates of nomination (**RCW 29A.56.640**) have been met.

The presiding officer will be notified when the nomination is accepted or rejected. Appeals must be filed with the Thurston County Superior Court no later than **five days** after notification.

## Appearance on the ballot

When the race for President and Vice President appears on a general election ballot, the candidate for these offices must be paired together.

The full name of the political party, not an abbreviation, must accompany each pair of candidates with a designation that these candidates are the nominees of the party. The first letter of each word in the political party name must be capitalized.

For example: Example Party Nominees

# Washington State Certificate of Nomination

(RCW 29A.56.640)

**political party**

The attached documents, submitted in support of nominations for the offices of President and Vice President of the United States, reflect decisions of the legally convened convention held by:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Party
- Independent Candidate

**nominee for President**

\_\_\_\_\_ legal name \_\_\_\_\_ state of residence

\_\_\_\_\_ exact ballot name, as given in the consent to nomination

**nominee for Vice President**

\_\_\_\_\_ legal name \_\_\_\_\_ state of residence

\_\_\_\_\_ exact ballot name, as given in the consent to nomination

**campaign information**

*for publication in the voters' pamphlet*

\_\_\_\_\_ campaign address \_\_\_\_\_ city / state / ZIP

\_\_\_\_\_ email address \_\_\_\_\_ phone number - include area code

\_\_\_\_\_ website

**staff contact**

*for internal use only - not for publication*

\_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ phone - include area code

\_\_\_\_\_ email

# Washington State Certificate of Nomination (continued)

<b>convention locations</b>	location	date
	location	date
	location	date
	location	date
	location	date

<b>adjourned</b>	The final convention meeting adjourned:		
	location	date	time (a.m. / p.m.)

<b>presiding officer</b>	I certify the information provided in this Certificate of Nomination is true and correct:		
	signature	telephone / email	
	mailing address	city / state / ZIP	

<b>secretary</b>	I certify the information provided in this Certificate of Nomination is true and correct:		
	signature	telephone / email	
	mailing address	city / state / ZIP	

# Consent to Nomination

Submit separate consent forms for President & Vice President

## political affiliation

- \_\_\_\_\_ Party
- Independent Candidate

## ballot information

I am the nominee for the office of:

- President of the United States
- Vice President of the United States

\_\_\_\_\_

**exact name I want printed on the ballot**

## nominee information

\_\_\_\_\_

residential address city / state / ZIP

\_\_\_\_\_

phone number email

## nominee's consent

*I consent to my nomination by the political organization listed above and, as such, agree to have my name appear on the 2024 General Election ballot in Washington State as that organization's nominee.*

sign here

date

# Voters' Pamphlet Instructions

## Submit your profile

Email the following items to [voterspamphlet@sos.wa.gov](mailto:voterspamphlet@sos.wa.gov) by 5 p.m. on August 2, 2024:

- Photographs, one each for President & Vice President
- Biography (up to 100 words), one each for President & Vice President
- Statement (up to 300 words in as many as 6 paragraphs)
- Campaign contact information

Pamphlet profiles are acceptable before the deadline. Only candidates printed on the ballot may appear in the Voters' Pamphlet.

## 1. Photograph

You may submit one portrait of your head and shoulders.

Photos must be high resolution and no smaller than 2.5 x 3 inches. Your photo may not be digitally altered.

Clothing or insignia that suggest holding a public office are banned. For example: judicial robes, law enforcement or military uniforms.

A color photo is required. For best results, use a light-colored background, but not white. Photos must be no more than five years old.

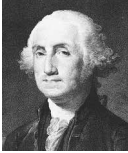
## 2. Biography

You may provide a 100-word biography in your candidate profile. You must use the following headings, which do not count toward the word limit. Headings you leave blank will display, "No information submitted."

- Elected Experience
- Other Professional Experience
- Education
- Community Service

## Sample of the printed Voters' Pamphlet

**United States President & Vice President** | 4-year term

1


**First Name**  
**Last Name**

XX Party Nominee  
**President**

2

**Elected Experience**  
Virginia provincial legislature, representing Frederick County in the House of Burgesses. Former Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War.


**Other Professional Experience**  
Virginia provincial legislature, representing Frederick County in the House of Burgesses. Former Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War.

**Education**  
No formal education, but studied mathematics, trigonometry, and surveying.

**Community Service**  
No information submitted.

**Statement**

George Washington, a retired general, had no wish or aspiration beyond the humble and happy lot of living and dying a private citizen at his Mount Vernon farm. However, his peers and the American people at large spread rumors declaring George Washington would likely be elected first President of the United States (much to the dismay of Washington himself). George Washington could not escape his conscience. In a formal letter of acceptance, Washington succinctly assented to what he had agonized over for more than a year. Washington concluded to obey the important and flattering call of his Country. George Washington, as the first president, was well aware of the great responsibility of defining the American presidency. "I walk on untrodden ground," was a frequent comment he made in the days leading up to his first inauguration. Washington believed that the precedents he set must make the presidency powerful enough to function

1


**First Name**  
**Last Name**

XX Party Nominee  
**Vice President**

2

**Elected Experience**  
Virginia provincial legislature, representing Frederick County in the House of Burgesses. Former Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War.

**Other Professional Experience**  
Virginia provincial legislature, representing Frederick County in the House of Burgesses. Former Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War.

**Education**  
No formal education, but studied mathematics, trigonometry, and surveying.

**Community Service**  
No information submitted.

effectively in the national government, but at the same time these practices could not show any tendency toward monarchy or dictatorship. In addition to defining the actual powers of the office, Washington also needed to show the new nation how the leader of a democracy should behave socially. There was no precedent for this office in a world full of kings, leaving Washington the monumental task of figuring out how to act like a president.

**Contact Information**  
(202) 456-1776  
info@georgewashington.com  
www.georgewashington.com

14

# Voters' Pamphlet Instructions

## 3. Statement

State law sets maximum word limits. Hyphenated words count as two words. Statements exceeding the word limit will be shortened by deleting full sentences from the end.

**Up to 300 words in as many as 6 paragraphs.**

Use only italics to emphasize words or phrases. Bold, underline, and all caps are not allowed. Tables, lists, and bullets are not allowed. Text must be written in paragraphs.

### Correct

I approve of *justice* for all, *fairness* of the law, and *rehabilitation*.

### Incorrect

I approve of:  
• JUSTICE for all  
• **Fairness** of the law  
• Rehabilitation

Proofread carefully. The statement and biography you submit will be printed in the General Election Voters' Pamphlet and displayed online exactly as submitted. Changes after the submission deadline are not allowed unless requested by the Office of the Secretary of State or required by court order.

Opponents or endorsements named in your statement will receive a mention letter from our office. This may result in court-ordered changes to your statement.

## 4. Campaign contact information

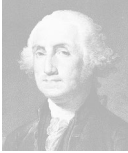
The following campaign contact information will be published with your profile:

- Campaign phone number
- Campaign email
- Campaign website

Contact information does not count toward word limits, but long web addresses such as Facebook or blogs are not allowed. You may update your contact information any time before publication of the pamphlet.

## Sample of the printed Voters' Pamphlet

**United States President & Vice President** | 4-year term




**First Name**  
**Last Name**  
XX Party Nominee  
President

**Elected Experience**  
Virginia provincial legislature, representing Frederick County in the House of Burgesses. Former Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War.

**Other Professional Experience**  
Virginia provincial legislature, representing Frederick County in the House of Burgesses. Former Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War.

**Education**  
No formal education, but studied mathematics, trigonometry, and surveying.

**Community Service**  
No information submitted.



**First Name**  
**Last Name**  
XX Party Nominee  
Vice President

**Elected Experience**  
Virginia provincial legislature, representing Frederick County in the House of Burgesses. Former Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War.

**Other Professional Experience**  
Virginia provincial legislature, representing Frederick County in the House of Burgesses. Former Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War.

**Education**  
No formal education, but studied mathematics, trigonometry, and surveying.

**Community Service**  
No information submitted.

**3 Statement**

George Washington, a retired general, had no wish or aspiration beyond the humble and happy lot of living and dying a private citizen at his Mount Vernon farm. However, his peers and the American people at large spread rumors declaring George Washington would likely be elected first President of the United States (much to the dismay of Washington himself). George Washington could not escape his conscience. In a formal letter of acceptance, Washington succinctly assented to what he had agonized over for more than a year. Washington concluded to obey the important and flattering call of his Country.

**4 Contact Information**

George Washington, as the first president, was well aware of the great responsibility of defining the American presidency. "I walk on untrodden ground," was a frequent comment he made in the days leading up to his first inauguration. Washington believed that the precedents he set must make the presidency powerful enough to function effectively in the national government, but at the same time these practices could not show any tendency toward monarchy or dictatorship.

In addition to defining the actual powers of the office, Washington also needed to show the new nation how the leader of a democracy should behave socially. There was no precedent for this office in a world full of kings, leaving Washington the monumental task of figuring out how to act like a president.

(202) 456-1776  
info@georgewashington.com  
www.georgewashington.com



Please be aware, like word processing programs, we do not count hyphenated words separately. Due to space limitations, excessive hyphens, words, and paragraphs are not allowed.

We will notify you of guideline violations. If you do not respond, our office will combine paragraphs and remove whole sentences from the bottom up until the statement is within the correct limits.

# Voters' Pamphlet Instructions

## Tips from voters

- Treat this as a resume and edit carefully.
- Offer your vision. Be positive.
- What do you want to accomplish if elected?
- Describe what sets you apart from your opponent(s).
- Avoid criticism of your opponent(s).
- Who endorses your candidacy?
- Avoid technical terms and abbreviations.

## After submission

You will receive an email response to confirm receipt. We will contact you via email if we have any questions or concerns. Only candidates that qualify to be printed on the ballot will appear online and in the printed pamphlet.

## Campaign finance information

Your campaign finance information is public information. A link to your campaign finance information will appear on your page in the online voters' guide.

Candidates must report campaign finance information to the Federal Election Commission at **fec.gov**.

## Questions?

1-800-448-4881

**voterspamphlet@sos.wa.gov**