

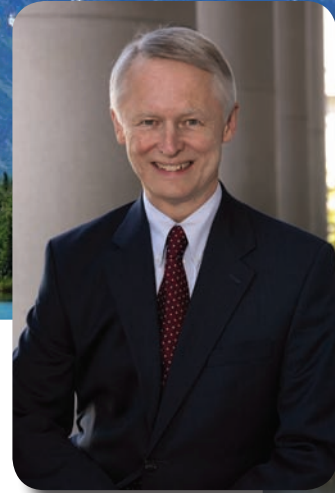
*Simply
Washington*



Washington
Secretary of State
SAM REED

Welcome to Washington

“The Evergreen State”



Welcome to “Simply Washington.”

This is your free and fun look at the faces and places of Washington. We invite you to glance through scenic grandeur and endless possibilities for tourism, outdoor recreation and sampling the foods, wine, and, yes, the many coffee houses of Washington. We’ll celebrate Washington’s innovative businesses that are known the world over, and the well-educated, melting-pot population that provides the tech-savvy and nimble workforce that makes it all happen. Colleges and universities? Ours are among the best!

We’ll relish our fascinating state history, from our Native American heritage and the early explorers to high-tech innovators and the nation’s heaviest per-capita reliance on international trade.

We’ll check out our vibrant system of self-government, including our active “direct democracy” through initiatives and referenda.

And bragging? Well, of course. We’ll talk about trailblazing women in government and nearly every sector of society. Our film and television presence. Our sport stars, singers, painters, and celebs. And did we mention that we have some of the world’s best wines, finest farm products, aerospace, software, biomedical technology and more? Or that we are the international headquarters for some instantly recognizable companies and products?

Enjoy the ride. Whether you’re a Washington resident already or just curious, you’re most welcome.

– Secretary of State Sam Reed

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Safeco Field



Port of Tacoma



Washington Wine Country





He named the sighted land New Albion and claimed it for Queen Elizabeth I of England. In 1592, Juan de Fuca, a Greek navigator sailing for Spain, claimed to have reached the strait that bears his name, although there is doubt that he actually saw the strait.

During the latter part of the 18th century, Spanish and English explorers ventured along Washington's coast and waterways. In 1775, a Spanish expedition, led by Bruno de Heceta and Bodega y Quadra, landed near the Quinault River on the Olympic Peninsula, claiming it for Spain. British explorer James Cook sailed up the Washington coast from Hawaii in 1778, spotting and naming Cape Flattery before stopping along the west coast of Vancouver Island. In 1787, Charles Barkley discovered the Strait of Juan de Fuca. In 1790, Spanish navigators Manuel Quimper and Lopez de Haro traveled through the Strait of Juan de Fuca and reached Puget Sound's entrance. A sailing expedition led by Spain's Francisco de Eliza charted the San Juan Islands in 1791.

A year later, George Vancouver led a British expedition that ventured deep along Western Washington's inland waters. Vancouver and his crew charted the region's waterways and provided familiar names to many landmarks, including Puget Sound, Hood Canal, Admiralty Inlet, Whidbey Island, Deception Pass and Bellingham Bay.

After departing from St. Louis, Missouri, more than a year earlier, U.S. explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark and their "Corps of Discovery" reached the Pacific Ocean on November 6, 1805. In mid-November, the explorers traveled around Cape Disappointment at the southwestern tip of Washington before building a winter camp at what was called Fort Clatsop, near Astoria on the Oregon side of the Columbia River.

The pre-territorial years

Prior to European explorers discovering the region, Washington was populated by many Native American tribes, including the Nooksak, Chinook, Nisqually, Clallam, Makah, Quinault and Puyallup peoples in the coastal and Puget Sound regions; and the Nez Perce, Spokane, Yakama, Cayuse, Okanogan, Colville and Walla Walla tribes east of the Cascades.

In June 1579, Sir Francis Drake sailed along the Oregon coast and possibly reached the coast of present-day Washington.

Back in the Day

The territorial years

Until 1853, what is now Washington State was part of Oregon Territory. That year, Oregon Territory's delegate to Congress, Joseph Lane, delivered to Congress a petition drawn up by settlers living north of the Columbia River asking that a new territory be established. Congress agreed to the request. After considering the name "Columbia" (which was rejected to avoid confusion with the District of Columbia) and "Washingtonia," Congress passed on February 8, 1853, "An Act to establish the Territorial Government of Washington." President Millard Fillmore created the federal territory of Washington on March 2, 1853.

After Oregon was admitted to the union in 1859, the east portions of Oregon Territory, including southern Idaho, parts of Wyoming west of the Continental Divide and a small part of Montana were annexed to Washington Territory. In 1863, the area of Washington Territory east of the Snake River and the 117th meridian became part of the newly created Idaho Territory, leaving Washington Territory with the same boundaries as today.

On March 17, 1853, President Franklin Pierce appointed Isaac I. Stevens as the first governor of Washington Territory. On November 28, 1853, Stevens issued a proclamation establishing the government of Washington Territory and designating Olympia as the territorial capital.

Stevens served from 1853 to 1857. On July 13, 1857, an election was held to select Washington Territory's delegate to Congress. Although territorial delegates to Congress could not vote, they could still partake in debates and could lobby other members of Congress. Stevens won the election with 986 votes to 549 for his opponent Alexander Abernathy.

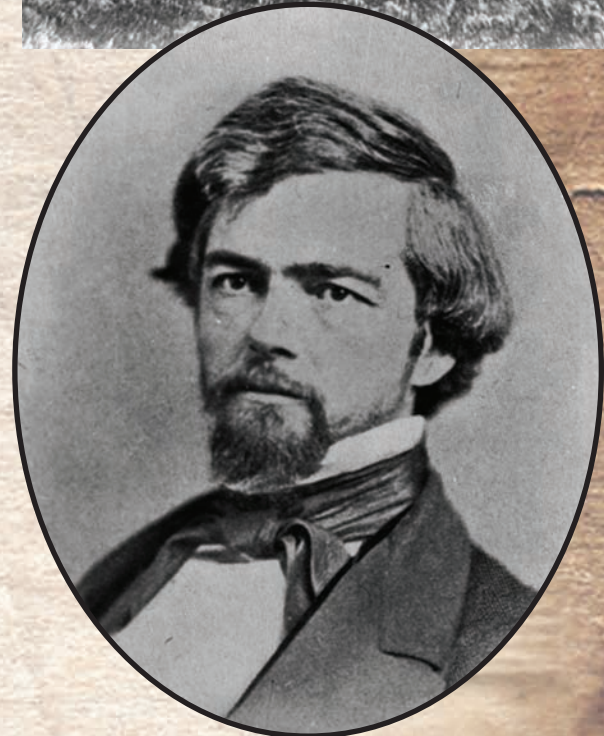
Washington becoming a state

Washington's admission to the union as a state in 1889 also commemorated the centennial celebration of George Washington's first inauguration.

Elisha P. Ferry was Washington State's first governor. He took office on November 11, 1889, the day that Washington became a state. Ferry left office on January 9, 1893, and was replaced by John McGraw, who served a four-year term. Ferry had previously served as governor of Washington Territory from 1872 to 1880.



Territorial Capitol building in Olympia, Washington, 1889



Governor Stevens

Through the Years

- 
- 1543** Pacific Northwest is discovered and claimed by Spain
- 1579** Sir Francis Drake sails along the Washington shore and claims it for England
- 1774** First trading recorded happens between Europeans and Native Americans
- 1788** James Cook explores and charts the Pacific Northwest
- 1792** Captain George Vancouver does the first mapping while exploring Puget Sound
- 1805** Lewis, Clark and the Corps of Discovery enter what is to become Washington
- 1818** British and American governments decide to jointly occupy the Northwest Territory
- 1832** First school is built in Washington
- 1834** First travelers on the Oregon Trail reach the Pacific Northwest
- 1843** Beginning of the Great Migration, a rush to the West along the Oregon Trail
- 1851** First settlers arrive in Seattle
- 1852** The Columbian becomes the first Washington newspaper to be printed
- 1853** Washington Territory is created
- 1853** Olympia becomes the Capital of Washington Territory
- 1853** Isaac Stevens signs oath of office to become the first governor of Washington Territory
- 1854** First election is held
- 1854** First meeting of the Washington Territorial Legislature
- 1883** Northern Pacific Railroad is completed and now connects both coasts
- 1889** Washington enters the union as the 42nd state
- 1910** Women are granted suffrage

Through the Years

- 
- 1914** First Voters' Pamphlet is distributed in Washington State
- 1916** Boeing is founded by William E. Boeing
- 1941** Grand Coulee Dam is completed
- 1962** Seattle World's Fair is held
- 1971** Citizens who are 18 years old are now allowed to vote
- 1974** Spokane World's Fair is held
- 1979** Seattle SuperSonics win NBA title
- 1980** Mount St. Helens erupts
- 1986** Microsoft goes public after moving its headquarters to Redmond
- 1989** Washington Centennial is celebrated
- 1996** Washington State History Museum opens
- 2001** Nisqually earthquake, hits 6.8 on the Richter scale
- 2001** Seattle Mariners tie for most season wins in Major League Baseball history
- 2004** Seattle Storm wins WNBA title
- 2004** The closest Governor's race in state history (Christine Gregoire vs. Dino Rossi)
- 2005** King County renamed to honor Martin Luther King Jr.
- 2008** Washington State holds first-ever Top Two Primary
- 2009** Seattle P-I publishes last edition after 146 years
- 2010** Seattle Storm wins WNBA title again

Our State Symbols

- State Flower: Coast Rhododendron**
- State Tree: Western Hemlock**
- State Bird: Willow Goldfinch**
- State Song: "Washington, My Home"**
- State Fish: Steelhead Trout**
- State Gem: Petrified Wood**
- State Dance: Square Dance**
- State Folk Song: "Roll On, Columbia, Roll On"**
- State Fruit: Apple**
- State Grass: Bluebunch Wheatgrass**
- State Insect: Green Darner Dragonfly**
- State Fossil: Columbian Mammoth**
- State Marine Mammal: Orca**
- State Vegetable: Sweet Walla Walla Onion**
- State Amphibian: Pacific Chorus Frog**
- State Ship: Lady Washington**
- State Endemic Mammal: Olympic Marmot**



Our State Seal



1889

The year the state seal was created.

When Washington became a state in 1889, an official seal was needed, so a contest was held. A design was brought before the Talcott Brothers, who were local jewelers in Olympia. The design was very intricate with wheat fields, sheep grazing, the Port of Tacoma and Mount Rainier. Charles Talcott said the design was too complicated and would quickly become outdated. Working in the jewelry industry, he knew that something simple would be timeless. He picked up an inkwell and drew a circle around it. Next, he placed a silver dollar in the circle and drew an inner circle. He then printed the words, "The Seal of the State of Washington," between the two circles. Finally he took a 2-cent stamp featuring a profile of our first president, George Washington, licked it and placed it in the center. The Legislature loved the design.

For the final version, the Talcott Brothers used George Washington's picture from a packing box of "Dr. Jaynes Cure for Cough & Colds."

Over the years, more than two dozen variations of the Talcott design were used. In 1967, Seattle graphic designer Richard Nelms was commissioned to create a new insignia. He selected a Gilbert Stuart portrait of George Washington, which the Legislature made the official State Seal.

By law, the Secretary of State is the custodian of the Great Seal, which is attached to official documents and certificates issued by the state. Now more than 100 years old, the original State Seal press is still used to impress seals on all official documents.

The story behind the seal

Washington voters choose leaders for all three branches of state government: The Legislative branch passes our laws and our budgets. The Executive branch, headed by the governor and eight other statewide elected officials, administers the laws and carries out their duties. The Judicial branch, including judges on the District, Superior, Appeals and Supreme Court levels, hears appeals and resolves disputes by interpreting the law.

Legislative

State Senate

- 49 members, one for each district in Washington
- Elected to four-year terms, with one-half of districts elected every two years
- Lieutenant governor acts as presiding officer
- Proposes legislation, including constitutional amendments, bills and budget measures

State House of Representatives

- 98 members, two per district
- Elected to two-year terms, with entire assembly elected in even-numbered years
- Speaker of the House acts as presiding officer
- Proposes legislation, including constitutional amendments, bills and budget

Executive

Governor

- Elected to a four-year term, with no term limits
- The governor proposes and signs or vetoes the budget and other legislation, carries out administration of state government; appoints key officials, college trustees and cabinet directors; fills judicial vacancies; promotes international trade and tourism; and serves on a number of important boards

Lieutenant Governor

- Separately elected from the governor to a four-year term and need not be from same party
- The lieutenant governor presides over the state Senate, serves on state boards, serves as acting governor when the governor is out of state, and takes over as governor if he or she resigns or dies in office

Secretary of State

- Elected to a four-year term
- The Secretary of State is second in line of succession to the governor and heads the state Elections Division, State Archives, State Library, heritage activities, and the Corporations & Charities Division

Our Leaders

Executive

State Superintendent of Public Instruction

- Elected to a four-year term
- Oversees the education agency and supports the work of the 295 school districts and nine educational service districts, serving 1 million students

Insurance Commissioner

- Elected to a four-year term
- Heads an agency that oversees the regulation of a variety of insurance companies, advises the governor and Legislature on health-care reform and other insurance issues, and acts as a consumer advocate

Commissioner of Public Lands

- Elected to a four-year term
- Heads the Department of Natural Resources, which manages 5.6 million acres of forest, range, agricultural, aquatic and commercial lands, provides recreational opportunities, and helps develop policy

State Treasurer

- Elected to a four-year term
- The treasurer acts as the state's banker, helping manage state debt and selling state bonds to finance a variety of state infrastructure; he also serves on the state Finance Committee and advises the governor and the Legislature on fiscal matters

Attorney General

- Elected to a four-year term
- The attorney general represents state agencies and the voters in legal matters, operates the state's consumer protection division, acts as an advocate for open government and access to public records, and as a law-enforcement leader

State Auditor

- Elected to a four-year term
- Conducts financial and performance audits on state and local governments and programs, and is an advocate for government transparency and accountability

Our Leaders

Judicial

Supreme Court

Nine justices are elected statewide to six-year terms each, usually in a class of three justices every two years. All judges in Washington are elected, and the governor sometimes makes the initial appointment until the following General Election.

Superior Courts

Washington has 31 judicial districts, each with one or more judges, handling both civil and criminal cases.

Court of Appeals

Washington has three Appeals Court divisions, headquartered in Seattle, Tacoma and Spokane, that accept review of lower court decisions.

District and Municipal Courts

All Washington counties have district courts with jurisdiction over a number of civil and criminal cases. Many areas also have municipal courts.

State Flag

When Washington became a state in 1889, it did not have an official flag of its own. At the turn of the century, many cities and towns flew a military flag bearing a gold profile of George Washington on blue bunting in honor of our first president.

The design was similar to the official state flag today, and Washington did not adopt an official design for its state flag until 1923, more than 30 years after the state was admitted to the union.

According to state law, "The official flag of the state of Washington shall be of dark green silk or bunting and shall bear in its center a reproduction of the seal of the state of Washington embroidered, printed, painted or stamped thereon. The edges of the flag may, or may not, be fringed. If a fringe is used the same shall be of gold or yellow color of the same shade as the seal. The dimensions of the flag may vary."

The Secretary of State's Office sells official state flags. To purchase a flag, visit www.sos.wa.gov/store/

How to display the flag:

When the Washington State flag is displayed within the state, it should occupy the position of honor (to the flag's own right, or the observer's left) after the U.S. flag, the flag of any other nation, before the flags of other states, counties and city, municipalities, and public or private organizations.

When the U.S. flag and Washington State flag are flown from a single flagstaff, the U. S. flag is displayed on top, with the Washington State flag immediately below it. The Washington State flag should be approximately the same size as, but never larger than, the U.S. flag.

If displayed on different flag poles, all flags should be at the same height. The United States flag should be flown immediately to the viewers' left followed by flags of other nations and then the Washington State flag.

The Washington State flag should be dipped – or tilted slightly – as a mark of honor to the U.S. flag, or to the national anthem if the U.S. flag is not being displayed. When the Washington State flag is dipped, care must be taken that it does not touch the ground or floor.

Did you know...

The Washington State flag is the only state flag that displays an image of a historical person.





Department of Agriculture serves the people of Washington by supporting the agricultural community and promoting consumer and environmental protection. www.agr.wa.gov

Department of Commerce is the lead agency charged with enhancing and promoting sustainable communities and economic vitality in our state. www.commerce.wa.gov

Department of Corrections is responsible for administering adult corrections programs operated by the State of Washington. www.doc.wa.gov

Department of Early Learning helps Washington's children get ready for school and life. www.del.wa.gov

Department of Ecology protects, preserves and enhances Washington's environment. www.ecy.wa.gov

Department of Employment Security helps Washington's workers and employers succeed in the global economy. www.esd.wa.gov

Department of Fish and Wildlife is dedicated to preserving, protecting and perpetuating the state's fish and wildlife resources. www.wdfw.wa.gov

Department of General Administration is a central services agency delivering excellence in strengthening government's ability to achieve results efficiently and effectively. www.ga.wa.gov

Department of Health works with its federal, state and local partners to help people in Washington stay healthier and safer. www.doh.wa.gov

Department of Labor & Industries is dedicated to the safety, health and security of Washington's 3.2 million workers. www.lni.wa.gov

Department of Licensing is responsible for everything from highway safety, vehicle and driver fraud, to the licensing and regulation of over 30 professions and businesses, public safety and consumer protection. www.dol.wa.gov

Department of Natural Resources protects and manages 5.6 million acres of state-owned land. www.dnr.wa.gov

Department of Personnel provides human resource guidance and services to maximize state government's ability to serve the citizens of Washington. www.dop.wa.gov

Department of Printing provides printing and related services to government communications. www.prt.wa.gov

Department of Retirement Systems serves as the administrator over all public retirement systems and the Deferred Compensation program. www.drs.wa.gov

Serving Washington

Department of Revenue collects revenues and administers programs to fund public services and advocates sound tax policy. www.dor.wa.gov

Department of Social and Health Services is a helping hand and lifeline for one out of every four Washington residents. Children, families, vulnerable adults and seniors go to DSHS for protection, comfort, food assistance, financial aid, medical care and other services. www.dshs.wa.gov

Department of Transportation is the steward of a large and robust transportation system, and is responsible for ensuring that people and goods move safely and efficiently. www.wsdot.wa.gov

Military Department minimizes the impact of emergencies and disasters on people, property, environment and the economy of Washington State. www.mil.wa.gov

Office of Financial Management provides vital information, fiscal services and policy support that the governor, Legislature and state agencies need to serve the people of Washington State. www.ofm.wa.gov

The Office of the Governor oversees all domestic programs within the state. The Governor's Office sets policies, appoints department heads, prepares and administers a budget, recommends legislation and signs laws. www.governor.wa.gov

Office of the Insurance Commissioner oversees the insurance industry to ensure that companies follow the rules. www.insurance.wa.gov

Office of the Land Commissioner oversees all Department of Natural Resources (DNR) operations and the largest fire department in the state to protect 12 million acres of private and state-owned land. www.dnr.wa.gov

Office of the Lieutenant Governor serves as the President of the Senate and serves as the acting governor in the absence of the governor. www.ltgov.wa.gov

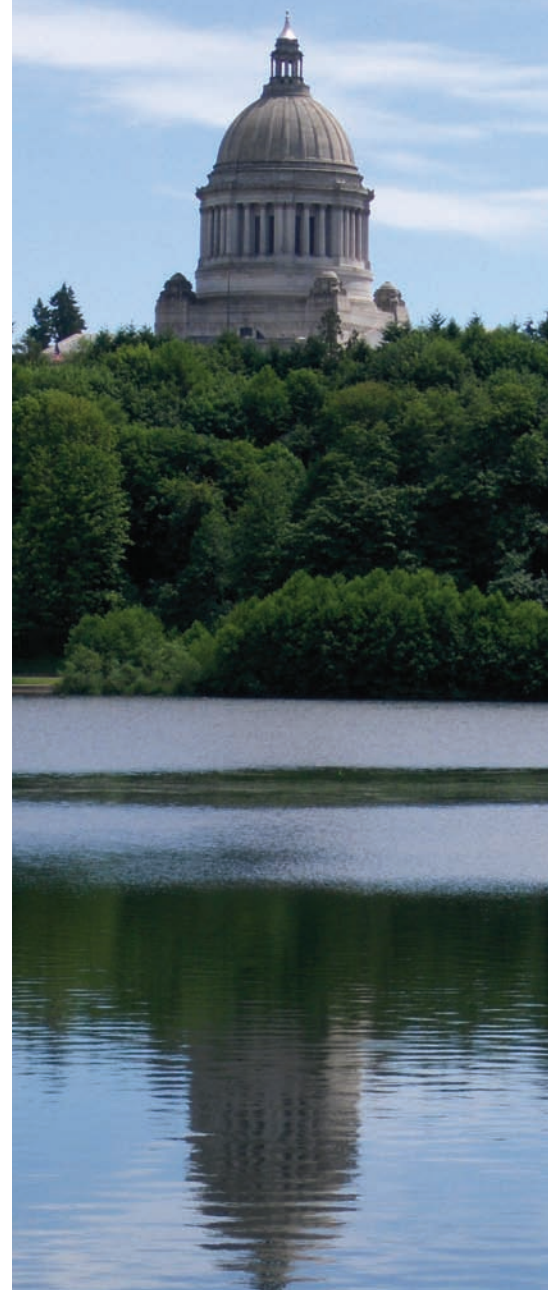
Office of Public Defense implements the constitutional and statutory guarantees of counsel and ensures the effective and efficient delivery of indigent defense services funded by the state. www.opd.wa.gov

Office of the Secretary of State is the state's chief elections office, chief corporations office and supervises the State Archives and the State Library. www.sos.wa.gov

Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction leads, supports and oversees K-12 education, ensuring the success of all learners. www.k12.wa.gov

Office of the Treasurer manages the financial resources within our purview and promotes prudent financial practices in government. www.tre.wa.gov

Washington State Lottery generates revenues for state programs through the sale of lottery games. www.walottery.com



Washington is a pretty brainy place. We have six public universities, 29 community colleges, five technical colleges and dozens of private schools, many of which appear on national top-ranked lists and tout internationally renowned faculty.

The state's metropolis, Seattle, has one of the highest rates of college education among U.S. cities, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Nearly half of the people in Seattle's 25-and-over population have earned at least a bachelor's degree. The percentage of graduates throughout Washington is also higher than the national rate.



UNIVERSITY of
WASHINGTON

University of Washington

Location: Seattle, Tacoma & Bothell

Website: www.uw.edu



Washington State University

Location: Pullman, Spokane,
Tri-Cities & Vancouver

Website: www.wsu.edu



CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Central Washington University

Location: Ellensburg
Website: www.cwu.edu

Public Universities



Eastern Washington University

Location: Cheney
Website: www.ewu.edu



Western Washington University

Location: Bellingham
Website: www.wvu.edu

EVERGREEN

THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE
OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

The Evergreen State College

Location: Olympia
Website: www.evergreen.edu

Who can vote?

To become registered to vote in Washington, you have to be at least 18 years old and have lived in the state for 30 days before the election you want to vote in. Convicted felons denied their civil rights cannot vote in Washington. There is no registration by political party in Washington.

Registration requirements

If you're registering for the first time in Washington or if you have just moved to a different county within the state, you need to complete a voter registration form. If you are already registered and merely moving within the same county, you can transfer your registration by completing a new form or contacting your County Auditor by mail, e-mail or phone.

You will need a Washington State driver's license or other form of Washington State identification, or a Social Security number. If you do not have one of these, you should provide a valid photo identification, or copy of a utility bill, bank statement, paycheck or other government document that shows your name and address.

Voter registration deadlines

While you may register to vote at any time, keep in mind that there are registration deadlines prior to each election. You must be registered at least 29 days before an election if you register by mail or online. If you are a new voter in Washington State, you may register in person at your county elections department up to 8 days before an election.

Online voter registration

In 2008, Washington became only the second state in the nation (Arizona was the first) to allow people to use the Internet to register to vote. Prospective voters can conveniently complete registration applications online at www.sos.wa.gov or www.vote.wa.gov and submit the forms electronically. Each form will be carefully reviewed by county elections officials before a voter is placed on the voting rolls.

Vote by mail

Mail elections are an alternative to polls. Before each election, every registered voter is mailed a ballot to his or her address on record. All 39 counties use this vote-by-mail system and do not have poll sites.



The People Speak

Washington has a long, proud tradition of allowing its citizens to play an active role in state government through the use of initiatives and referenda. In 1912, Washington became one of the first states to adopt the initiative and referendum process. These ballot measures give citizens the right to make and remake their laws, and to provide a check over measures approved by the State Legislature.

Initiatives

There are two types of initiatives used in Washington: initiatives to the people and initiatives to the Legislature. If an initiative to the people is certified to have enough signatures, it is placed on the ballot for the next statewide General Election. If an initiative to the Legislature is certified, it is submitted to the Legislature at its next regular session in January. The Legislature can then do one of three things:

- It can adopt the initiative as proposed, which means it becomes law without a vote of the people;
- It can reject or refuse to act on the proposed initiative, in which case the initiative must be placed on the ballot at the next statewide General Election; or
- It can approve an alternative to the proposed initiative, in which case both the original proposal and the Legislature's alternative must be placed on the ballot at the next statewide General Election.

Referenda

Our state uses two kinds of referenda: 1) referendum measures are laws recently passed by the Legislature that are placed on the ballot because of petitions signed by voters; and 2) referendum bills are proposed laws referred to the voters by the Legislature.

Through 2010, there were 72 referendum measures and 52 referendum bills. A history is available at <http://bit.ly/eZWv8s>.

Did you know?...

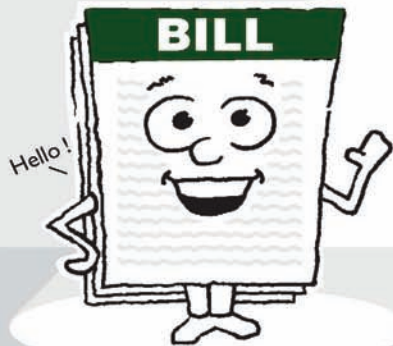
- Since 1990, the Secretary of State has conducted 57 signature checks on initiative and referendum petitions. Only four of these have been 100 percent checks. The remaining 53 checks were completed using a random sample method.
- Referendum sponsors must submit a number of signatures at least equal to 4 percent of the votes cast for the office of governor in the most recent gubernatorial election in Washington State.
- Initiative sponsors must submit a number of signatures at least equal to 8 percent of the votes of the votes cast for the office of governor in the most recent gubernatorial election in Washington State.

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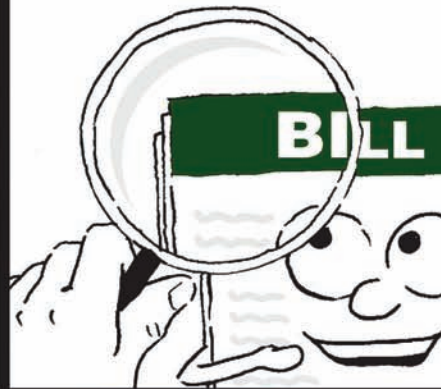
The number of initiatives to the Legislature since 1914.

How We Make Laws

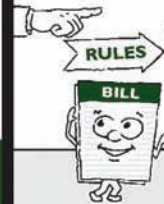
A bill may be introduced in either the Senate or House of Representatives.



A committee studies the bill and often holds public hearings on it.

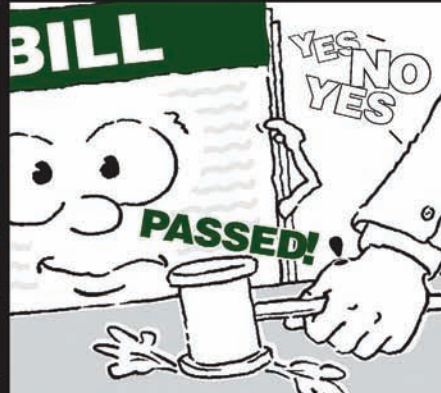
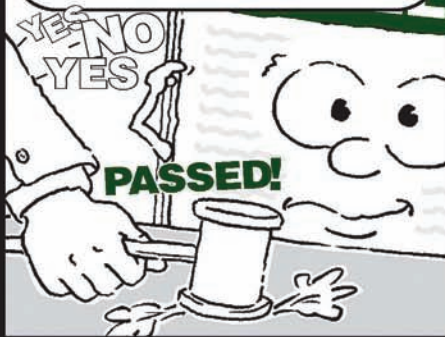


A committee report is read in open session of the House or Senate, and the bill is then referred to the Rules Committee.

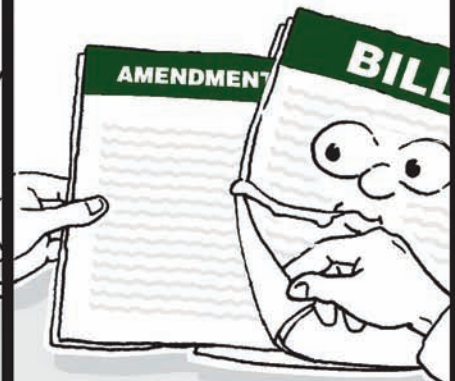


The rules committee decides which bills will be sent to the floor for further consideration and which bills won't.

At the second reading a bill is subject to debate and amendment before being placed on the third reading calendar for final passage.

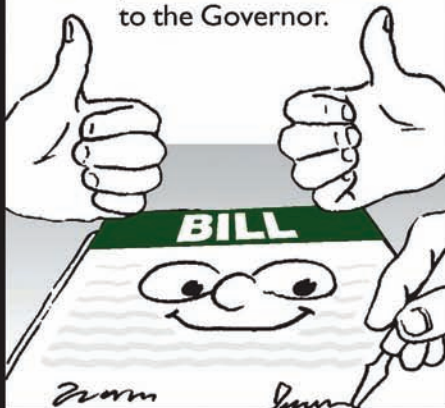


After passing one house, the bill goes through the same procedure in the other house.



If amendments are made in one house, the other house must concur.

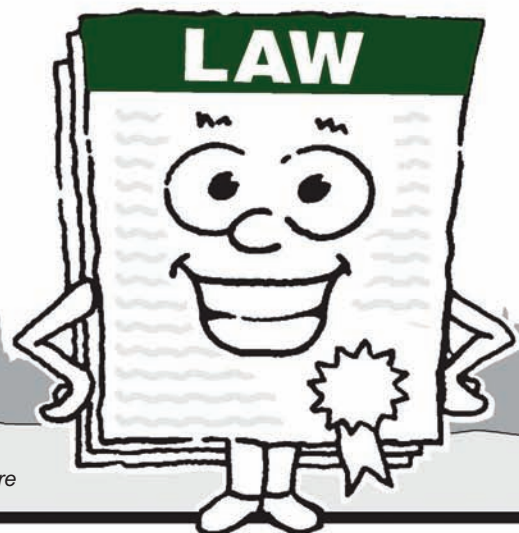
When the bill is accepted in both houses, it is signed by the respective leaders and sent to the Governor.



The Governor signs the bill into law or may veto all or part of it. If the Governor fails to act on the bill, it may become law without a signature.



--Washington State Legislature



Our Agriculture

Thanks to rich soils, diverse climates and a widespread irrigation system in the dryer eastern side of the state, Washington is one of the most productive agricultural regions in the world. Many Washington-grown products are shipped throughout the country and the world, including apples, cherries, cranberries, potatoes and wheat. The state has 39,000 farms.

Washington's \$35 billion food and agriculture industry employs 160,000 people and contributes 11 percent to the state's economy. Nearly \$11 billion in food and agricultural products were exported through Washington ports in 2009, the third largest total in the country.

The state's agricultural economy is led by its apple industry, which is responsible for more than 55 percent of U.S. production.

Washington also is a major producer of hops, potatoes, grapes, farm forest products, fish and shellfish, raspberries and mint oils.

Yakima County ranked first among Washington counties in terms of market value of crop and livestock products (\$1.2 billion) in 2008. The rest of the top 10 counties are: Grant (\$1.19 billion), Benton (\$526 million), Franklin (\$467 million), Walla Walla (\$344 million), Adams (\$344 million), Whatcom (\$326 million), Skagit (\$256 million), Whitman (\$254 million) and Chelan (\$209 million). To see a map showing all of the counties' rankings, go to <http://agr.wa.gov/AgInWa/docs/126-CropProductionMap2-11.pdf>.

Top 10

The top 10 agricultural commodities in the state, in terms of millions of dollars in 2009, are:

1. Apples – \$1,423
2. Milk – \$684
3. Potatoes – \$646
4. Wheat – \$597
5. Cattle – \$473
6. Hay – \$442
7. Nursery/Greenhouses – \$293
8. Hops – \$264
9. Cherries – \$224
10. Grapes – \$210

10 Facts


About Washington-Grown Apples:

1. The top nine varieties of apples grown in Washington State are Red Delicious, Golden Delicious, Gala, Fuji, Granny Smith, Braeburn, Honeycrisp, Cripps Pink and Cameo.
2. Our most famous apple, the Red Delicious, represents 30 percent of the apples grown in the state, but accounts for 43 percent of apples exported to other countries.
3. Apples are the largest single agricultural product grown in Washington State.
4. Between 10 billion and 12 billion apples are handpicked in Washington State each year. Side-by-side, they would circle the Earth 12 times.
5. Harvest of Washington apples begins in mid-August and generally ends in early November, producing over 100 million boxes.
6. Over half of all apples grown in the United States for fresh eating come from orchards in Washington State.
7. The entire Washington apple industry has been working to reduce pesticide use, while organic acreage has increased in recent years.
8. All nine state apple varieties are available as organics.
9. Washington apples are sold in all 50 states and in more than 50 countries.
10. A third of Washington's apple crop is exported yearly, with major markets in the Asian Pacific Rim, Canada, Mexico and South America.

7,500

The number of varieties of apples worldwide.

Hot Milk?



Producing foods that are wholesome, nutritious and safe. Demonstrating a profound sense of stewardship for the environment and the animals in their care. Creating prosperity that buoys whole communities. The Dairy Farmers of Washington have been providing pure, fresh and local milk to our state's residents since 1838.

It starts with our temperate climate and abundant natural resources. Washington is just a great place to be a cow! Our experienced and innovative dairy farmers build on those gifts, sustaining a legacy of superior products, responsible animal husbandry, comprehensive environmental protections and a commitment to serving the communities their industry helped to build.

The scale of their achievements emerges from the numbers. With approximately 460 dairy farms and 245,000 cows, Washington ranks 10th in total milk production among the 50 states. It ranks second in milk production per cow. Dairy foods constitute the second largest agricultural commodity produced in Washington, its total value to the state's economy easily exceeding \$1 billion annually.

But dairy farming is more than a way to make a living – it's a way of life. Whether on a small dairy near Lynden or a large dairy near Yakima, an organic dairy outside Elma or a conventional dairy in Deer Park, all of Washington's dairy farm families share a common commitment to quality products and responsible production.

Did you know?

Cows do not actually bite grass but instead they feed by curling their tongue around the grass.

600

The number of pasta shapes worldwide.



Washington State is one of the nation's leading wheat-exporting states. Eighty-five to 90 percent of its production is exported each year. Our wheat farmers grow five classes of wheat: Soft White, Hard White, Hard Red Winter, Hard Red Spring and Durum.

Hard White wheat can be used for creating the same products as Hard Red wheat. Hard wheat is excellent for use in the bread-making industry. Soft White wheat is used for pastries, cakes and cookies, as well as cereals and crackers.

Winter wheat is planted in the fall and harvested the following summer. Spring wheat is planted in the spring and harvested in midsummer to early fall.

Over 60 percent of Washington's wheat exports travel by barge along the 400-mile Snake-Columbia River system to Portland. Wheat is then transported by rail to coastal grain terminals where it is loaded onto ocean freighters and exported to nations around the world.

Wheat is one of the United States' largest agricultural exports and is a positive contribution to the agricultural trade balance. About 40 percent of the total U.S. wheat is exported.

Wine Country



In 1825, the first wine grapes were planted at Fort Vancouver. By 1910, wine grapes were growing all over the state. In the last two decades, Washington's wine industry has been booming, with a total economic impact of \$3 billion in 2006. Washington is now the nation's second largest wine producer, behind California, and attracts nearly 2 million visitors to the state annually.

There are over 600 wineries in Washington State, along with more than 350 wine grape growers. The eastern part of Washington, where 99 percent of the state's grapes are grown, has ideal dry-weather conditions for growing quality wine grapes.

Washington wines are being exported to 40 countries around the world and are found here in all 50 states. The industry is drastically impacting the growth of local economies and the numbers of tourists are climbing. The wine industry currently employs over 14,000 people directly and indirectly.

Washington's biggest wineries are Chateau Ste. Michelle, which started in 1967, and Columbia Winery which started in 1962.

Washington Wine Commission



Did you know?...

- Washington is America's second largest wine region, with more than 36,000 acres of vines.
- There are more than 600 wineries in Washington.
- Washington's 2008 wine grape production totaled 145,000 tons.
- White Riesling was the top variety grown in the state in 2008, followed by Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot.

Washington State's flower festivals boast beautiful blooms that span across the state. The state's flower festivals run during the spring and summer after much of the state's renowned rainy season. Our abundance of rain provides Washington with stunning flowers and greenery year-round. Washington comes alive with color from yellow daffodils to lavender to all varieties of the state flower, the Coast Rhododendron.

Did you know?...

- The Daffodil Festival has been in existence since 1923. Approximately 40 floats decorated with fresh-cut daffodils numbering in the thousands travel through the cities of Tacoma, Puyallup, Sumner and Orting in the Grand Floral Street Parade each April.
- The annual Washington State Apple Blossom Festival is held in Wenatchee, the self-proclaimed "Apple Capital of the World." Over 100,000 visitors come to the Apple Blossom Festival, which runs two weeks from the last weekend in April to the first weekend in May.
- For over 75 years, the Rhododendron Festival, a.k.a. "Rhody Fest," has been the only festival featuring Washington State's flower. This is the oldest and second-largest (behind the Wooden Boat Festival) festival in Washington State. Rhody Fest is held annually in Port Townsend for a week in mid-May.
- The Skagit Valley Tulip Festival entices visitors to the towns of La Conner and Mount Vernon with acres of beautiful daffodils, tulips, irises and lilies. The flower-viewing season begins with dainty yellow daffodils in mid-to-late-March and a rainbow of tulips takes the stage in April. Irises and lilies follow, providing color well into the month of May. Special events and parades are scheduled annually in April.
- The Sequim Lavender Festival is the largest lavender event in North America. Farm tours, a street fair and community events celebrate the abundance of lavender from the Sequim-Dungeness Valley. The annual Sequim Lavender Festival will run three days in mid-July.

Java Jitters

Washington State does seem somehow responsible for the planet's coffee craze. The coffee pot has always been on here, from pioneer campfires to today's sleek coffeehouses that have become community meeting places.

After Starbucks opened that first modest little store at Pike Place Market in Seattle in 1971, the phenomenon took off and the steaming coffee drink has become an icon of the state – and big business internationally. Today, Starbucks bills itself the world's leading retailer, roaster and brand of specialty coffee. Other coffee companies and hundreds of retailers also do blockbuster business – particularly when the long, rainy, gloomy days settle in and a java jolt is needed.

Coffee Fest, established in 1992, is one of the world's leading coffee tradeshow and is held annually in Seattle. In addition to serving various specialty coffees and gourmet teas, Coffee Fest provides workshops, barista training and certification, and even holds latte art championships. When it comes to coffee, we don't mess around!

www.coffeefest.com

Did you know?...

- Seattle/Tacoma residents consume more coffee per capita than any other region in the country.
- Washington State has tens of thousands of coffee-businesses throughout the state.

From hiking to bicycling, skiing to fishing and horseback riding to whale watching, Washington State has year-round attractions for anyone who loves the outdoors. Washington is graced by two major mountain ranges, active volcanoes, rainforests, deserts, trail heads, islands and endless rivers, lakes and streams.

Bicycling

Our two largest cities, Seattle and Spokane, are bicycle-friendly cities featuring many miles of bike lanes and paved bike trails. Touring bicyclists and off-roaders are especially attracted to the hundreds of miles of scenic back roads and unpaved trails.

Horseback Riding

Washington State has it all for those who love horseback riding: mountains, meadows, ranches, forests, beaches and plains. Horse trails crisscross the state with horses for hire at stables and equestrian centers throughout Washington.

Water Sports

Vast stretches of beautiful saltwater beaches envelop the state's Pacific coastline, through the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Puget Sound. Washington is also home to hundreds of freshwater lakes and rivers. Water lovers can rejoice in a number of water sports like water skiing, parasailing, boating, white-water rafting, surfing, swimming, kayaking, scuba diving, fly fishing, sunbathing and exploring tide pools.

Hiking, Rock Climbing & Camping

Hiking trails and camping facilities stretch across the Evergreen State and provide options for hikers, climbers, RV enthusiasts and barebones campers alike. Hiking trails crisscross mountains, rainforests, deserts and beaches to provide the outdoors enthusiast with a pleasurable wilderness stroll or challenging, yet scenic climbs.

Winter Sports

When the temperatures drop, the snow falls. The Cascade, Olympic, Blue and Selkirk mountains are great locations for all types of winter activities. Hundreds of lifts, trails and runs dot Washington's mountains for cross-country and downhill skiing, snowboarding, sledding, skijoring, snowmobiling and tubing.





10 Facts

About Washington Fish and Wildlife

1. Over 1 million people purchase Washington State fishing licenses, hunting licenses or vehicle-use permits from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) each year.
2. There are 175 million salmon, steel head smolt, trout and warm water fish such as bass, perch and walleye reared in WDFW hatcheries and released into Washington waters each year.
3. In 2008, 63,235 razor-clam licenses were purchased.
4. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife operates 686 water and land access sites that provide hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing and other recreational activities.
5. Approximately 1 million visits are made to WDFW lands each year.
6. Washington State outproduces California, Oregon and Alaska in volume of oysters, clams, mussels, geoduck and shellfish larvae and seed each year.
7. Spending by fishers, hunters and wildlife watchers generates more than \$6.7 billion annually for Washington State.
8. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 40 percent of Washingtonians participate in the outdoor economy.
9. Sport fishing generates \$1.1 billion for Washington State each year.
10. There are 840,000 acres of state lands that are managed by WDFW to provide habitat for fish and wildlife.

Did you know?...

- Geoducks (pronounced gooey-duck) can live as long as 146 years.
- Some members of the scallop family have dozens of eyes. These eyes help detect predators.

With a prime location along the Pacific Rim, Washington is a key economic export center for the U.S. to Asia. In fact, it is the second largest exporter to China and Japan after California. International trade fuels Washington's economy and contributes to the success of local businesses, which garner much of their revenue through exports. Exports also contribute greatly to tourism and investments and provide significant employment opportunities in the state.

10 Facts

About Washington State and trade:

1. Washington exported \$53.2 billion in 2010.
2. Washington ranks fifth in total exports behind Texas, California, New York and Florida.
3. In 2010, Washington's merchandise and commodities were equal to 15.6 percent of the state GDP.
4. While Washington represents only 2 percent of the nation's population, its ports handle 8 percent of all U.S. exports and receives a 6 percent share of the nation's imports.
5. Washington's two largest ports, Seattle and Tacoma, handled \$91.3 billion in two-way trade in 2010.
6. There are 75 ports in Washington, collectively employing more than 110,000 workers spread across two major sites in Seattle and Tacoma and smaller specialized ports in Bellingham, Everett and Vancouver.
7. In 2010, Washington exported \$7,917 per capita, more than double the national average of \$4,137.
8. Approximately one in three jobs in Washington is tied to foreign exports, and the pay for these jobs is about 46 percent more than the overall state average.
9. Products shipped through Washington State reach more than 200 countries worldwide.
10. In 2010, Washington's agriculture, forestry and food and beverage exports reached \$13.8 billion, a 20 percent increase over 2009.

Department of Commerce

Innovation Capital

Washington's reputation as an innovative state is due in part to its intense entrepreneurial spirit, vibrant research community and wide range of emerging industries.

With the second-most new company creation per capita in the U.S. and thousands of patents filed each year in the state, it's not surprising that some of the world's best ideas have come out of Washington. While our state is one of the leaders in software development and information technology – more than 4,000 software companies call Washington home – it is also a solid contributor for biomedical solutions, breakthrough surgical technology and telecommunications.

Did you know?...

- Washington State's technology sector employs more than 380,000 people, representing 13 percent of the entire working population of the state.
- Washington ranks first in the nation for creation of new software companies.
- Washington ranks second in the nation (behind Virginia) in technology-intensive employment.
- Washington ranks fourth nationally (behind Massachusetts, New Jersey and Virginia) in the concentration of technology-based employment and is 35 percent above the national average.

"We're blessed by birth. We have an innovative spirit in the state," Washington Governor, Chris Gregoire said. "We've made improvements to get out of the way and let innovation and creativity take over."

Putting Washington on the Map



Washington companies have, quite literally, changed the world. Cutting-edge technologies, breakthrough aerospace developments, and a widespread coffee culture have not only defined the state's identity, they have set global industry standards. Among Fortune Magazine's top 20-most admired companies in the U.S., four are based in Washington.

Here is a look at some of the companies that have put Washington on the map:

Amazon.com

Seattle-based Amazon launched in 1995, with the idea of selling books on the Internet, but it was more than just a bookstore on the Web. The company is credited for introducing the online community concept by allowing users to give online product reviews, which let peers research products before buying them. Amazon has expanded its merchandise and has become an e-commerce giant, maintaining 25 centers that take up 12 million square feet.

Boeing

Nearly 100 years ago, William Boeing and George Conrad Westervelt began constructing a twin-float seaplane in Boeing's small Seattle boathouse. Today the Boeing Company is the world's largest manufacturer of commercial jetliners and military aircraft combined. It is a major provider to NASA, and operates the Space Shuttle and International Space Station. Now headquartered in Chicago, Boeing employs more than 160,000 people – about half of whom are based in Washington.

Putting Washington on the Map



Costco

Costco opened its first wholesale warehouse in 1983 in Seattle to provide buy-in-bulk products for small business owners at a low cost. Since then, it has opened 577 warehouses as of October 28, 2010. About 54.4 million people now carry a Costco membership card in their wallets. Costco, based in Issaquah, is the fifth largest retailer in the U.S.

Microsoft

In a time before most people even knew how to use a computer, two childhood friends from Washington started what would later become the largest software company in the world. Redmond-based Microsoft today employs more than 40,000 people in the Puget Sound area, nearly half of its worldwide workforce. The company had a net revenue of \$62.48 billion in 2010, and founders Bill Gates and Paul Allen are two of the world's richest men and most famous entrepreneurs.

Nordstrom

One of the world's most well-known fashion retailers started as a simple shoe shop in downtown Seattle in 1901 by John W. Nordstrom, who was looking to invest his new gold mining earnings. Nordstrom Corporation now has 101 full-line store locations and annual sales of about \$8.3 billion.

Starbucks

Lattes weren't always the morning staple of Americans. Starbucks began as a hole-in-the-wall coffee and tea store, located in Seattle at Pike Place Market, in 1971. Some said its signature strong blends would never catch! Starbucks now has more than 15,000 stores in 43 countries. It has 30 blends of coffee and employs more than 175,000 people worldwide.

Weyerhaeuser

About the time Boeing was working on its first airplane, the Weyerhaeuser Company incorporated as a forest products business in Tacoma. Within a century of growing and harvesting timber, manufacturing and selling forest products, and expanding into real estate construction and development, Weyerhaeuser's most recent annual sales reached \$5.5 billion. It owns or manages 21.7 billion acres of timberland with offices or operations in 12 countries.



Washington is nicknamed “The Evergreen State” for its dense forests that stay emerald all year round, but it’s also establishing itself as another sort of green. With some of the United States’ cleanest water, Washington is hard at work promoting energy efficiency and good air quality and setting out to grow a greener economy.

Because Washington relies heavily on hydropower, power generation is not as significant a source of greenhouse gas emissions as in other states. Washington has low energy costs, 28 percent below national average. In 2006, Washington joined 20 other states and the District of Columbia by setting a renewable energy portfolio standard or goal.

In 2007, Governor Gregoire and the Legislature set out to cut down on Washington’s greenhouse gas emissions and build a clean-energy economy. Among the various policies are tougher emissions standards for cars, laws for creating renewable energy, high-performance “green” building standards for new state buildings, and new standards for electric utilities.

For the past few years, green businesses have been growing at a rate of about 5 percent each year. Building on that trend, in 2008 the Legislature passed the country’s first green jobs law. According to Green Jobs Survey, there were 47,194 green jobs in 2008.

Through new statewide policies, government initiatives and alternative energy sources, the state is dedicated to fighting climate change and finding sustainable solutions for generations to come.

Go Green

The words "Go Green" are written in a large, bold, green, sans-serif font. Below the text is a reflection effect, making it appear as if the text is floating above a surface of water or a polished floor. The background of the entire page is a vibrant green field under a blue sky with white clouds, with a white wind turbine visible on the right side.

We've Got the Power

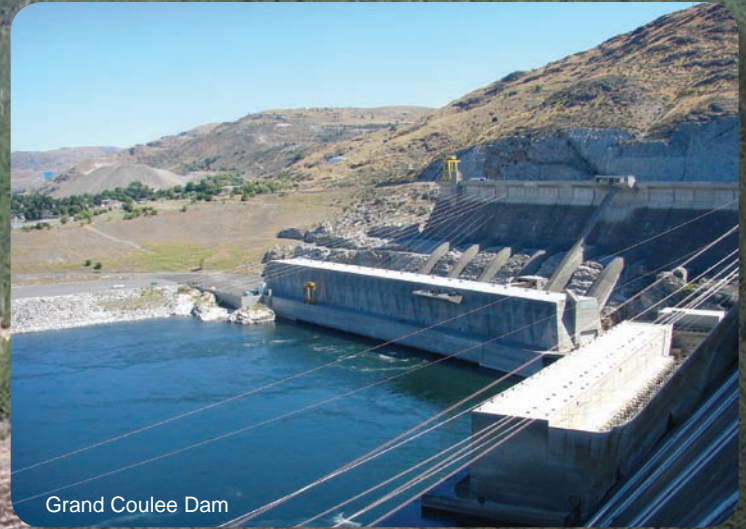
Our state has nearly 1,100 dams. They range from structures for flood and flow control to giant hydroelectric dams, such as Grand Coulee Dam, that help produce relatively cheap electric power for Washington.

The state has 68 hydroelectric dams. There are 11 hydroelectric dams just on the Columbia River, the state's longest river. Washington's largest dam is the Grand Coulee Dam, about 90 miles west of Spokane. At 550 feet in elevation, it is taller than the Great Pyramid of Giza, and its hydraulic height of 380 feet is more than double the height of Niagara Falls. It is almost a mile long at 5,223 feet. Grand Coulee Dam's reservoir, Lake Roosevelt, has more than 9.5 million acre feet in capacity, making it the sixth largest reservoir in the U.S. Grand Coulee Dam features an evening laser light show that runs from May through September.

The other dams on the Columbia are Chief Joseph, Wells, Rocky Reach, Rock Island, Wanapum, Priest Rapids, McNary, John Day, The Dalles and Bonneville.

The Snake River in Washington has four dams: Lower Granite, Little Goose, Lower Monumental and Ice Harbor.

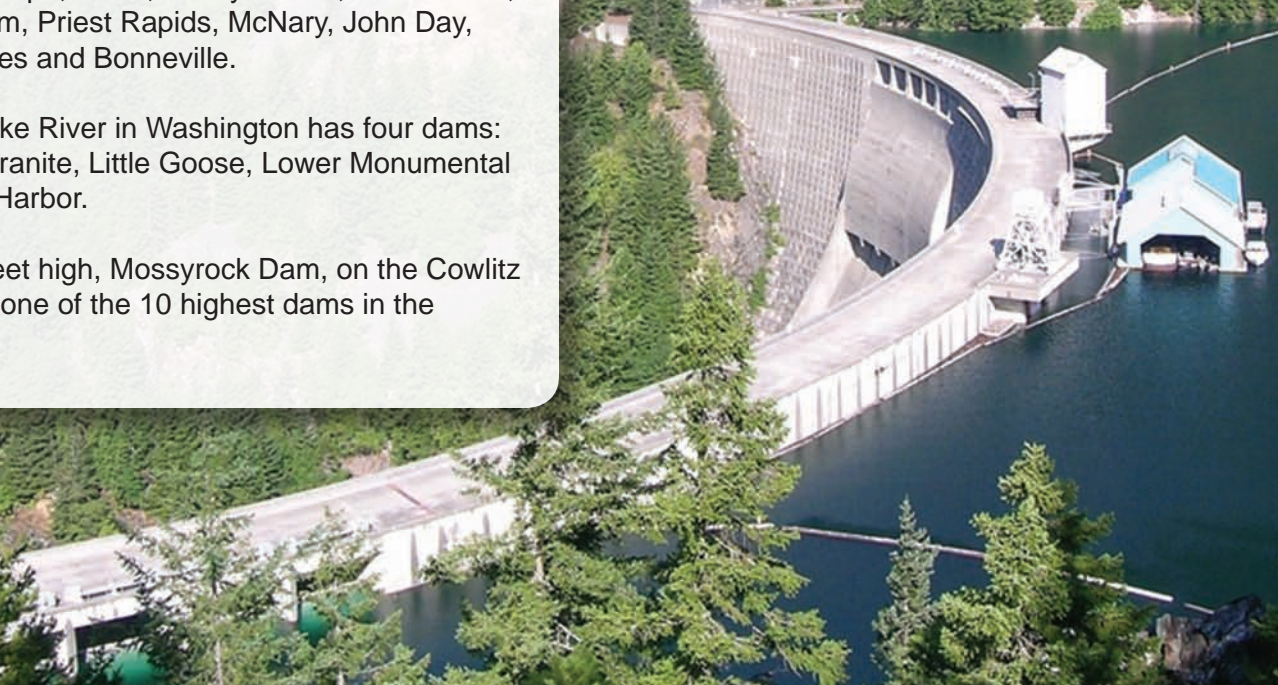
At 606 feet high, Mossyrock Dam, on the Cowlitz River, is one of the 10 highest dams in the country.



Grand Coulee Dam

1,100

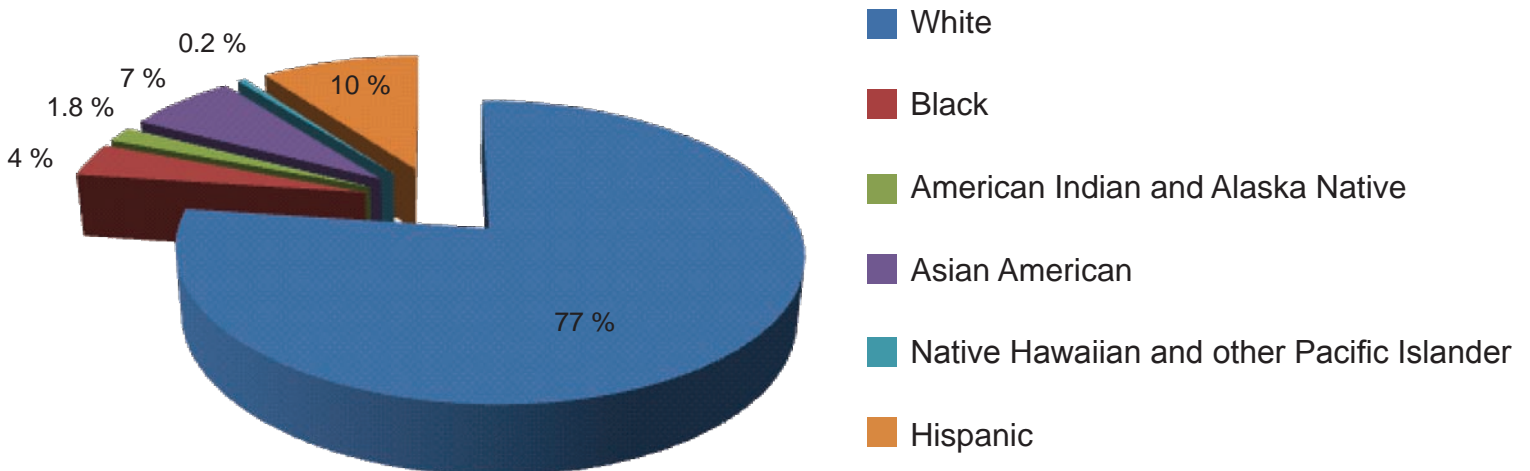
The number of dams in Washington State



Who We Are



The 2010 census shows the population of Washington State is 6,724,540. The population has increased more than 14 percent since the last census, in 2000. The population is split evenly between males and females. The average Washingtonian is about 37 years old, and the average household earns an average of \$55,628 a year. The average family size is three people. Those who work spend about 25 minutes commuting to or from their place of work. About 30 percent of Washingtonians are currently enrolled in school and just fewer than 50 percent of Washingtonians have a college degree, the highest percentage in the nation.



First Citizens

Washington State has 36 Native American tribes, 29 of which are federally recognized, meaning that they have a special, legal relationship with the U.S government, also known as a government-to-government relationship.

As of April 2008, the state estimated the American Indian and Alaska Native population to be 109,792, which makes up 1.8 percent of the total population.

Chief Seattle, also known as Sealth, was born around 1786 near Blake Island, Washington. He is one of the key shapers of Washington's history and has one of Washington's key cities, Seattle, named after him. Chief Seattle was the son of Schweabe, the Suquamish chief. He distinguished himself as a leader at a very young age because of his courage in battle and his relationships with the Europeans. He delivered a stirring speech in 1854 in what is now downtown Seattle and his speech is still widely remembered today. A statue of him resides near the Space Needle in Seattle.

Interested in tracing your Native American ancestry, or becoming a member of a tribe? Contact the Board of Certification of Genealogists or the Association of Professional Genealogists and request their listing of researchers for hire to trace your family history. Each tribe has its own criteria for membership status.

— Governor's Office of Indian Affairs



Chief Seattle

1.8%

The population percentage of American Indian and Alaska Native persons in Washington State

Blazing a Trail

Washington was the final stop in the history-making expedition of the first American explorers to find a path to the West Coast.

Back in 1801, President Thomas Jefferson wanted to find a way to get to the West Coast via water routes. He put Meriwether Lewis, a good friend of the president's, and William Clark, a military man, in charge of finding a way to the Pacific Ocean.

On their journey, they traveled on many rivers and lakes and ultimately found the Snake River, which feeds into the Columbia River in Eastern Washington. The group was helped, and often saved, by tribes along the way.

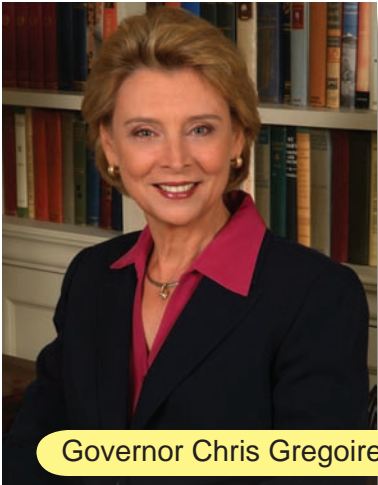
In November 1805, Clark looked out along the Columbia River and saw what he believed was the Pacific Ocean, writing in his journal: "Ocian in view! O! the joy." Unfortunately the water was too rough, and they were unable to continue by boat and had to walk the rest of the way. The entire coast-to-coast excursion took three years.



Did you know...

- Many other people accompanied Lewis and Clark – about 38 enlisted men and boatmen left from St. Louis in 1804 as well as one woman, a Shoshone Indian, Sacajawea.
- All but one of the 38 survived the trip.
- The American taxpayers paid for this trip, considered a U.S. Army expedition.
- You can't follow the exact Lewis and Clark trail today, because the rivers they traveled through are now blocked by several dams.

Oh, the Women!



Governor Chris Gregoire



Senator Patty Murray

Since its earliest days, Washington has been a state of opportunity for women in government, business, sports, education, the arts, community and family life, and just about every area of endeavor.

Women have taken an increasingly prominent role in the leadership of the state. Washington is the first, and so far only, state with a woman governor (Chris Gregoire) and two female U.S. senators (Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell).

The State Legislature regularly has one of the country's highest percentages of women legislators, including many who are in the most powerful posts. Four of the nine state Supreme Court justices are female and for a time the court had a female majority.

Many departments of state government are run by women, as are many county, city and school district posts. Tribal governments have women in prominent leadership roles as well.

"Chicks rule!" says Cathy Allen, a prominent public affairs and campaign expert who helps mentor and elect women candidates.

Women's Votes, Women's Voices

The state celebrated the centennial of women's suffrage in 2010. Washington was the fifth state to authorize voting for women.



Senator Maria Cantwell

Did you know?...

Dixy Lee Ray was Washington's first female governor. She was the 17th governor and was in office from 1977-1981.

How Counties Got Their Names

Adams	John Adams, second president of the United States
Asotin	The Nez Perce tribal name for Eel Creek
Benton	Thomas Hart Benton, a U.S. Senator from Missouri
Chelan	A Native American word meaning "deep water"
Clallam	A Klallam Native American word meaning "the strong people"
Clark	William Clark, the co-captain of the Lewis and Clark Expedition
Columbia	Named for the Columbia River
Cowlitz	A Cowlitz Native American word meaning "seeker" in the spiritual sense
Douglas	Stephen Arnold Douglas, the statesman and rival of Abraham Lincoln
Ferry	Elisha P. Ferry, the first governor of Washington State
Franklin	Benjamin Franklin, the famous Founding Father, statesman and scientist
Garfield	James A. Garfield, the 20th president of the United States
Grant	Ulysses S. Grant, the 18th president of the United States
Grays Harbor	Captain Robert Gray, explorer
Island	Named for its two islands, Whidbey and Camano
Jefferson	Thomas Jefferson, the third president of the United States
King	First named after U.S. Vice Pres. William King, renamed after Martin Luther King Jr.
Kitsap	A chief of the Suquamish tribe
Kittitas	A Native American word meaning "gravel bank"
Klickitat	Klickitat tribe
Lewis	Meriwether Lewis, the co-captain of the Lewis and Clark Expedition
Lincoln	Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the United States
Mason	Charles H. Mason, the first secretary of the Washington Territory
Okanogan	A Salish Native American word meaning "rendezvous"
Pacific	Named for the Pacific Ocean
Pend Oreille	A name given by French-Canadian fur trappers
Pierce	Franklin Pierce, the 14th president of the United States

How Counties Got Their Names

San Juan	In honor of St. John the Baptist
Skagit	Named for the Skagit Native American tribe
Skamania	A Chinookan word meaning “swift waters”
Snohomish	Snohomish Native American tribal word meaning “tide water people”
Spokane	Spokane Native American tribe
Stevens	Isaac Ingalls Stevens, the first governor of the Washington Territory
Thurston	Samuel Thurston, Oregon Territory’s first delegate to the United States Congress
Wahkiakum	Chief Wahkiakum of the Chinook Native American tribe
Walla Walla	Cayuse Native American name meaning “places of many waters”
Whatcom	Nooksack Native American word meaning “noisy water”
Whitman	In honor of missionary Marcus Whitman
Yakima	A Yakama Native American word meaning “black bear” or “runaway”

Did you know?...

- Clark (once spelled “Clarke”) is Washington’s oldest county. It was established August 20, 1845.
- Pend Oreille is our state’s newest county. It was established March 1, 1911.
- Of Washington’s 39 counties, 16 are named after Native American tribal names or terms, and six are named after U.S. presidents.
- On January 23, 1863, the Washington Territorial Legislature created Ferguson County. It encompassed what is now Yakima and Kittitas counties. But, it was dissolved in 1865. Bye, bye Fergie.

The arts have always been an integral part of Washington State's culture and history and in the past several decades, the arts community has grown even more vibrant and diverse. This is due in part to the government's commitment to creating an environment where the arts contribute to the social, educational and economic growth of Washington State. Established in 1961, the Washington State Arts Commission is a state agency that has been charged with furthering the development of the arts throughout the state since.

In addition to the wide variety of private galleries throughout the state, there are several museums devoted to the arts. The Experience Music Project is an interactive rock 'n roll tribute museum dedicated largely to the Pacific Northwest's rich musical history. The Seattle Art Museum and Olympic Sculpture Park feature pieces by world-renowned artists and at the Tacoma Museum of Glass, visitors can see artists create glass pieces while they watch.

Washington has numerous performing venues, many of which are located in Seattle. Symphony goers will head to Benaroya Hall which occupies an entire block in the heart of downtown Seattle, or experience the opera or acclaimed Pacific Northwest Ballet at McCaw Hall. For Broadway and theatre lovers, the historical Paramount, 5th Avenue and Seattle Repertory theatres are the most popular places.

Did you know?...

- The Dale Chihuly Bridge of Glass is a 500-foot long, public corridor that runs from downtown Tacoma to the waterfront.
- Matt Groening, the creator of the television series, *The Simpsons*, is a Pacific Northwest native. He started his cartoonist career at The Evergreen State College in Olympia where he served as editor and drew cartoons for the college newspaper.

Shake, Rattle & Roll

Washington State has produced a number of musicians, artists and entertainers who have left an indelible mark on Washington State and the world.

Music pioneer and guitarist Jimi Hendrix – considered one of the most innovative musicians of his time – let the world know Washington had talent. But bands like Pearl Jam and Nirvana really put the Washington music scene on the map as the grunge capital.

Soundgarden, Alice in Chains and Queensrÿche are all bands formed in or near Seattle, and Washington is or was home to members of famous bands, such as Layne Staley and Jerry Cantrell (Alice in Chains), Michael “Duff” McKagan (Guns N’ Roses), Chris Cornell (Soundgarden and Audioslave), Peter Dinklage and Scott McCready (Candlebox) and Kurt Cobain and Krist Novoselic (Nirvana).

Other famous musicians and groups include Heart (Seattle), Sir Mix-a-Lot (Seattle), Quincy Jones (Seattle), the Ventures (Tacoma) and The Brothers Four (Seattle), The Sonics (Tacoma), fiddler Mark O’Connor (Seattle), saxophonist Kenny G (Seattle) and singers Mildred Bailey (Tekoa), Patrice Munsel (Spokane), Kenny Loggins (Everett) and Bing Crosby (Tacoma).

Did you know?...

- Soundgarden was the first Seattle grunge band to be signed to a major label, A & M Records in 1988.
- Candlebox was the first successful act signed to Madonna’s Maverick Records.
- The demise of the bands Green River and Mother Love Bone led to the formation of Pearl Jam.

Movies, television shows and actors with Washington connections

Movies

- An Officer And A Gentleman
- Harry And The Hendersons
- The Hand That Rocks The Cradle
- Sleepless in Seattle
- Disclosure
- War Games
- I Love You To Death
- Three Fugitives
- It Happened At The World's Fair
- The Deer Hunter
- Call Of The Wild
- The Hunt For Red October
- Life or Something Like it

TV Shows

- Northern Exposure
- Frasier
- Twin Peaks
- Here Come The Brides
- Murder She Wrote
- Grey's Anatomy
- The Bachelorette (2003)

Actors/Actresses

- Darren McGavin
- Craig T. Nelson
- Dyan Cannon
- Jim Caviezel
- Hilary Swank
- Kyle MacLachlan
- Ann Reinking
- Adam West
- Frances Farmer
- Patrick Duffy

The Home Teams

A large number of Washingtonians have excelled in many sports over the years, from Winter Olympians to quarterbacks who reached the National Football League. Our state has long been known as home to many of the world's best mountain climbers. In recent years, Washington has gained national renown for producing several NBA-caliber basketball players.

Major professional team championships

- 1916-17 Seattle Metropolitan (Pacific Coast Hockey Association/National Hockey Association)
- 1978-79 Seattle SuperSonics (National Basketball Association)
- 2004 and 2010 Seattle Storm (Women's National Basketball Association)

Famous Washington athletes

- Michelle Akers (soccer)
- Earl Anthony (bowling)
- Debbie Armstrong (skiing)
- Earl Averill (baseball)
- Greg Biffle (auto racing)
- Bud Black (baseball)
- Drew Bledsoe (football)
- Mark Bruener (football)
- Nate Burleson (football)
- Chris Chandler (football)
- Ron Cey (baseball)
- Fred Couples (golf)
- Jamal Crawford (basketball)
- Corey Dillon (football)
- Dan Doornink (football)
- James Edwards (basketball)
- Steve Emtman (football)
- Rick Fenney (football)
- Chip Hanauer (hydroplane racing)
- James Hasty (football)
- Jason Hanson (football)
- Spencer Hawes (basketball)
- Steve Hawes (basketball)
- Megan Jendrick (swimming)
- Bill Johnson (skiing)
- Kasey Kahne (auto racing)
- Tara Kirk (swimming)
- Jon Kitna (football)
- Jake Locker (football)
- Phil and Steve Mahre (skiing)
- Apollo Anton Ohno (speedskating)
- Steve Pelluer (football)
- Leo Randolph (boxing)
- Ahmad Rashad (football)
- Nate Robinson (basketball)
- Brandon Roy (basketball)
- Mark Rypien (football)
- Ryne Sandberg (baseball)
- Ron Santo (baseball)
- Sugar Ray Seales (boxing)
- Grady Sizemore (baseball)
- Jonathan Stewart (football)
- John Stockton (basketball)
- Mel Stottlemyre (baseball)
- Rodney Stuckey (basketball)
- Rosalyn Sumners (figure skating)
- Jason Terry (basketball)
- Jack Thompson (football)
- Marcus Trufant (football)
- Ed Viesturs (mountain climbing)
- Jim and Lou Whittaker (mountain climbing)
- Marvin Williams (basketball)

Washington has more than its share of scenic national and state parks. They are the places that Washingtonians go to appreciate nature's stunning beauty, enjoy hiking, camping and other recreational activities.

Mount Rainier National Park

With its namesake 14,410-foot mountain as the main attraction, this park in the central Cascades draws people from all around the world. The park features old-growth forests, as well as gorgeous meadows full of wildflowers during the summer.

North Cascades National Park Complex

If you want to avoid crowds and have a true wilderness experience, North Cascades is for you. Located near the crest of the Cascades from the Canadian border south to Lake Chelan, the 684,000-acre complex includes jagged peaks, waterfalls, deep valleys and over 300 glaciers. The complex includes three park units: North Cascades National Park, and Ross Lake and Lake Chelan National Recreation Areas.

Olympic National Park

Located in the heart of the Olympic Peninsula between the Pacific Ocean and Hood Canal, this national park is famous for its dense rain forests on its west side. It features several rugged peaks, topped by 7,965-foot Mount Olympus. The park includes about 75 miles of rugged coastline.

Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument

When the famous volcano literally blew off its top in its 1980 eruption, the area north of St. Helens was devastated, leaving a vast, gray landscape. But nature is slowly regaining a foothold throughout the 110,000-acre monument. Johnston Ridge is a favorite tourist attraction.

State Parks

Washington has more than 100 state parks in beautiful settings statewide.



Did you know?...

- With 26 glaciers and 36 square miles of permanent snowfields and glaciers, Mount Rainier is the most heavily glaciated peak in the lower 48 states.
- Mount St. Helens' cataclysmic eruption on May 18, 1980, blew 1,300 feet off its top, destroyed 230 square miles of forestland, and sent an ash plume 80,000 feet into the sky that spread across the U.S. in three days and circled the Earth in 15 days.

Hot Spots & Attractions

1. Space Needle
Pike Place Market
Experience Music Project
2. Capitol Campus
3. Mount Rainier National Park
4. Mount St. Helens
5. Grand Coulee Dam
6. Deception Pass Bridge
7. San Juan Islands
8. Olympic National Park
9. North Cascades National Park
10. North Head Lighthouse
11. The Gorge Amphitheatre
12. Hanford
13. Fort Vancouver
14. Columbia River Gorge
15. Digital Archives in Cheney
16. Lake Chelan
17. Leavenworth
18. Colville National Forest
19. Marcus Whitman Hist. Site
20. Palouse

Did you know?...

- The Washington State Ferry System operates the largest ferry fleet in America, with 22 ferries crossing Puget Sound and its inland waterways.
- The ferry system serves 23 million passengers annually.



About the Secretary of State

The Office of Secretary of State is best known for running elections, but it also houses a number of other divisions and programs. Here is a basic overview of the agency:

Executive Office

Secretary of State Sam Reed's Executive Office works to develop key policy and also facilitates dialogue with international diplomats, the people of Washington State and the media. For more information: www.sos.wa.gov

Elections

The Elections Division develops the policies surrounding elections, while also training and certifying elections workers and providing voter services. On the web, you can search for elections laws, register to vote and get more information on upcoming events. www.sos.wa.gov/elections

State Library

Through print and digital historical compilations, collections of state newspapers, state and federal government publications, and our Ask-a-Librarian service, the State Library provides the material and information you want and need. The library provides services to state prison and state hospital libraries and to the visually impaired through our Washington Talking Book & Braille Library. www.sos.wa.gov/library

State Archives

The Archives preserves and provides easy access to millions of legal and historical records of our state and local governments. Washington's Digital Archives is the first in the nation and available worldwide over the web. Citizens can use the Archives to research family history. www.sos.wa.gov/archives

Heritage Center

The Heritage Center creates exhibits about Washington's history and heritage in the Office of Secretary of State. The exhibits and supporting materials are also available online. When a new Heritage Center building opens, it will also bring together in one place the resources of the State Archives and State Library in one convenient location. www.sos.wa.gov/heritage

The Legacy Project

A program of the Heritage Center, the Legacy Project publishes oral histories and biographies of statewide officeholders, congressional leaders, judges and remarkable people whose extraordinary actions have inspired change. These fascinating stories can be read online and some are published as books. The Legacy Project also has the HistoryMakers Database where information about hundreds of notable Washingtonians can be accessed. www.sos.wa.gov/heritage/LegacyProject

Corporations and Charities

This division is responsible for registering all corporations and charities in the state. Information in public records about corporations and charities can be searched on the web. www.sos.wa.gov/corps

Special Programs

This division includes the Combined Fund Drive program, which encourages current and retired public employees to contribute money to local or global charities; the Address Confidentiality Program, which assists crime victims who have relocated (specifically victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking and stalking) to keep their home, work and/or school address secret by providing a substitute mailing address they can use instead; and the Productivity Board, which has programs to recognize state employees who offer innovative, money-saving ideas.

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-Secretary of State Sam Reed



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