

Voter Registration & Ballot Declarations

Elections Clearinghouse Notice

Issue #24-11

June 10, 2024

This clearinghouse notice reflects changes from laws passed in the 2023 legislative session, subsequent WAC changes, and a Consent Decree. This notice replaces Clearinghouse Notice #21-07 issued on December 13, 2021.

Voter Registration Declaration

[RCW 29A.08.230](#) requires that voter registration applicants sign a declaration. The 3/15/2024 Consent Decree entered in *Washington State Alliance for Retired Americans v. Hobbs, et al.*, W.D.WA. Case No. 3-23-CV-06014-TMC, mandated changes to the declaration that voter registration applicants must sign. The new declaration states:

"I declare that the facts on this voter registration form are true. I am a citizen of the United States, I am a Washington state resident, and I am at least sixteen years old. I am not disqualified from voting due to a court order, and I am not currently serving a sentence of total confinement under the jurisdiction of the department of corrections for a Washington felony conviction, and I am not currently incarcerated for a federal or out-of-state felony conviction."

This declaration must be used on the following documents:

- Confirmation Notice
- Signature Update Form/Mismatched Signature Cure Form
- Verification Notice

County Auditors and the Office of the Secretary of State will accept and process older versions of registration forms and notices submitted by voters.

Ballot Declaration

The ballot declaration is prescribed in [WAC 434-230-015\(3\)\(c\)](#).

Persons who are 17 years old at the date of a primary and 18 years old by the date of the subsequent general election may register and cast a ballot in the primary. ([WAC 434-230-015\(3\)\(c\)](#))

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Persons who are not serving a sentence of total confinement under the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections or otherwise incarcerated may register and cast a ballot in any election. ([RCW 29A.08.520\(1\)](#))

The following declaration must accompany the ballot and be signed by voters for all primaries and elections:

"I do solemnly swear or affirm under penalty of perjury that I am:
A United States citizen;
A Washington state resident that meets the requirements for voting mandated by state law;
At least 18 years old on election day, or 17 years old at the primary and 18 years old by the day of the November general election;
Voting only once in this election and not voting in any other United States jurisdiction;
Not serving a sentence of total confinement under the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections for a Washington felony conviction or currently incarcerated for a federal or out-of-state felony conviction;
Not disqualified from voting due to a court order; and
Aware it is illegal to forge a signature or cast another person's ballot and that attempting to vote when not qualified, attempting to vote more than once, or falsely signing this declaration is a felony punishable by a maximum imprisonment of five years, a maximum fine of \$10,000, or both."

The declaration must accompany every type of ballot issued to voters to include:

- Regular mail ballots
- Overseas and service (UOCAVA) mail ballots
- Provisional ballots
- Special absentee ballots
- Ballots delivered electronically
- Ballots issued to Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) participants
- Replacement and reissued ballots

In addition to all ballot packets, the ballot declaration must be used on the following documents:

- Signature Update Form/Mismatched Signature Cure Form
- Missing Signature Form/Unsigned Ballot Declaration Cure Form
- Missing Signature/Party Choice Presidential Primary Cure Form

Updated forms are available on the Office of the Secretary of State's [website](#).

An informational publication of the Certification and Training Program, Elections Division, Office of the Secretary of State.