

Important Information for Thurston County Voters

Dear Residents and Voters of Thurston County,

This is an exciting September for Thurston County voters! This year, we have interesting, significant elections; a new open primary – private choice election; and an expanded, “Special Edition Local Voters’ Pamphlet.” Your involvement in the process has never been more important. I urge you to “*Mark One up for Democracy.*”

This “Special Edition Local Voters’ Pamphlet” can be a starting point in your decision-making process. Locally, two County Commissioner positions and one Superior Court position will be on the ballot. To enhance this edition of the primary local voters’ pamphlet, we have also included the four legislative districts that include Thurston County. These candidates, as well as a City of Olympia issue and several fire protection district issues, are featured in this pamphlet.

The Primary Election will also include federal and statewide positions. U.S. Senate, congressional, state Supreme Court, and statewide executive and legislative races will appear on the ballot. Washington State does not publish a primary voters’ pamphlet for federal and statewide candidates. However, you will be able to access candidate information on the Secretary of State’s Web page. You can also access voter information on the Auditor’s Web page. www.co.thurston.wa.us/auditor

Washington’s blanket primary was held unconstitutional, which resulted in the Legislature adopting a new primary law this year. It was partially vetoed by Governor Gary Locke, a move the state Supreme Court upheld. The new primary process is known as “open primary – private choice.” The new procedures only apply to the September primary election. They have no effect on the voting process and procedures for the November General Election. In the primary, voters will receive four ballots – Democratic, Republican, Libertarian, and Nonpartisan. Voters must select one ballot and vote. The ballot a voter selects will be a private choice.

Each of the three party ballots will also include nonpartisan races and issues. (The Nonpartisan ballot will only contain candidates for Superintendent of Public Instruction, Supreme Court Judge, Superior Court Judge, and local issues for eligible voters in fire districts and the City of Olympia and should only be used if you do not select a party ballot.) For more information on the open primary – private choice election, see pages 14, 15 and 33.

In addition to this pamphlet, the “Judicial Voters’ Pamphlet” will be published by the State Administrator of the Courts. It will be distributed by the Olympian newspaper in late August. Local newspapers, KGY radio, candidates’ forums, knowledgeable acquaintances, and candidate literature should round out your preparation for voting. When you prepare to cast your ballot remember to use the sample ballot on pages 5-10 to mark your choices.

I would like to thank the County Commissioners, the participating jurisdictions, the U.S. Post Office, and Gwen Cornelius and other staff members who provided the support necessary to produce this valuable document. Remember, “Mark One up for Democracy” and vote in the September 14 Primary Election.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Wyman
Thurston County Auditor



Participating Jurisdictions

Legislative District 2
Legislative District 20
Legislative District 22
Legislative District 35

Thurston County
City of Olympia
Fire Protection District 1
Fire Protection District 6

Fire Protection District 8
Fire Protection District 9
Fire Protection District 11
Fire Protection District 12
Fire Protection District 13

Keep this pamphlet! Ballots will begin arriving on August 28.