

Important Information for Thurston County Voters

Dear Thurston County Voters:

Welcome to the 2005 Primary Election Local Voters' Pamphlet. This fall marks a new era in elections for Thurston County voters. In the 2005 state legislative session, laws were passed to implement the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA). This legislation was designed to help restore confidence in elections, to improve accessibility, and to allow voters with special needs to vote independently and secretly.

The biggest change HAVA made to elections was abolishing punch card voting throughout America. Over the past eighteen months, my office has been working to replace our punch card system by gathering input from voters and selecting a new tabulation system. I am happy to report this means you will have an improved ballot.

The new ballot is called optical scan and we hope you will find it easier to use. This year's slogan, "*Just Fill in the Bubble*," explains how you vote an optical scan ballot. To vote, find a dark colored ink pen and fill in the bubbles next to your choices. Complete instructions can be found in your voting materials.

Another important change you will see this year is the move to vote-by-mail elections in Thurston County. The Primary Election will be conducted by mail with the exception of the City of Yelm. Starting with the General Election on November 8, Thurston County will be conducting all elections by mail. The county commissioners and I made this decision following public meetings and gathering input from citizens.

The primary ballot contains local races and issues. Depending on where you live, you will be voting on candidates for town/city council and school board. Other issues may include the Fire District 13 levy lid lift. I encourage you to take time to read through the candidate and issue statements in this pamphlet to be more informed.

If you live in a participating jurisdiction you should receive your ballot in the mail by September 1, with the exception of polling place voters in Yelm. All you need to remember to vote the new optical scan ballot is "*Just Fill in the Bubble!*" The best way to have your voice heard in your community is to vote in the September 20 Primary Election.

Sincerely,



Kim Wyman
Thurston County Auditor



Participating Jurisdictions

Town of Bucoda
City of Olympia

City of Yelm
Griffin School District No. 324

Fire Protection District No. 13 - Griffin

Keep this pamphlet! Ballots will begin arriving on September 1.