

Washington has a new Primary . . .

**It's not the Blanket ...
It's not a Pick-a-Party ...**

This year you won't receive three ballots in the mail, and you won't have to vote down party lines. In the new Top-2 Primary you get 1 ballot, 1 vote, regardless of the candidate's party preference.



WHO will appear on my ballot?

Every candidate in every race will appear, and you can vote for whomever you'd like, but you can only vote for 1 candidate per race. The 2 candidates in each race with the most votes will move on to the General Election on November 4.

WHAT does the party preference under each candidate's name mean?

This is a self-stated preference for a specific party. It DOES NOT mean the party prefers or agrees with that candidate.

HOW is this different from our old blanket primary?

In the blanket primary, Washington voters were still nominating someone from each party to appear on the General Election ballot. In November, voters were presented with the top Democrat and top Republican along with any minor party candidates. In the Top-2, candidates qualify to move on to the General by the number of votes they receive, regardless of party preference. Because of this difference, you could see two candidates with the same party preference on the General Election ballot.

WHY is the Primary changing?

In the 2004 November Election, as a reaction to the first Pick-A-Party Primary, voters overwhelmingly passed I-872, creating a Top-2 Primary system for Washington. The law was immediately challenged in court and remained there until March of this year, when the United States Supreme Court issued a ruling allowing us to use this new system.

One Ballot, One Vote Washington's Top-2 Primary

Judicial and Nonpartisan races may be different ...

STATE:

***Superintendent of Public Instruction,
Supreme Court, and Court of Appeals:***

If any one candidate receives a majority of votes (50% + 1 vote), he or she will be the only candidate appearing on the General Election Ballot. If no single candidate receives a majority, the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes will appear on the General Election Ballot.

COUNTY:

Superior Court:

If any one candidate receives a majority of votes (50% + 1 vote) in the Primary, that candidate is elected to the position and the race will NOT appear on the General Election ballot unless a declaration of write-in candidacy is received within ten days after the Primary Election.

Thurston Public Utility District:

The two candidates receiving the highest number of votes will appear on the General Election Ballot.

