

★ 2012 ★ General Election Fact Sheet

Overview

This year's Washington General Election features the U.S. presidential race, U.S. Senate contest, and 10 U.S. House races, and statewide contests for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Auditor, Insurance Commissioner, State Treasurer, Public Lands Commissioner and Superintendent of Public Instruction. Only the primary winner in the SPI race will appear on the General Election ballot. Three State Supreme Court positions also are at stake. In two of those three court races, only the primary winner will appear on the fall ballot. All 98 positions in the State House of Representatives are on the ballot, as are half of the State Senate seats. This election also includes elections for local offices and local ballot measures.

Statewide ballot measures

There are three initiatives, one referendum, two state constitutional amendments, and two advisory measures on the General Election ballot:

Initiative Measure 1185

I-1185 would restate existing state law requiring any tax increases imposed by the Legislature to be approved by two-thirds of each legislative chamber or approved by a majority of Washington voters. It also would require majority legislative approval for new or increased fees.

Initiative Measure 1240

I-1240 would create a public charter school system, authorizing up to 40 publicly funded charter schools open to all students, operated through approved, nonreligious, nonprofit organizations, with government oversight.

Initiative to the Legislature 502

I-502 would legalize marijuana. It would license and regulate marijuana production, distribution and possession for persons over 21; remove state-law criminals and civil penalties for activities that it authorizes; tax marijuana sales; and earmark marijuana-related revenues.

Referendum 74

R-74 asks voters whether they approve or reject the law (ESSB 6239) passed by the Legislature and Gov. Gregoire this year allowing same-sex couples to legally marry.

Engrossed Senate Joint Resolution 8221

The Legislature has proposed a constitutional amendment that would implement the Commission on State Debt recommendations regarding Washington's debt limit.

Senate Joint Resolution 8223

The Legislature has proposed a constitutional amendment that deals with investments by the University of Washington and Washington State University.

Advisory Vote 1

Concerns a B&O tax deduction for certain financial institutions' interest on residential loans.

Advisory Vote 2

Concerns expiration of a tax on possession of petroleum product.

Key Dates

- Sept. 22** Military and overseas voters ballots mailed
- Oct. 8** Deadline to register online or via mail to vote in General Election
- Oct. 11-19** State Voters' Pamphlet arrives
- Oct. 19** Ballots mailed for General Election, and Accessible Voting Units are available at voting centers through Election Day.
- Oct. 29** Deadline to register in person to vote in General Election (register at your county elections office)
- Nov. 6** General Election ballot return deadline (ballots must be postmarked no later than Election Day or placed in an official elections drop box by 8 p.m. on Election Night)

For further information:

- MyVote www.myvote.wa.gov
- Voters' Pamphlets (state and local)
- Online Voters' Guide www.vote.wa.gov
- Media coverage and campaigns