

ISLAND COUNTY AUDITOR

Elections Office

P. O. Box 1410

Coupeville, WA 98239



Election FAQs

VOTER REGISTRATION:

How do I know if I'm registered to vote?

Voter registration can be confirmed online at www.VoteWA.gov or by contacting the Elections Office.

How can I register?

- Online – May be done at www.VoteWA.gov if you have a WA driver's license or id card. (This must be completed no later than 8 days before the election.)
- By Mail, email or fax – Complete and return this [form](#). (In order for this form to be processed, it must be **received** no later than 8 days before the election.)
- In Person – This may be done in the Elections Office or at the Camano Annex, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through Election Day. On Election Day, you may also register at the Elections Office in Coupeville from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Which party am I registered in?

- Washington voters do not register by party.

What is the registration deadline?

- Voter registrations by any method other than in person must be **received** by an elections official no later than 8 days before an election in order to vote in that election.
- In person registration may be completed up to 8:00 p.m. on the date of the election.

I'm a college student, how do I register and vote?

- Which address to use – You can use either your hometown address or the address where you live at school. Your choice depends on where you want to claim residency.
- If you keep your hometown address for residency – You can use your hometown address as your residential address and your school address as your mailing address.

I don't have a traditional address, how do I register and vote?

- You can vote if you live in a place where you cannot receive mail.
- Register by providing a place where you spend most of your time as your residential address and you can list another place where you can receive mail.
- Voters must fill out the residential address line on a voter registration form so that we can assign your voting precinct. This address can be a park, intersection, or another place that we can find on a map.
- Voters must also provide a mailing address where we can mail a ballot. The mailing address can be the address of a friend or relative, the address of a shelter or day center where you can receive mail, or it may be General Delivery at a post office.

How can I find out if my voting rights have been restored?

- You maintain the right to vote with a misdemeanor conviction, or a conviction in juvenile court, even if you are still in jail.
- Citizens with felony convictions have their right to vote restored automatically when they come out of the criminal justice system.
- Individuals can register to vote once they are no longer under state-supervised parole or probations.
- You may register to vote if you have existing court-ordered legal financial obligations (LFOs), such as fines, fees and restitution. If you do not comply with all the terms of your LFO, you may lose your right to vote.

VOTING:

Where is my polling place?

- Washington is a vote by mail state. Your ballot will be mailed to your residence or mailing address. There are no traditional polling places.

How do I get a ballot?

- Ballots are automatically mailed to the mailing address on file for all Washington State registered voters.
- Members of the military, overseas voters, “Snowbirds”, students, etc. are encouraged to make certain the Elections Office has their most current mailing address.

Can I vote online?

- Online voting is not available.
- Voters may go online to obtain and print a ballot, but do not vote online.

When will I get a ballot?

- Military and overseas voters’ ballots are mailed not later than 45 days before an election.
- Standard ballots are mailed not later than 18 days before an election.

How do I return my ballot?

- By Mail – Ballots may be returned, postage pre-paid through the US Postal Service.
- By Drop Box – Ballots may be returned to any of the ballot drop boxes in Washington State. Ballots deposited in other counties’ drop boxes are forwarded to the county where the voter is registered.

Are there accessible voting options?

- An Accessible Voting Unit is available in the Elections Office in Coupeville during all hours that the office is open for 18 days prior to the election and from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on election day.
- Assistance is available upon request.

How can I get a replacement ballot?

- Online – Log into www.VoteWA.gov. Once you are logged in, click on the “Online Ballot” link and follow the prompts to print your ballot and mailing packet.
- By Mail – Contact the Elections Office to request a replacement ballot.

What if I will be away during an election?

- Seasonal Resident – Update your seasonal address with our office. Provide us with the first and last days you’ll receive mail at your address away and we will send your ballot to that address each year between the dates you specify.
- Out of town and can’t receive mail – You can access a ballot online at www.VoteWA.gov. All you will need is access to the internet and a printer to print your ballot and return it to our office.
- Leaving town and can’t receive your ballot by mail or email – If you know you’ll be out of town and can’t receive mail or email 90 days before an election, contact us and we can issue a special absentee ballot to you.

What is the deadline for turning in my ballot?

- Drop boxes – Drop boxes close promptly at 8:00 pm on Election Day
- Postal Mail – Ballots must be postmarked no later than Election Day. Voters are encouraged to vote early. The USPS recommends voters return their ballots via mail a week before Election Day, November 3. Voters mailing within less than a week of Election Day should note mailbox collection times, or use an official ballot drop box.

How can I tell if you got my ballot?

- Voters can go online to www.VoteWA.gov. Once logged in, click on the link called “Ballot Status”. When we have received your ballot, your status will show as “Received”

How can I tell if my ballot was counted?

- Voters can go online to www.VoteWA.gov. Once logged in, click on the link called “Ballot Status”. When we have approved your signature and processed your ballot for counting, your status will show as “Accepted”

I got a letter saying there were questions about my signature, now what?

- The letter will explain whether the issue is a missing signature or a signature that does not match your voter registration.
- There will be a form on the back of the letter for you to sign.
- The letter will explain that our office needs to receive the signed form prior to certification of the election and will give you the deadline for returning the signed form.

CONFIRMATION CARDS

I got a confirmation card in the mail. Why?

The National Voter Registration Act and Washington State Law both require counties to take steps to verify voter addresses. These confirmation cards are sent to voters to confirm their information if:

- A piece of mail is returned by the postal service as undeliverable
- A piece of mail is forwarded by the postal service to an address out of the county
- A notice is received by the Elections Office from a state or federal agency, stating that the voter's address has changed

What happened to my voter registration?

It is still there, but it is "*inactive*". This means that because of the notification we received from USPS or another state agency, we must verify your information in order to continue to send your ballots.

What do I do with the card?

- Complete the information, sign and return the postage prepaid card.
- If your card shows that you are still living in Island County, your address is updated and your registration is reactivated and ballots will be mailed to the updated address.
- If your card shows that you have moved to another Washington County, we will send the card to the new county and they will transfer your registration to their county.
- If you mark that you have moved out of state, your registration will be cancelled.

Don't forget to sign the card! We can't update your registration without your signature.

What happens if I don't return the card or update my address online?

If a voter is inactive and does not update their information or return the card, after two consecutive federal general elections, their voter registration is cancelled, as required by federal and state law.

How do I know the card is really from Island County Elections?

Ensure the 2-part green card has a return address of: Island County Elections, PO Box 1410, Coupeville WA 98239-1410. Official Island County Elections mail is from and returns to this address.