

A large, stylized American flag with red, white, and blue stripes and stars, waving across the top half of the page.

2023 Candidate Handbook

Island County Elections

400 N. Main Street

PO Box 1410

Coupeville, WA 98239

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About This Guide

This guide should be used in conjunction with state and local laws, not in place of them. The Revised Code of Washington, Washington Administrative Code and other notations are offered as references for additional research. The material contained herein may change due to new legislation, judicial determination or rule changes.

Island County Auditor.....Sheilah Crider
Elections Supervisor

Michele Reagan
Voter Registration Coordinator.....Scott Works

Open Offices, Incumbents, and Filing Fees

Information is current as of April 27, 2023. Visit www.islandcountywa.gov/auditor/elections for updates.

Office	Fee	Incumbent	Term
CITY / TOWN			
Town of Coupeville, Mayor	\$720.00	Molly Hughes	4 years
Town of Coupeville, Councilmember, Position 1	\$ 0	Jacquelyn Henderson	4 years
Town of Coupeville, Councilmember, Position 2	\$ 0	Rick Walti	4 years
Town of Coupeville, Councilmember, Position 3	\$ 0	Jenny Bright	4 years
City of Langley, Mayor	\$ 550.00	Scott Chaplin	4 years SF
City of Langley, Councilmember, Position 3	\$ 10.00	Thomas E. Gill	4 years
City of Langley, Councilmember, Position 4	\$ 10.00	Craig Cyr	4 years
City of Oak Harbor, Mayor	\$ 601.92	Bob Severns	4 years
City of Oak Harbor, Councilmember, Position 1	\$ 90.24	Tara Hizon	4 years
City of Oak Harbor, Councilmember, Position 2	\$ 90.24	Beth Munns	4 years
City of Oak Harbor, Councilmember, Position 3	\$ 90.24	Eric Marshall	4 years SF
City of Oak Harbor, Councilmember, Position 4	\$ 90.24	Vacant	2 year U
PUBLIC UTILITIES DISTRICT NO. 1			
Elections for this district are administered by Snohomish County.			
WHIDBEY ISLAND PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICT			
Commissioner, Position 1	\$ 0	Morgan Cooper	6 years SF
Commissioner, Position 4	\$ 0	Gregory Richardson	2 years U
Commissioner, Position 5	\$ 0	Eric E. Anderson	6 years
OAK HARBOR SCHOOL DISTRICT #201			
Director, Position 1	\$ 0	Lynn Goebel	4 years
Director, Position 2	\$ 0	Jessica Aws	4 years
Director, Position 3	\$ 0	Robert J. Hallahan	4 years
Director, Position 4	\$ 0	Nicole Tesch	2 years U
Director, Position 5	\$ 0	Sharon Jensen	2 years U
COUPEVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT #204			
Director, Position 1	\$ 0	Christine Sears	4 years
Director, Position 4	\$ 0	Alison Perera	4 years
SOUTH WHIDBEY SCHOOL DISTRICT #206			
Director, Position 1	\$ 0	Joe Greenheron	4 years
Director, Position 3	\$ 0	Brook Willeford	4 years
Director, Position 4	\$ 0	Marnie Jackson	4 years
STANWOOD-CAMANO SCHOOL DISTRICT #401			
Elections for this district are administered by Snohomish County.			
PORT DISTRICTS			
Port of Coupeville, Commissioner, Position 1	\$ 0	David Day	4 years
Port of Coupeville, Commissioner, Position 3	\$ 0	John Callahan	2 years U
Port of Mabana, Commissioner, Position 1	\$ 0	Kerri Jones	2 years U
Port of Mabana, Commissioner, Position 2	\$ 0	Jeff Elliott	6 years
Port of Mabana, Commissioner, Position 3	\$ 0	Cynthia Richards	4 years U

Port of S. Whidbey, Commissioner, Position 1	\$ 0	Kwok (Jack) Ng	6 years
Port of S. Whidbey, Commissioner, Position 2	\$ 0	Gregory Easton	4 years U
FIRE DISTRICTS			
N. Whidbey Fire & Rescue, Commissioner, Position 1	\$ 0	T.J. Lamont	6 years
Central Whidbey Fire, Commissioner, Position 1	\$ 0	Paul Messner	6 years
S. Whidbey Fire EMS, Commissioner, Position 1	\$ 0	Jim Towers	6 years SF
PARK & RECREATION DISTRICTS			
N. Whidbey Pool, Pk & Rec., Commissioner, Position	\$ 0	Christopher Wiegenstein	4 years
N. Whidbey Pool, Pk & Rec., Commissioner, Position	\$ 0	Julie Brooks Leete	4 years
S. Whidbey Parks & Rec., Commissioner, Position 1	\$ 0	Krista Loercher	4 years
S. Whidbey Parks & Rec., Commissioner, Position 4	\$ 0	Jennifer Cox	4 years
CEMETERY DISTRICTS			
Cemetery District One, Commissioner, Position 1	\$ 0	Wendy Cramer	6 years SF
Cemetery District No. 2, Commissioner, Position 1	\$ 0	Loann Gulick	6 years
WATER DISTRICTS			
Admirals Cove Water, Commissioner, Position 3	\$ 0	Douglas G. Smith	6 years
Bayview Beach Water, Commissioner, Position 5	\$ 0	H. E. (Ted) King	6 years
Camano Vista Water, Commissioner, Position 2	\$ 0	Shirley C. Morgan	6 years
Camano Vista Water, Commissioner, Position 3	\$ 0	Jason Reed	4 years U
Clinton Water, Commissioner, Position 2	\$ 0	Jill Engstrom	6 years
Crockett Lake Water, Commissioner, Position 1	\$ 0	Joe Biller	6 years
Freeland Water and Sewer, Commissioner, Position	\$ 0	Chad Gladhart	6 years
Juniper Beach Water, Commissioner, Position 2	\$ 0	Greg Hood	6 years
Lagoon Point Water, Commissioner, Position 1	\$ 0	Paul Kukuk	6 years
Ledgewood Beach Water, Commissioner, Position 1	\$ 0	Doug Martin	6 years
Long Beach Water, Commissioner, Position 3	\$ 0	Deborah Engel	6 years
North Whidbey Water, Commissioner, Position 1	\$ 0	Bart Tracy	2 years U
North Whidbey Water, Commissioner, Position 2	\$ 0	Dave Flomerfelt	4 years U
North Whidbey Water, Commissioner, Position 3	\$ 0	Mike Johannsen	6 years SF
Penn Cove Water and Sewer, Commissioner,	\$ 0	Morgan Brian Hughes	6 years
Rhodena Beach Water, Commissioner, Position 1	\$ 0	Roger Eelkema	4 years U
Rhodena Beach Water, Commissioner, Position 3	\$ 0	Gordon D. McMillan	6 years
Saratoga Water, Commissioner, Position 1	\$ 0	Keith Sorensen	6 years
Scatchet Head Water, Commissioner, Position 1	\$ 0	Dave Mullins	6 years
Scatchet Head Water, Commissioner, Position 2	\$ 0	Jacqueline Mach	2 years U
Swantown Water, Commissioner, Position 1	\$ 0	Claud O. Linn	6 years
SEWER DISTRICTS			
Holmes Harbor Sewer, Commissioner, Position 2	\$ 0	William Hamilton	6 years
Main Street Sewer, Commissioner, Position 2	\$ 0	Darla Farmer	6 years
Scatchet Head Sewer, Commissioner, Position 1	\$ 0	Nelson Nakata	6 years SF
Scatchet Head Sewer, Commissioner, Position 3	\$ 0	Michael Plumpe	2 years U

SF: Short and Full term positions are sworn in and assume office as soon as the General Election is certified, then are sworn in again as appropriate for the full term.

U: Unexpired term positions are sworn in and assume office as soon as the General Election is certified.

2023 Election Calendar

01/15/2023	Overseas and military ballots mail deadline for February Special Election (RCW 29A.40.070)
01/27/2023	Local ballots mail deadline. Accessible voting units available at Island County Election Center for February Special Election (RCW 29A.40.070)
02/06/2023	Deadline to receive new registrations and voter updates online or by mail for the February Special Election (RCW 29A.08.140)
02/14/2023	SPECIAL ELECTION (RCW 29A.04.321)
02/16/2023	Deadline to complete random check of all ballot counting equipment for the February Special Election (RCW 29A.60.170)
02/24/2023	County certification of February Special Election (RCW 29A.60.190)
02/24/2023	Last day to file a resolution for the April Special Election (RCW 29A.40.070)
03/26/2023	Overseas and military ballots mail deadline for April Special Election (RCW 29A.40.070)
04/07/2023	Local ballots mail deadline. Accessible voting units available at Island County Election Center for April Special Election (RCW 29A.40.070)
04/17/2023	Deadline to receive new registrations and voter updates online or by mail for the April Special Election (RCW 29A.08.140)
04/25/2023	SPECIAL ELECTION (RCW 29A.04.321)
04/27/2023	Deadline to complete random check of all ballot counting equipment for the April Special Election (RCW 29A.60.170)
05/01/2023	First day filing officer may receive candidate declarations by mail (RCW 29A.24.081)
05/05/2023	County certification of April Special Election (RCW 29A.60.190)
5/12/2023	Last day to file a resolution for the August Primary (29A.04.330)
5/15/2023	First day to file for office online or in person (RCW 29A.24.050)
5/19/2023	Last day to file for office (RCW 29A.24.050)
5/19/2023	Candidate Lot Draw to take place to determine order of candidate appearance on the ballot. (RCW 29A.36.131) 4:30 p.m. in the Elections Office.
5/22/2023	Last day to withdraw candidacy. (RCW 29A.24.131)
5/26/2023	Deadline to submit candidate statements/photographs
6/17/2023	Overseas and military ballots mail deadline for Primary Election (RCW 29A.40.070)
7/14/2023	Local ballots mail deadline. Accessible voting units available at Island County Election Center for Primary Election (RCW 29A.40.070)
7/24/2023	Last day for mail-in or online registrations and address changes for Primary Election (RCW 29A.08.140)
8/1/2023	PRIMARY ELECTION (RCW 29A.52.112)

8/1/2023	Last day to file a resolution for the November General Election (29A.04.330)
08/03/2023	Deadline to complete random check of all ballot counting equipment for the Primary Election (RCW 29A.60.170)
8/15/2023	County certification of Primary Election (RCW 29A.60.190)
8/18/2023	State certification of Primary Election (RCW 29A.60.240)
9/23/2023	Overseas and military ballots mail deadline for General Election (RCW 29A.40.070)
10/20/2023	Local ballots mail deadline. Accessible voting units available at Island County Election Center for General Election (RCW 29A.40.070)
10/30/2023	Last day for mail-in or online registrations and address changes for General Election (RCW 29A.08.140)
11/7/2023	GENERAL ELECTION (RCW 29A.04.321)
11/9/2023	Deadline to complete random check of all ballot counting equipment for the General Election (RCW 29A.60.170)
11/28/2023	County certification of General Election (RCW 29A.60.190)
12/7/2023	State certification of General Election (RCW 29A.60.250)
12/11/2023	First day of candidate filing period for Diking/Drainage Districts
12/15/2023	Last day of candidate filing period for Diking/Drainage Districts
12/15/2023	Last day to file a resolution for the February Special Election (29A.04.330)

Filing for Office

Where to file

Candidate files with the Washington Secretary of State for the following offices:

- Federal Offices
- State Offices
- Judicial Offices

Candidates file with Island County Elections for the following offices:

- County Offices
- Local Offices

How to file in Island County

Island County allows candidates to file in person or online at www.islandcountywa.gov/auditor/elections

Requirements

- Be a registered voter of the district and meet the residency requirements for the office for which you are filing. (see page 10)
- Pay filing fee by Visa or MasterCard (online only).
- Pay by cash or check. Your name will not appear on any official lists as a candidate for office until your Declaration of Candidacy is approved and any applicable filing fee is paid.
- Candidate Filing Fees are not refundable.
- Provide an email address.

The online filing tool will give you step by step instructions, email you a confirmation notice, alert you when other candidates file in your race, and provide a link to submit your Voters' Pamphlet / Voters' Guide information.

Candidates may file in person at the Elections Office.

400 North Main Street
Coupeville, WA 98239

When to file

File online:

Monday, May 15 at 9:00 a.m. through Friday, May 19 at 4:00 p.m.

File in person

Monday through Friday, May 15-May 19, 2023
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Campaign Information

It is **highly** recommended that when filing, you provide a campaign mailing address, email, telephone number, and website.

By statute, the contact information that you provide when filing for office is public record and will be published on our website.

Withdrawal of Filing RCW 29A.24.131

A candidate may withdraw a Declaration of Candidacy in writing through Monday, May 22, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. There shall be no withdrawal period for Declarations filed during special filing periods.

Filing fees are not refundable.

Order of Appearance On Ballots, Local Voters' Pamphlet and Online Voters' Guide

The order of candidates' names on the Primary Election ballot, Local Voters' Pamphlet and Online Voters' Guide is determined by lot draw. The lot draw occurs after the close of candidate filing. Candidate Lot Draw is scheduled for Friday, May 19, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. in the Elections Office. The process is open to all candidates, campaigns, political parties, party observers, media and members of the public. (RCW 29A.36.131)

In the General Election, the candidate with the most votes in the Primary Election will be listed first on the ballot, as well as in the General Election Local Voters' Pamphlet and Online Voters' Guide.

If no Primary Election is held for an office, candidates appear in lot draw order on the General Election ballot, Local Voters' Pamphlet and Online Voters' Guide.

Local Voters' Pamphlet and Online Voter's Guide

Submit your Voters' Pamphlet Information online RCW 29A.32.210

Per state law, Island County will print and distribute a Local Voters' Pamphlet in addition to an Online Voters' Guide for all elections. This provides an opportunity for candidates (except Precinct Committee Officers) to publish biographical information, photo, candidate statement, and contact information.

After you file for office, you will receive an email with a link. Use this link to submit your biographical information, candidate statement, and photo for publication in the Local Voters' Pamphlet and Online Voters' Guide.

Any candidate who experiences technical problems should call the Elections Division immediately.

Candidate Biographical Information and Statement

Biographical Information:

Length

The biographical information must be **100** words or less allocated between the four section headings.

Biographical information should be in accordance with the four section headings listed below. Section headings are not included in the word count.

- Elected Experience.
- Other Professional Experience.
- Education.
- Community Service.

When a candidate does not submit a response to a section heading, the heading will appear and "No information submitted" will appear in the section area.

Statement:

Length

The word limit for candidate statements is **200** words.

Microsoft Word will be used to verify word counts. Each part of a hyphenated word will be counted as a separate word. (Example - "Around-the-corner" = 3 words)

Statements exceeding word limits will be shortened by the Elections Division without notice and without consulting the candidate. Submissions are shortened by deleting full sentences, starting from the end of the section until the limit for that section is reached.

Format

Italics may be used to emphasize specific words or sentences. Any other formatting, such as all caps, bold or underlining is not permitted. Caps, bold and underlines will be converted to italics by the Elections Division.

Lists and bullets are not permitted. Lists and bullets will be converted by the Elections Division to paragraph style.

Content

Candidates may upload their own statements and photographs directly through the link in the email received after filing for office. The Auditor's Office does not make corrections to statements and assumes no responsibility for errors and/or inaccuracies in the original statement submitted by the candidate.

In a document of this magnitude, it is inevitable that material submitted for publication may contain some inadvertent errors in spelling, punctuation or syntax which could adversely affect the readability of the statement and improperly reflect on the candidate. We encourage candidates or committees to spell check and proofread statements before submittal and to cc themselves when submitting a statement online.

Unacceptable Statements: If any portion of the candidate's statement is rejected, only the rejected portion may be re-written and re-submitted for inclusion in the statement.

Candidates will be notified in writing if their statement or any portion thereof contains what the Auditor believes are obscene, libelous or otherwise inappropriate material. Candidates will have until the day following the Auditor's notice to either (1) appeal the determination citing reasons why the candidate believes the statement is not libelous or otherwise inappropriate, or (2) resubmit a re-written statement for the portion found objectionable. The County Canvassing Board shall consider any appeal. After consideration of the Auditor's written notice and the candidate's appeal statement, the Canvassing Board will make a final determination.

Statements may not ask for contributions or make commercial solicitations.

Candidate Photo Rules

Candidates may submit photographs in paper or electronic form to be included with their statements.

A candidate's photograph cannot be more than five years old, and must be head and shoulders only.

A candidate's photograph must be of the candidate only.

Any photograph that reveals clothing, uniform or insignia suggestive of holding public office is prohibited.

No photograph may include hats, buttons, jewelry or clothing showing words, insignia or symbols.

Paper photographs should be glossy print, color or black and white, not smaller than 3 x 5 inches or larger than 5 x 7 inches. Digital photographs must be either .tiff or .jpg format.

Public Disclosure Commission

Washington State Public Disclosure Commission

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) provides public access to accurate information about the financing of political campaigns, lobbyist expenditures, and the financial affairs of public officials and candidates. The commission ensures compliance and enforcement of Washington's disclosure and campaign finance laws.

Note: The information contained in this section is for informational purposes only. Candidates are advised to verify that they are in compliance with all state, county and local laws. Candidates must contact the PDC directly with any questions or concerns.

Forms, Instruction Manuals and Brochures Available Online

Visit the PDC website at www.pdc.wa.gov for public disclosure information and forms. Call PDC at (360) 753-1111. Paper forms and instruction manuals are not available at the Elections Office.

Where to file PDC Reports

File forms electronically on the PDC website: www.pdc.wa.gov

Candidate Filing Guidelines

Residency Requirements RCW 42.04.020

No person shall be competent to qualify for or hold any elective public office within the state of Washington, or any county, district, precinct, school district, municipal corporation or other district or political subdivision, unless he or she be a citizen of the United States and state of Washington and an elector of such county, district, precinct, school district, municipality or other district or political subdivision.

You must be a resident at the time of candidate filing.

No Double Filings
RCW 29A.36.201

Excluding the office of Precinct Committee Officer, a candidate's name shall not appear for more than one office on the ballot.

Candidates Who Lack Funds to Pay the Filing Fee
RCW 29A.24.091, 101, 111
29A.84.261

Candidates or candidate committees lacking sufficient income or assets to pay the filing fee may submit a filing fee petition. The petition must be presented with the Declaration of Candidacy. The form is available at the Elections Office. It must contain one valid (registered voter) signature for each dollar of the filing fee. For example, if the filing fee for the office you are seeking is \$200.00, the petition must contain 200 valid signatures of registered voters who reside in the district/ jurisdiction of the office you are seeking. You should gather extra signatures to allow for invalid signers. No signatures may be submitted after the close of candidate filing. Signatures cannot provide a discount on the filing fee. Candidate must have all signatures equal to the dollar amount or pay the full filing fee.

Write-in Candidates
RCW 29A.24.311, 320,
29A.60.021

Any person who desires to be a write-in candidate shall file a Declaration of Candidacy no later than 8:00 pm on the day of the primary or election.

No votes shall be counted for a write-in candidate who has not properly filed a write-in declaration of candidacy.

Votes cast for write-in candidates who have filed declarations need only specify the name of the candidate in the appropriate location on the ballot to be counted.

No person may file a write-in declaration:

- For the General Election, if the candidate lost the Primary Election, either as a candidate or a write-in candidate for the same office.
- A valid write-in declaration has already been filed for another office.
- The candidate already appears on the ballot for another office, with the exception of Precinct Committee Officer.

No write-in candidate filing under RCW 29A.24.311 will be included in the Local Voters' Pamphlet or Online Voters' Guide unless that candidate qualifies to have his or her name printed on the General Election ballot.

Voids in Candidacy RCW 29A.24.181

A void in candidacy occurs if, after the regular filing week, but prior to the day of the primary:

- No candidate has filed for office
- All candidates who filed have withdrawn, or
- All candidates who have filed for the office die or have been disqualified.

There is no void in candidacy as long as there is at least one viable candidate.

If a void in candidacy exists, a special three-day filing period will be opened. Notice of the special filing period will be given by notifying the media and will be posted on the Elections homepage.

All candidates who file during the special filing period appear on the General Election ballot.

Vacancy in Office RCW 29A.24.171

When an incumbent resigns, dies, or is disqualified mid-term, and candidate filings have not been held for the office, one of the following occurs:

- If the Elections Division is notified of a vacancy before regular candidate filing begins, the office will be included in regular filing.
- If the vacancy in office occurs on or after regular candidate filing has begun, no election is held for that office. The jurisdiction will fill the vacant position with an appointment until the next election for that office.

What if no one files for a non-partisan office? (Lapsed Elections) RCW 29A.24.191, 201

If no candidate files during the regular filing period and subsequent special filing period, an election for the office will not be held until the next applicable election year for the office. The incumbent continues to serve until a successor is elected.

Primary Election Guidelines

Partisan Offices

**RCW 29A.52., 29A.36,
WAC 434-230-015 and 045**

A partisan office is an office for which a candidate may choose to indicate a political party preference on his or her Declaration of Candidacy. Federal, statewide, legislative and some county positions are partisan offices. (Exceptions: Judiciary and Secretary of Education.)

A Primary Election will be held for each partisan office open for election, regardless of the number of candidates filing.

Candidates for partisan office may state a political party that he or she prefers. A candidate's preference does not indicate endorsement by the party. No changes to party preference will be accepted after the deadline for withdrawal of candidacy.

It is the voter's option to vote for partisan candidates of their choice and/or vote for any or all nonpartisan races and issues.

On the Primary Election ballot, candidates shall be listed in the order determined by lot.

The names of candidates for Board of County Commissioners will appear only on ballots within their Commissioner district.

The two candidates who receive the greatest number of votes cast will advance to the General Election ballot regardless of party preference. They will appear on the ballot with the top vote getter appearing first.

Nonpartisan Offices

**RCW 29A.52.220,
35.61.050, 36.69.090**

A nonpartisan office is an office for which candidates do not indicate a party preference. All judicial and most special purpose offices are nonpartisan offices. No party preference appears on the ballot for these races.

A Primary Election will be held if three or more candidates file in any nonpartisan office, or a city, town, school, special purpose district or district court office. The two candidates with the most votes continue on to the General Election. The top vote getter appears first.

A Primary Election will not be held for park and recreation district or cemetery district offices. All candidates will advance directly to the General Election ballot in lot draw order.

Candidates for Port District Commissioner will only appear on the ballots within their commissioner district in a Primary Election.

**Precinct Committee
Officer (PCO)**

(Even years only)

Anyone who is a registered voter and a member of a major political party may become a candidate. Since voters do not register by political party in Washington, a candidate declares himself/herself to be a member of a political party at the time of filing.

Precinct Committee Officers are elected at the Primary Election.

Only contested PCO races appear on the ballot. Write-in candidates for PCO are not allowed. If only one person files for office, he or she is deemed elected. If no one files for office, the position is filled by appointment by the political party

Term of Office and Vacancies

The term of office is two years. Should a vacancy occur in the office (caused by death, disqualification, resignation, or failure to elect), the chairperson of the County Central Committee fills the vacancy by appointment.

Judicial Offices
State Constitution
Art. IV, Sec. 29

Judicial candidates will only appear on the Primary Election ballot when three or more candidates file for the office. The candidates' names will appear in lot draw order.

Judicial Elections in Washington State

Candidates	Municipal Court District Court Court of Appeals Supreme Court		Superior Court	
	Primary	General	Primary	General
1	No ¹	Yes ²	County population less than 100,000: No ¹ County population 100,000 or more: No because certificate of election is issued after candidate filing ³	County population less than 100,000: Yes ² County population 100,000 or more: No because certificate of election was issued after candidate filing ³
2	No ¹	Yes ²	No ¹	Yes ²
3 or more	Yes	Yes ²	Yes	Yes ²

¹RCW 29A.52.220

²RCW 29A.36.170

³Article IV, Section 29

An election to fill a vacancy in District Court may not occur in an odd-numbered year, per ALGO 1973 No. 76 and RCW 29A.04.321(1).

General Election Guidelines

Partisan Offices

On General Election ballots, the name of the candidate who, in the Primary Election, received the greatest number of votes for the position shall be listed first, followed by the name of the candidate who receives the next greatest number of votes

Nonpartisan/Judicial Offices RCW 29A.36.170

On General Election ballots, the name of the candidate who receives the greatest number of votes for the position in the Primary Election shall be listed first, followed by the name of the candidate who receives the next greatest number of votes.

If a Primary Election was not required for a nonpartisan office, the candidates' names will appear in lot draw order.

Political Signs

Island County Sign Regulations

Island County Code Chapter 12.24.020 prohibits the placement of unauthorized signs within the county road right-of-way, including campaign signs, without written approval of the Board of County Commissioners. All political signs placed in the road right-of-way will be considered unauthorized, unless written approval has been granted. County Public Works personnel will remove such signs. Utility poles normally lie within the road right-of-way, but near the edge. Signs should be placed beyond that distance, outside the right-of-way.

Signs removed from the right-of-way by County personnel will be kept at the respective road shops (Oak Harbor, Coupeville, Bayview and Camano) for 30 days for retrieval. Unclaimed signs will be disposed of after 30 days.

State Sign Regulations

View the link provided at the Department of Transportation's website:
www.wsdot.wa.gov/operations/traffic

The Department of Transportation outdoor advertising representative is available to answer questions and help interpret the regulations. Call (360) 705-7296.

Complaints

Sign violation complaints do not fall under the jurisdiction of the Island County Elections Office.

To report illegal roadside signs in unincorporated Island County, contact the Public Works Department at 360-679-7331.

To report potential sign violations in a city or town, contact the local jurisdiction regarding regulations and requirements.

Observing the Election Process

Public Access at the Elections Office

Citizens may view ballot processing any time during the workday at the Island County Elections Office, located at 400 North Main Street in Coupeville.

Acts Prohibited in the Vicinity of a Voting Center or Ballot Deposit Site WAC 434-250-100, RCW 29A.84.510, 540 RCW 9.41

It is unlawful for a person to carry onto or possess weapons in a ballot counting center, a voting center, a student engagements hub, or the county elections and voter registration office.

During the voting period, no person may, within 100 feet from the entrance of a voting center or 25 feet from a ballot deposit site:

- Suggest, persuade or attempt to suggest or persuade any voter to vote for or against any candidate or ballot measure;
- Circulate cards or handbills of any kind;
- Solicit signatures to any kind of petition;

- Engage in any practice which interferes with the freedom of voters to exercise their franchise or disrupts administration of the voting center.
- Engage in any activities restricted under this subsection through electronic amplification located more than 100 feet from an entrance to a voting center or student engagement hub or 25 feet from an entrance to a ballot drop box if the person is capable of being understood within 100 feet of the voting center or student engagement hub or 25 feet of the ballot drop box

No person may:

- Interfere with a voter attempting to vote at a voting center or ballot drop box.
- Without lawful authority, remove any ballot from a voting center or ballot deposit site.
- Within 25 feet of a ballot drop box not located within a voting center, no person may electioneer, circulate campaign material, solicit petition signatures or interfere or impede the voting process.

Election Results **RCW 29A.60.160**

Election results are available at approximately 8:30 p.m. on Election Night at the Island County Elections Office, 400 N. Main Street in Coupeville.

Elections results are also available online at:
www.islandcountywa.gov

After Election Day:

Elections Division staff will continue to verify, open, count and update results on any day when there are 500 or more ballots on hand.

Recounts

Mandatory/Automatic Recounts **RCW 29A.64**

An automatic recount applies to candidates and statewide measures and will occur if less than 2,000 votes and also less than 1/2 of 1% of the votes cast for that race separate candidates or issues. The recount is applicable only to candidates apparently

nominated or elected and the closest defeated opponent. The automatic recount will tally only votes for the position or measure in question and will be conducted without charge to any candidate.

For statewide elections, if the difference in the number of votes cast for the apparent winner and the closest apparently defeated opponent is less than 1,000 votes and also less than 1/4 of 1% of the total number of votes cast for both candidates, the votes shall be recounted manually.

For all other elections, if the difference in the number of votes cast for the apparent winner and the closest apparently defeated opponent is less than 150 votes and also less than 1/4 of 1% of total number of votes cast for both candidates, the votes shall be recounted manually. An alternative counting method may be used if both candidates agree in writing and the procedure is suited to the ballot system that was used for casting the votes for the office.

If a mandatory recount is required for a candidate in a jurisdiction, the costs of the recount are billed as a direct cost to the jurisdiction.

Local Measure, Question, or Issue

Automatic recounts do not apply to non-statewide ballot measures, such as levy, bond and other questions or issues.

Requested Recounts

All requested recounts must be submitted no later than two business days after the certification of the election. A deposit equal to \$.15 (machine recount) or \$.25 (manual recount) per ballot by certified check or cash is required.

Final cost of the recount will be determined by the canvassing board and may be less or more than the deposit.

Obtaining Election Data

Island County Voter Data RCW 29A.08.710

Voter information is available in the form of an Excel file.

Information listing voters who have returned their ballots (matchbacks) is also available.

Voter data (including matchbacks) includes:

- Voter's name
- Registered address
- Mailing address
- Precinct number
- Date of birth
- Date of registration
- Voter history
- A field indicating whether a ballot has been received for the election in progress

State law does NOT allow telephone numbers or email addresses to be made public.

Common Data Requests:

- Data file of all registered voters in Island County or in a specific district or precinct
- Data file of voters from a specific election
- Data file of voters who have returned their ballots for a specific election (matchbacks)

To order data or lists:

Contact the Elections Office to make your request.

Your order will generally be completed within 24 hours of receipt.

**Restricted Use of
Voter Data
RCW 29A.08.740**

State law establishes rules and restrictions on the use of registered voter data. Voter information may not be used for commercial or other non-political purposes.

RCW 29A.08.740 states: “Any person who uses registered voter data for the purpose of mailing or delivering any advertisement or offer for any property, establishment, organization, product, or service or for the purpose of mailing or delivering any solicitation for money, services, or anything of value is guilty of a class C felony punishable by imprisonment in a state correctional facility for a period of not more than five years or a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars or both such fine and imprisonment, and is liable to each person provided such advertisement or solicitation, without the person’s consent, for the nuisance value of such person having to dispose of it, which value is herein established at five dollars for each item mailed or delivered to the person’s residence.”

Commercial Demographic Firms

Business firms also offer various voter statistic formats and services, such as targeting, printing, designing and mailing. They may also provide phone numbers and other demographic information. Options and charges for these services vary from vendor to vendor. Check sources for a variety of products, services and fees.

Resources for New Elected Officials

I won the election and have been certified the winner. What do I need to do next?

Take your oath of office RCW 29A.04.133

Candidates are elected when the General Election results have been certified. In order to become “qualified” for the office, winning candidates must take and subscribe to an oath or affirmation that you will faithfully and impartially carry out the duties of your office to the best of your ability. Candidates elected to an unexpired or short term take office upon certification of the election.

Who can administer oaths

Judges, court clerks, a notary public or any officer authorized to administer oaths. County Commissioners, the County Auditor and school or educational service district superintendents are also authorized to give oaths.

Where to obtain a blank oath of office

Elections Division Office or by email at elections@islandcountywa.gov . We will send you the form.

Filing your oath of office

Once the oath of office has been taken for a local or county office, the original oath must be filed with the Auditors Recording Division where it is filed as part of the official records for the jurisdiction. Once the oath has been filed, it becomes a public record. Elected officials may wish to complete a second original oath for retention or display purposes.

To learn more about public office

Newly elected officials may wish to contact their local city or town clerk, school superintendent as well as fellow Council, members and commissioners to learn more about their jurisdiction and the duties required.