

Lewis County Elections

2020

Jurisdiction Guide

Election information, including online voters' guide rules.

Lewis County Elections
351 N.W. North St.
PO Box 29
Chehalis, WA 98532

Phone: (360) 740-1164 or
(360) 740-1278
Fax: (360) 740-1421

Email: elections@lewiscountywa.gov
Website: <https://elections.lewiscountywa.gov>

Contents



Chapter 1

2019 Elections Calendar

Primary and general election dates	1
Special election dates	1
2019 election dates	1

Chapter 2

Jurisdiction Survey

Purpose of the Jurisdiction Survey	2
Completing the Jurisdiction Survey	2
Common questions	2

Chapter 3

Office Holders

Importance of keeping Lewis County Elections informed	3
Resignations/Vacancies	3
New appointments	3
Oath of office rules	4
Oath of office administration and repository	5

Chapter 4

Candidate Filing

Jurisdiction administrators - your role during candidate filing	6
Candidate filing	6
2019 candidate filing dates	6
Withdrawal of candidacy	6
Write-in candidates	6
Residency requirements	7
No double filings	7
Shared districts	7
Candidate filing - voids and lapses	8
Candidate filing - vacancies	8

Chapter 5

Candidate Statements and Photos

Online voters' guide	9
Candidate statement length, content, format, and deadline	9
Candidate photo rules and deadline	10
Candidate contact information	10
Candidate statements and photos at a glance	11

Contents



Chapter 6

Resolution Filing

Deadline for submitting a resolution	12
Rules for submitting a resolution	12
Checklist for submitting a resolution	12
Withdrawing a resolution	13
Ballot titles for local measures	13
Appealing a ballot title	13
Explanatory statement rules	13
Formatting the explanatory statement	14
Submitting the explanatory statement	14

Chapter 7

Online Voters' Guide

Online voters' guide	15
----------------------	----

Chapter 8

General Rules for all Submissions

Rules applicable to all submissions	16
Public inspection of statements	16
Rejection and appeal	16
2019 submission deadlines at a glance	17

Chapter 9

Election Costs

Cost of participating in an election	18
--------------------------------------	----

Chapter 10

General Election Turnout for Validation

Bond and levy validations	19
Levy validation for school districts	19
Levy validation (excluding school levies)	19
Bond validation	19
General Election turnout	19

Contents



Chapter 11

Types of Local Measures

Types of Local Measures	20
-------------------------	----

Resources

Resolution cover sheet	21
Election data request form	22
Filing fee petition	23
Certificate of Appointment/Oath of Office	24
Revised Code of Washington (RCW Titles)	25

About this guide

Use this guide in conjunction with state and local laws, not in place of them. The Revised Code of Washington ("RCW"), Washington Administrative Code ("WAC") and other notations are offered as references for additional research. The material contained herein may change due to new legislation, judicial determinations, or rule changes.

2020 Elections Calendar

Important election dates and deadlines

Chapter 01

Primary and general election dates

Primary and general elections are held on the following days each year:

- Primary: the 1st Tuesday in August
- General election: the 1st Tuesday after the 1st Monday in November

Special election dates

Upon receipt of a resolution from the governing body of a jurisdiction, Lewis County Elections may hold a special election. The jurisdiction can request the special election be held on any of the following dates:

- February special election: the 2nd Tuesday in February
- April special election: the 4th Tuesday in April
- Primary: the 1st Tuesday in August
- General election: the 1st Tuesday after the 1st Monday in November

Deadlines to submit a resolution requesting a special election are:

- February election: 60 days prior to the date of the election
- April election: 60 days prior to the date of the election
- Primary: no later than the Friday immediately before the first day of candidate filing week
- General election: no later than the day of the primary

2020 election dates

February 11, 2020 special election

April 28, 2020 special election

August 4, 2020 primary

November 3, 2020 general

RCW 29A.04.311
RCW 29A.04.321

Jurisdiction Survey

Confirming jurisdiction information for candidate filing

Chapter 02

Purpose of the Jurisdiction Survey

The Jurisdiction Survey is sent to all jurisdictions each year to confirm current office holder, salary and term information. This information is used to properly conduct candidate filing for each office and jurisdiction in Lewis.

Completing the Jurisdiction Survey

Prior to February 1st of each year, Lewis County Elections mails a Jurisdiction Survey to each jurisdiction asking for confirmation of information. Jurisdictions must respond and provide the following information:

- Current contact information for the jurisdiction administrator.
- Information about current elected officials such as office title, position number, office holder's name, annual salary at the time of candidate filing, and term expiration.

Jurisdiction administrators must complete the survey prior to March 1st so that candidate filing information can be compiled and distributed to the public in advance of the candidate filing period.

Common questions

What if an office becomes vacant or there is a new appointment after I have submitted the Jurisdiction Survey?

You need to notify Lewis County Elections once an office becomes vacant.

Prior to appointing a new person, contact Elections to verify that they are a qualified, registered voter for that office.

Once someone is appointed to that office, notify Elections in writing.

What if an office holder receives per diem or is paid on a per meeting basis?

Per diem is not a fixed annual salary and should not be included.

What do I do with completed oaths?

Send completed oaths of office to the Lewis County Auditor's Office. They will be recorded free of charge and retained by the County Auditor.

WAC 434-215-005

Office Holders

Information about current office holders, resignations, appointments, and oaths of office

Importance of keeping Lewis County Elections informed

It is extremely important that Lewis County Elections has accurate, up-to-date information regarding current office holders. The information is used to determine which offices are subject to election. Please notify our office of all vacancies and appointments that occur throughout the year.

Resignations/Vacancies

If an elected official resigns, is removed from office, dies, or in some cases, changes their voter registration status, it causes a vacancy of office.

The officer who wishes to resign should submit his or her resignation to the board of the junior taxing district.

Once an office becomes vacant, notify Lewis County Elections immediately. Notification must be in writing; email is sufficient. Please include the name of the office holder, the office and position number, and the effective date of the resignation. Additional information regarding vacancies can be found in RCW 42.12

New appointments

When a position is vacant, the remaining members of the board will appoint a qualified person to fill the vacant position. Prior to appointing an individual to fill a vacancy, provide Elections with a list of applicant names, dates of birth and/or residential addresses and our office can confirm candidates are qualified registered voters of the jurisdiction.

If the board does not appoint a qualified person to fill a vacancy within ninety days of the occurrence of the vacancy, the county legislative authority will appoint a qualified person.

Once an individual has been appointed, notify Elections of the appointment in writing; email is sufficient. Please include the name of the appointed person, contact information for that person, and the effective date of the appointment.

The board will sign the *Certificate of Appointment* and the newly appointed officer will sign the *Oath of Office*. Send the completed oaths of office to the Lewis County Auditor's Office. They will be recorded free of charge and retained by the County Auditor. A Certificate of Appointment/Oath of Office form can be found on page 25. A fillable form can also be found on the Lewis County Elections website at <https://elections.lewiscountywa.gov> under the "Forms" tab. The form is labeled Oath of Office Form.

The newly appointed officer will serve until the next election at which a candidate for the jurisdiction is elected. In that election, the position will be elected for an unexpired term ending at the remainder of the original term.



Oath of office rules

Who is required to take an oath of office?

Every person elected or appointed to an office in the State of Washington is required by our state and federal constitutions to take an oath prior to serving in office.

Who administers the oath of office?

The oath of office shall be administered and certified by any officer or notary public authorized to administer oaths, without charge. Six positions are specifically qualified by statute to administer oaths:

Judges and Notary Publics	RCW 5.28.010
County Commissioners	RCW 36.32.120
County Auditors or Deputies	RCW 36.22.030
Clerks of the Courts	RCW 2.32.050
Town Clerks	RCW 35.27.220
School Officials	RCW 28A.343.360

When should the oath of office be administered?

The oath may be taken either up to ten days prior to the scheduled date of assuming office; or at the last regular meeting of the governing body of the applicable county, city, town, or special district held before the winner is to assume office.

See the table on page 5 for more information on oaths by office type.

RCW 29A.60.280

Post-Election Odds and Ends: Bonds, Oaths and Taking Office – MRSC

<http://mrsc.org/Home/Stay-Informed/MRSC-Insight/October-2017/Post-Election-Odds-and-Ends-Bonds-Oaths-and-Taki.aspx>

The Oath of Office for Local Elected Officials – MRSC

<http://mrsc.org/Home/Stay-Informed/MRSC-Insight/December-2019-1/The-Oath-of-Office-for-Local-Elected-Officials.aspx>

Oath of office administration and repository

Offices	Regular Term Begins	Administration and Repository of Oath	Applicable Citations
Superior Court Judges	2nd Monday in January	Oath retained by Secretary of State.	RCW 2.08.080
County Officials -Executive Officers	January 1	No earlier than 10 days prior to assuming office, or at last regularly scheduled meeting. Oath retained by County Auditor.	RCW 29A.60.280 RCW 36.16.040 RCW 36.16.060
District Court Judges	2nd Monday in January	Prior to entering the duties of office. Oath filed with County Auditor.	RCW 3.34.070 RCW 3.34.080 RCW 3.50.050
Municipal Court Judges	January 1	Prior to entering the duties of office. Oath filed with County Auditor.	RCW 3.50.097
City and Town Officials -Executive Officers	January 1	No earlier than 10 days prior to assuming office, or at last regularly scheduled meeting. Oath filed with and retained by County Auditor.	RCW 29A.60.280 RCW 35.23.081 RCW 35.27.120 RCW 35A.12.040 RCW 35A.12.080 RCW 35A.13.160
Port District Commissioners	January 1	No earlier than 10 days prior to assuming office, or at last regularly scheduled meeting. No statutory reference available regarding retention but historically oath has been retained by County Auditor.	RCW 29A.60.280 RCW 53.12.172
Public Utility District Commissioners	January 1	Administered by an officer of the county in which the district is situated. No earlier than 10 days prior to assuming office, or at last regularly scheduled meeting. Oath retained by County Auditor.	RCW 29A.60.280 RCW 54.12.100
School Directors	Begins at first official meeting following certification of election.	School officials are authorized to administer all oaths or affirmations. Retained by County Auditor.	RCW 28A.343.360
Fire Protection District -Commissioners -District Secretary	January 1	No earlier than 10 days prior to assuming office, or at last regularly scheduled meeting. Retained by County Auditor.	RCW 29A.60.280 RCW 52.14.070 RCW 52.14.080
Sewer, Water, Hospital Districts -Commissioners	January 1	No earlier than 10 days prior to assuming office, or at last regularly scheduled meeting. No statutory reference available regarding retention but historically oath has been retained by County Auditor.	RCW 29A.60.280 RCW 57.12.030 RCW 70.44.040
Cemetery Districts	January 1	No earlier than 10 days prior to assuming office, or at last regularly scheduled meeting. Retained by County Auditor.	RCW 29A.60.280 RCW 68.52.260
Park and Recreation -Commissioners	January 1	No earlier than 10 days prior to assuming office, or at last regularly scheduled meeting. Retained by County Auditor.	RCW 29A.60.280 RCW 35.61.050
Jurisdictions requiring land ownership (e.g. diking/flood control districts)	Upon certification of election.	No statutory reference available.	RCW 85.24.070 RCW 85.38.070 RCW 86.09.301

Candidate Filing

General information about candidate filing for jurisdictions and office holders

Chapter 04

Jurisdiction administrators - your role during candidate filing

Jurisdiction administrators are not active participants in the candidate filing process. All candidates are responsible for submitting their own Declaration of Candidacy. Jurisdiction resources should not be used to assist an elected official or candidate to file for office.

Candidate filing

All persons wishing to have his or her name printed on the ballot must file a Declaration of Candidacy. Any person filing a Declaration of Candidacy must meet the qualifications specified by law for that office at the time of filing the Declaration of Candidacy. The candidate must be a registered voter of the jurisdiction for which they are filing, which is verified by Lewis County Elections. It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure that he or she meets any and all other requirements for the office.

For offices with an annual salary greater than \$1,000, a filing fee equal to 1% of the annual salary must accompany the Declaration of Candidacy at the time of filing. A filing fee is not charged for any office that is compensated on a per diem or per meeting basis. A filing fee of \$10 shall accompany the Declaration of Candidacy for any office with a fixed annual salary of \$1,000 or less.

A candidate who lacks sufficient assets or income at the time of filing to pay the filing fee may submit a filing fee petition with his or her Declaration of Candidacy. An example is on page 24.

Filing fees are not refundable. If a candidate withdraws their Declaration of Candidacy, he or she forfeits the filing fee.

Filing fees are not transferable. If a candidate withdraws their Declaration of Candidacy and re-files for a different position a second filing fee must be paid for the new position.

The candidate filing period begins Monday two weeks prior to Memorial Day and ends the following Friday.

2020 candidate filing dates

- April 27 Candidate filing by mail begins
- May 11-15 Candidate filing week: online and in person
- May 18 Last day for candidates to withdraw
- May 22 Last day to submit a statement or photo for the online voters' guide

Withdrawal of candidacy

Candidates may withdraw their Declaration of Candidacy prior to the deadline to withdraw.

There is no withdrawal period for Declarations of Candidacy filed during special candidate filing periods.

No filing fees will be refunded to any candidate that withdraws.

RCW 29A.24.075
RCW 29A.24.081
RCW 29A.24.091
RCW 29A.24.131



Write-in candidates

If an individual wishes to file for an office after the candidate filing period has passed, he or she must file a Declaration of Write-in Candidacy. If the Declaration of Write-in Candidacy is filed between the close of candidate filing and more than 18 days prior to a primary or election, there is no filing fee. If the Declaration of Write-In Candidacy is filed 18 days or less prior to a primary or election, a filing fee is required. The deadline for filing is no later than 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

Residency requirements

All candidates must be a registered voter of the jurisdiction for which they have filed a Declaration of Candidacy. It is the candidate’s responsibility to ensure he or she meets any and all other requirements.

No double filings

A candidate cannot file for more than one office appearing on the ballot, with the exception of filing as a Precinct Committee Officer or Freeholder.

Shared districts

Below are districts that are shared by more than one county. The primary county issues certificates of election and accepts Declarations of Candidacy for that jurisdiction.

Jurisdictions	Counties that share the district
School Districts	
Castle Rock School District	*Cowlitz, Lewis
Centralia School District	*Lewis, Thurston
Eatonville School District	Lewis, *Pierce
Oakville School District	*Grays Harbor, Lewis
Pe Ell School District	*Lewis, Pacific
Rochester School District	Lewis, *Thurston, Grays Harbor
Fire District	
Cowlitz – Lewis Fire Protection District 20	Cowlitz, *Lewis

* indicates “lead” or primary county

RCW 29A.24.075
RCW 29A.24.311



Candidate filing - voids and lapses

A void in candidacy occurs when no valid Declarations of Candidacy have been filed for a position, or all candidates that did file a valid Declaration of Candidacy have withdrawn, died, or been disqualified. If a void in candidacy occurs after the regular candidate filing period, but before the day of the primary, a special three-day candidate filing period will be held. The date of the special filing period will be determined by the filing officer. Notice of the void in candidacy will be given, and include the time and place for individuals to file a Declaration of Candidacy.

All candidates that file a valid Declaration of Candidacy during the special candidate filing period will appear on the general election ballot. A primary election will not be held for that office. The candidate receiving the most votes for that office in the general election is deemed elected.

If, after the regular and special candidate filing periods have passed, no candidate has filed a valid Declaration of Candidacy, the election for that office is deemed lapsed and the office will not appear on the ballot.

If a lapse of election occurs, the current office holder will remain in office and continue to serve until the next succeeding general election that the office is allowed by law to have an election.

Candidate filing - vacancies

When a vacancy in office occurs, certain factors determine when the office will appear on the general election ballot, such as the date the vacancy occurs and whether the office was scheduled for election that year.

If, prior to the first day of the regular candidate filing period, a vacancy occurs in an office that is not scheduled to appear on the general election ballot, valid Declarations of Candidacy for that office will be accepted during the regular candidate filing period. Lewis County Elections will give notice of the vacancy. The notice will include the date, time, and place for filing Declarations of Candidacy.

If, on the first day of the regular candidate filing period or later, a vacancy occurs in an office that is not scheduled to appear on the general election ballot, Declarations of Candidacy will not be accepted for that office during the regular candidate filing period. That office will instead be open for filing at the next succeeding general election that the office is allowed by law to have an election.

RCW 29A.24.141
RCW 29A.24.171
RCW 29A.24.181

Candidate Statements and Photos

Candidate statement and photo rules and deadlines

Chapter 05

Candidate participation in the online voters' guide

The online voters' guide provides an opportunity for every candidate to publish a candidate statement, photo, and contact information. All candidates may participate in the Lewis County online voters' guide, with the exception of PCO's.

For the primary, an online voters' guide is available for offices that have three or more candidate filings.

Candidates must submit statements and photos electronically online or by email to Lewis County Elections. Paper copies of statements or photos will not be accepted.

All submissions will be published to the public once reviewed and approved by Elections staff.

Candidates may not submit new information after the deadline. The information submitted will be used for the primary (if applicable) and the general election online voters' guide.

Candidate statement length, content, format, and deadline

Length

Candidate statements must be 200 words or less, dependent on Microsoft word count.
Candidate biography must be 150 words or less, dependent on Microsoft word count.

Stay within the word limit. Submissions exceeding the word limit will be shortened, without notice and without consulting the candidate, by deleting the words in excess of the word limit. If such a deletion creates an incomplete sentence, that incomplete sentence will also be omitted.

When a candidate does not submit a biography or statement, "No Information Submitted" will appear next to each heading left blank.

Format

Format your statement as an essay. Text must be written in paragraphs.

Content

Use italics to emphasize words or phrases. Bolding, underlining, and all caps are not allowed. Tables, lists, and bullets are not allowed.

The Auditor may reject any submission that is obscene; is libelous; is vulgar; promotes or advocates hatred, violence, hostility, ridicule, or shame upon any person or group of persons; or is received after the submittal deadline.

Deadline

The final deadline to submit a candidate statement is **May 22, 2020**. Once a statement is submitted, only grammatical and factual information may be updated in the best interest of the voters. (Examples include correcting a date, a misspelled word, or a dollar amount.) All changes must be submitted by the **May 22** deadline.

Rewriting or additional information submitted will not be accepted.

RCW 29A.32.090
RCW 29A.32.230



Candidate photo rules and deadline

Candidates may submit a head and shoulders photo of just the candidate. Photo must be submitted in a digital format.

Photos must be:

- Digital (JPEG or TIFF format). Digital photographs as part of a Word document or PDF are not acceptable.
- 300 dpi or greater.
- Not smaller than 4 x 5 inches (1200 x 1500 pixels).
- Taken within the last 5 years.
- Limited to the head and shoulders of the candidate.
- Light colored, plain background (preferred).
- Color or black and white.

Photos may not:

- Include flags, robes, or law enforcement and military uniforms.
- Contain political party or patriotic symbols or logos.
- Show clothing or insignia suggesting that you hold a public office.
- Include any other person in your photograph.

The final deadline to submit a candidate photo is May 22, 2020. If after your initial submission you wish to change your photo, you may submit a different photo by the May 22 deadline.

The County Auditor shall have the authority to grant any deadline extension that he/she feels is in the public's best interest, including extensions for late filings because of vacancies. All extensions shall be equally granted to opposing candidates.

Candidate contact information

A candidate's email address, phone number, and campaign website will be published online with their statement. Contact information does not count towards the word limit of the statement.

Candidate Statements and Photos at a Glance

Type	Word Limit	Formatting
Photo		<p><i>Allowed:</i> Digital (JPEG or TIFF format) 300 dpi or greater Limited to head and shoulders Taken within the last 5 years Not smaller than 4 x 5"</p> <p><i>Not Allowed:</i> Political party, patriotic symbols, or logos Flags, robes, or law enforcement/military uniforms. Clothing or insignia suggesting that you hold a public office.</p>
Biography	150	<p><i>Allowed:</i> Italics</p>
Statement	200	<p><i>Not Allowed:</i> Bold, ALL CAPS, <u>underlining</u>, lists, bullets, or tables</p>
Contact Information	Contact information is not included in the word count.	<p><i>Allowed:</i> Phone number Email address Campaign website address At least one method of contact must be provided.</p> <p><i>Not Allowed:</i> Titles (Dr., President, PhD)</p> <p>Email and website addresses may not be obscene, libelous, or a commercial advertisement.</p>

Any material submitted may be rejected if:

- It is obscene;
- It is libelous;
- It is vulgar;
- Contains a commercial advertisement;
- Promotes or advocates hatred, violence, hostility, ridicule, or shame upon any person or group of persons; or
- It is received after the submittal deadline.

Other than corrections to grammatical and factual information, or format and length, candidate statements shall be printed exactly as submitted and shall not be checked for accuracy by Elections staff.

Resolution Filing

Information about filing a resolution to place a measure on the ballot and ballot titles

Deadline for submitting a resolution

Upon receipt of a resolution from the governing body of a jurisdiction, Lewis County Elections may hold a special election.

All resolutions must be received by Lewis County Elections no later than 4:30 p.m. on the day of the deadline. Submitting a resolution in advance of the deadline is advantageous to the jurisdiction, as it allows time for the Elections Office to review the submission and inform the jurisdiction of any missing information.

Election Date

February 11, 2020 Special

April 28, 2020 Special

August 4, 2020 Primary

November 3, 2020 General

Resolution Deadline

December 13, 2019

February 28, 2020

May 8, 2020

August 4, 2020

Rules for submitting a resolution

Resolutions can be submitted to Elections by email, mail, fax, or in-person no later than 4:30 p.m. on the day of the deadline at:

Lewis County Elections
351 N.W. North St.
PO Box 29
Chehalis, WA 98532

Email: elections@lewiscountywa.gov
Fax: (360) 740-1421

A resolution cover sheet is required and must accompany each resolution. This cover sheet contains important information and contacts required by Elections. A resolution cover sheet may be found on page 21 of this manual, one will be provided upon request or a fillable form can be found on our website at <https://elections.lewiscountywa.gov> under the "Forms" tab.

Checklist for submitting a resolution

- Submit the resolution on or before statutory deadline
- Include a completed resolution cover sheet
- Include an explanatory statement



Withdrawing a resolution

If a jurisdiction wishes to withdraw a resolution, the jurisdiction must do so in writing no later than 7 business days after the submission deadline.

Ballot titles for local measures

The format and content requirements for local measure ballot titles are very specific and must conform to state law. Ballot titles consist of three elements:

- The name of the jurisdiction submitting the measure and a statement of the subject matter (not to exceed 10 words);
- A concise description (not to exceed 75 words); and
- A question

The ballot title is approved/prepared by the County Prosecuting Attorney's Office; except ballot titles for a city or town which are prepared by the city attorney.

Resolutions submitted by jurisdictions needing a signature or ballot title prepared by the Lewis County Prosecuting Attorney will be forwarded to that office by the Auditor upon receipt.

Appealing a ballot title

Any person dissatisfied with the ballot title for a local measure written by the city/town attorney, or Prosecuting Attorney, as the case may be, may appeal to the Lewis County Superior Court within ten days from the time of filing the ballot title, not including Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays. The decision of the Superior Court is final.

Explanatory statement rules

For each election, explanatory statements may be submitted for publication in the Lewis County online voters' guide. The explanatory statement is prepared by the Prosecuting Attorney for county measures and by the attorney for the jurisdiction submitting the measure if other than a county measure.

The purpose of an explanatory statement is to state the effect of the proposed measure if approved by the voters. It must be impartial, written in clear and concise language, and avoid the use of legal and technical terms whenever possible.

If prepared by the jurisdiction, proof of approval by the jurisdiction's attorney must be received by Lewis County Elections either by cover letter or email.

If a jurisdiction does not have an approval letter from its attorney, or if a jurisdiction does not retain legal counsel, the statement shall be submitted to the Prosecuting Attorney for review and preparation.



Formatting the explanatory statement

Length

Explanatory statements must be 250 words or less.

Format

Formatting is important. Format your statement as an essay. Text must be written in paragraphs. Up to four paragraphs may be used.

Italics

Italics may be used to emphasize specific words or statements. Any other formatting, such as bold, underline, or all caps, will be changed to appear in italics.

Lists or bullets

The use of lists or bullets is not allowed. Lists or bullets will be converted to block paragraphs with a semicolon separating each item.

Submitting the explanatory statement

Explanatory statements shall be printed exactly as submitted and shall not be checked for accuracy by Elections staff.

Explanatory statements shall be submitted, along with the pertinent resolution, by the resolution deadline. The County Auditor shall have the authority to grant any deadline extension that he/she feels is in the public's best interest. All extensions shall be equally granted to any jurisdiction in that election. Resolutions shall be submitted to:

Lewis County Elections
351 N.W. North St.
PO Box 29
Chehalis, WA 98532

Email: elections@lewiscountywa.gov
Fax: (360) 740-1421

Online Voters' Guide

Rules for the local online voters' guide



Online voters' guide

For all elections, an online voters' guide is available at <https://elections.lewiscountywa.gov>. A printed local voters' pamphlet is not produced in Lewis County. All local jurisdictions in the county, with measures or candidates on the ballot, shall participate and will automatically be included.

Contents to be included in the Lewis County Online Voters' Guide shall include, but are not limited to:

- The date of the election;
- A list of jurisdictions participating in the election;
- Ballot titles of any measure submitted accompanied by an explanatory statement, if submitted;
- Candidate names and party preference of races appearing in the election; and
- All candidate statements and photos received by the deadline.

The full text of resolutions calling for an election will be posted on the Lewis County Elections website for every election. Printed copies are available and will be mailed upon request.

The intent of the online guide is to provide citizens of Lewis County with informative, objective, consistent, and readable information regarding candidates and ballot measures.

These administrative rules set forth the manner and method in which the online voters' guide is to be published.

General Rules for all Submissions

Rules applicable to all submissions, rejection, and appeal

Chapter 08



Rules applicable to all submissions

The contents of statement, photo, and contact information are the sole responsibility of the authors.

Submissions don't represent the position of Lewis County Elections. Likewise, the Lewis County Elections Office is not responsible for the validity or accuracy of submissions.

Spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors will not be corrected. Submissions will be printed exactly as received, as long as it complies with format specifications and content rules.

Once the candidate statement and photo deadline has passed, all statements and photos submitted are final. They cannot be amended by the candidate after the deadline date.

If a submission is not received by the deadline, the text "No Information Submitted" and "No Photo Submitted" will appear in the applicable sections.

Public inspection of statements

All statements become public information once approved by the County Auditor.

Rejection and appeal

Rejection

The County Auditor may reject certain materials submitted for publication in the online voters' guide. These materials include candidate statements, explanatory statements, and contact information.

Notice of rejected statements shall be sent to the proponent by email not more than two business days after the deadline for submittal.

Appeal

The proponent of aforesaid statement may appeal the decision to reject.

Written notice of appeal shall be submitted to the Lewis County Auditor, Elections Office by email not more than 48 hours after the notice of rejection was sent and shall set forth the specific grounds for appeal.

The Auditor shall issue a written decision granting or denying the appeal by email not more than three business days after the appeal was submitted. The decision of the Auditor to grant or deny an appeal shall be final.

2020 Submission Deadlines at a Glance



2020 Submission Deadlines - Deadlines are 4:30 pm on each designated day				
Election Dates	Feb. 11, 2020	Apr. 28, 2020	Aug. 4, 2020	Nov. 3, 2020
Jurisdiction's Responsibility and Deadlines				
Resolution	Dec. 13, 2019	Feb. 28, 2020	May 8, 2020	Aug. 4, 2020
Explanatory Statement				
Resolution Cover Sheet <i>Providing jurisdiction contacts</i>				
Candidate's Responsibility and Deadlines				
Candidate Filing				May 11-15, 2020
Withdrawal of Candidacy <i>Filing fees are non-refundable.</i>				May 18, 2020
Statement				May 22, 2020
Photo				May 22, 2020

Election Costs

Information about calculating the cost of participating in an election

Cost of participating in an election

Election costs are based upon a jurisdiction's proportionate share. Each jurisdiction's cost is determined by taking the total number of registered voters in the jurisdiction and dividing it by the total number of all registered voters in all participating jurisdictions in the election.

Election costs vary from one election to the next depending on a variety of factors. For instance, whether or not the election is held in an odd or even-numbered year is a significant factor for determining costs in a primary or general election; but less of a factor for a special election held in February or April. This is primarily due to the number of participating jurisdictions in an odd-numbered year as opposed to an even-numbered year.

Although the overall cost of a primary or general election from one year to the next is somewhat comparable, a general election shared by five jurisdictions is going to cost more per voter for each jurisdiction than an election shared by fifteen jurisdictions.

Special elections in February and April are often shared by a smaller number of jurisdictions, thus the proportional share is often greater. In the case of a single jurisdiction election, the cost would be 100%.

Lewis County Elections will prepare and send billing notifications to participating jurisdictions at the end of each election.

Prior to deciding when to place a measure on the ballot, jurisdictions may contact Elections to request a cost estimate. Estimates will be based on a reasonable range, taking historical information into account. A specific cost or quote cannot be provided, as there are unknown factors such as the number of jurisdictions participating in an election.

General Election Turnout for Validation

Chapter 10

Information about bond and levy validation



Bond and levy election validations

Passing a levy or bond issue is not always a simple matter of majority rules. State law requires bond issues and some types of levies to have a “super majority” in order to pass; while other levies, such as a levy lid lift, only requires a simple majority.

Levy validation for school districts

A school district levy requires a simple majority to pass

Levy validation (excluding school levies)

Non-school district levies have two thresholds that must be met in order for the levy to pass:

1. The levy must receive a minimum 60% majority; and
2. A minimum number of “Yes” votes must be cast, which is determined by calculating 60% of 40% of the number of voters in the jurisdiction that cast ballots in the previous general election.

Bond validation

Bond issues also have two thresholds that must be met in order for the bond to pass:

1. The bond must receive a minimum 60% majority; and
2. The voter turnout for that jurisdiction must equal 40% of the voters who cast ballots in the previous general election.

General Election turnout

Following certification of the general election each year, Lewis County Elections will publish the voter turnout report for each taxing district to the Elections website in the “Current Election” tab, under “Election Certification”.

This report includes the following for each jurisdiction:

- The total number of active registered voters at the time of the general election;
- The number of votes cast for the general election

The county auditor is not responsible for determining minimum turnout or yes votes required for ballot measures and will not determine if ballot measures meet requirements for passage. The district is responsible for making the final legal determination of whether a measure passed or failed based on the certified vote totals and applicable law. WAC 434-262-017



Bonds

A district may ask for authorization of bonds, usually to build/or equip a structure. New schools, fire stations, and libraries are examples for bond construction money.

Levies

A district may ask for authorization to cover their maintenance and operation cost.

Levy Lid Increases

A district may ask for authorization to increase its regular property tax levy rate. By law, districts have to follow a tax allocation distribution formula. If a district determines the allocation is not enough, the district has the option of requesting a levy lid increase.

Annexations

A district may ask for authorization to be placed within another taxing district or change its boundary Lines.

Other –

Advisory Ballots, Sales and Use Tax, Change of Form of Government, other.

A district may ask voters' approval or opinion to change an existing situation or create something new. For example, creation of a new district.



Resolution Cover Sheet

This form must accompany each resolution.

Name of District: _____

District Address: _____

Date of Election: _____

Contact Person/Title: _____

Contact Phone: _____ Email: _____

Attorney for District: _____

Attorney Phone: _____ Email: _____

Type of Election (levy, bond, lid lift, etc.): _____

Pass / Fail Requirement for this measure as determined by your legal counsel:

Simple majority or majority 50% +1 Supermajority of 60%

Notes:

Validation requirement as determined by your legal counsel: The minimum number of voters "required" to turnout (cast a valid ballot) in an excess levy or bond election.

This issue requires validation: Yes No

Notes:

Questions?

Elections Department
351 NW North St/PO Box 29
Chehalis, WA 98532

Phone: 360-740-1278, 360-740-1164
Fax: 360-740-1421
Email: heather.boyer@lewiscountywa.gov
Website: <https://elections.lewiscountywa.gov>

VoteWA Data requests

In the past, you've requested voter data from Lewis County Elections. Those requests included:

- Registered voters in a specific district or precinct.
- Voters who voted in a specific election(s) or frequency of voting.
- Walking lists (voters in address/precinct order).
- Match backs (voters who have returned their ballots).

Lewis County will no longer process data requests, because this is now the role of the Office of the Secretary of State.



In 2019, Washington State launched a new statewide voter registration and election management system called VoteWA. Lewis County no longer has "county" registration files. Washington now has one centralized system, managed by the Office of the Secretary of State.

Good news! Requesting data from OSOS is made through an [easy online portal](#) and the data is FREE! And yes, your request will include match backs.

The data can be sorted by Congressional or Legislative Districts, but you'll need to take an extra step to isolate cities, towns, school districts, etc. OSOS has provided you with an easy-to-use, sortable Excel data file with all [districts and their associated precincts](#).



The Easy Online Portal can be accessed at: <https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/research/data-and-statistics.aspx>

Filing Fee Petition

(Submitted in lieu of the filing fee required by RCW 29A.24.091)

<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">WARNING</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">RCW 29A.24.101 and RCW 29A.72.140</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Every person who signs this petition with any other than his or her true name, knowingly signs more than one of these petitions, signs this petition when he or she is not a legal voter, or makes any false statement on this petition may be punished by fine or imprisonment or both.</p>
--	--

We, the undersigned registered voters of _____
(either state of Washington or the political subdivision for which the nomination is made)

hereby petition that the name of _____
(candidate's name) be printed on the

official primary ballot of the office of _____
(insert name of office including district / position number if applicable)

	Signature	Printed Name	Residence Address	City	County
1)					
2)					
3)					
4)					
5)					
6)					
7)					
8)					
9)					
10)					

CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

STATE OF WASHINGTON)
) ss.
COUNTY OF _____)

The undersigned officers of _____ do
(Commission, Council, or Board Making Appointment)
hereby appoint _____ of _____
(Person Appointed) (Address)
to the office of _____. The term for this position
(Office and Position)
will expire on _____.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 20____

(Signature) (Printed Name, Title)

(Signature) (Printed Name, Title)

(Signature) (Printed Name, Title)

OATH OF OFFICE

STATE OF WASHINGTON)
) ss.
COUNTY OF _____)

I, _____, do solemnly swear or affirm that I
(Person Appointed)
am a citizen of the United States and State of Washington; that I am legally qualified to
assume the office of _____; that I will support the
(Office and Position)
Constitution and laws of the United States and the State of Washington; and that I will
faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of this office to the best of my ability.

(Signature) (Printed Name)
Subscribed and sworn before me this _____ day of _____, 20____

(Signature) (Printed Name, Title of Swearing Officer)

Revised Code of Washington

The Revised Code of Washington (RCW) is the compilation of all permanent laws now in force. It is a collection of Session Laws (enacted by the Legislature, and signed by the Governor, or enacted via the initiative process), arranged by topic, with amendments added and repealed laws removed. It does not include temporary laws such as appropriations acts. The table below shows the applicable chapters for jurisdictions. A view of the laws can be found under "Statutes and Constitution" in the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) link at: <http://leg.wa.gov/LawsAndAgencyRules/Pages/default.aspx>

Revised Code of Washington by Jurisdiction Type	
Cities & Towns	Title 35
School Districts	Title 28
Fire Districts	Title 52
Water-Sewer Districts	Title 57
Cemetery Districts	Title 68
Port Districts	Title 53
Hospital Districts	Title 70
Library Districts	Title 27
Public Utility Districts	Title 80
Flood Control	Title 86
Diking and Drainage	Title 85