

2026 PCO Candidate Guide

CHELAN COUNTY

Chelan County Elections
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509.667.6808
www.elections.chelancountywa.gov
elections@co.chelan.wa.us

Now that you have filed for PCO

Elections for Precinct Committee Officer (PCO) are conducted in the following manner:

PCO candidate filing

- Candidates for PCO must file during Candidate Filing Week.
- Each precinct will have two positions open; one for the Democratic Party and one for the Republican Party.
- PCO candidates affiliate with a major political party when filing.
- There is no filing fee
- The candidate must be a registered voter in the precinct and at least 18 years of age by the date of the Primary. If a Future Voter who will be 18 years of age by the date of the primary election files a declaration of candidacy for PCO, their filing information is publicly disclosable.
- Once submitted, the declaration of candidacy is a public record in its entirety.
- Candidates may unintentionally list the wrong precinct on the PCO declaration. Because a PCO candidate only qualifies for the precinct in which he/she is registered, the filing officer will accept a PCO declaration as if submitted for the candidate's correct precinct. The candidate will be notified if the precinct was corrected.
- Candidates who file for PCO may also file for one other position on the ballot.
- If a PCO position is void at the close of Candidate Filing Week, that office is lapsed and is not placed on the ballot. The political party may fill the position by appointment. (RCW 29A.80.031)
- Special 3-Day filing periods will not be held for PCO positions.
- If, after the last day to withdraw, only one candidate has filed for a party position, that candidate is considered elected immediately and the County Auditor must issue a certificate of election.
- Write-in candidates have been eliminated from PCO elections. A candidate cannot file as a declared write-in.
- The term of office for PCO is two years. There is no short term or unexpired term elections conducted for this office.

Withdrawal

A Declaration of Candidacy may be withdrawn until the close of business on the Monday following the last day of the regular filing period.

All withdrawals must be submitted in writing, signed by the candidate, and received by the filing officer prior to the Monday deadline.

A withdrawal form is available online on our website under Candidate Resources or in the Elections Office.

Appearing on the ballot

- PCO races appear on the even-year Primary ballot only.
- Only contested races appear on the ballot. For example, if two candidates file for a Democratic Party position, but only one candidate files for the Republican Party position, only the Democratic PCO race will appear on the ballot.
- When both party positions qualify to appear on the ballot, the order is determined by the statewide results of the last Presidential Election.
- Candidate order within each party is determined by lot draw.

Counting the Votes

- The candidate receiving the most votes in the Primary is elected. PCOs do not appear on the General Election ballot.
- There is no minimum requirement for the number of votes cast for a PCO candidate.
- The voter may cast a vote for only one candidate. If votes are cast for more than one candidate, the race is over voted and neither vote counts.
- Contested PCO races are subject to recount laws.
- Results for PCO races certify at the same times as other offices - 14 days after the Primary.

2026 Calendar

Filing Calendar

Filing for office by mail	April 20 – May 8	(RCW 29A.24.081)
Filing for office online or in person	May 4 – May 8	(RCW 29A.24.040, & 050)
Lot Drawing	May 8; 5:00 p.m.	(RCW 29A.36.131)
Last day for candidate withdrawal	May 11; 5:00 p.m.	(RCW 29A.24.131)

Primary Key Dates

Voter registration deadlines: (RCW 29A.08.140)

- Last day applications for new voter registrations or updates by mail, over the phone, email or online must be received by Chelan County Elections
- Last day to register or update your existing registration in-person no later than 8:00 p.m.

July 27

August 4

Primary military ballots mailed
Primary ballots available /mailed
Primary Election Day
County certifies Primary Election
State certifies Primary Election

June 18

July 14 (RCW 29A.40.070)

August 4 (RCW 29A.04.311)

August 18 (RCW 29A.60.190)

August 21 (RCW 29A.60.240)

Campaign Guidelines

Ballot Drop Box Sites

Chelan County is a vote-by-mail county and has ballot drop box sites throughout the county. Voting Center regulations regarding campaign electioneering apply to drop box sites from the time they are opened (18 days before the election) until boxes are closed at 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

Electioneering is forbidden within 25 feet of a drop box site or voting center (the County Courthouse is a voting center and adheres to the same restrictions). Electioneering also includes the wearing of campaign T-Shirts and buttons.

RCW 29A.84.510 ACTS PROHIBITED . . .

- (1) During the voting period that begins eighteen days before and ends the day of a Special Election, General Election, or Primary, no person may:
 - (a) Within a voting center:
 - (i) Suggest or persuade or attempt to suggest or persuade any voter to vote for or against any candidate or ballot measure;
 - (ii) Circulate cards or handbills of any kind;
 - (iii) Solicit signatures to any kind of petition; or
 - (iv) Engage in any practice which interferes with the freedom of voters to exercise their franchise or disrupts the administration of the voting center;
- (2) Obstruct the doors or entries to a building in which a voting center or ballot drop location is located or prevent free access to and from any voting center or ballot drop location.
- (3) Any sheriff, deputy sheriff, or municipal law enforcement officer shall stop the prohibited activity, and may arrest any person engaging in the prohibited activity.
- (4) Any violation of this section is a gross misdemeanor, punishable to the same extent as a gross misdemeanor that is punishable under RCW 9A.20.021, and the person convicted may be ordered to pay the costs of prosecution.

Campaign Materials

Campaign materials cannot be placed in or on top of mailboxes without paying postage (U.S. Postal Service, Private Express Statute), nor should campaign materials be placed in newspaper delivery tubes. Please be courteous to these agencies.

Campaign Signs

Washington State and local jurisdictions have strict rules regarding campaign signs. The Washington State Department of Transportation (www.wsdot.wa.gov) provides guidance for campaign signage along state highways. For local highway and city street rules, contact the applicable County Public Works or City Clerk's Office.

The Hatch Act and Federal Employees

Permitted Activities for Employees

- May be candidates for public office in nonpartisan elections
- May register and vote as they choose
- May assist in voter registration drives
- May express opinions about candidates and issues
- May contribute money to political organizations
- May attend political fundraising functions
- May attend and be active at political rallies and meetings
- May join and be an active member of a political party or club
- May sign nominating petitions
- May campaign for or against referendum questions, constitutional amendments, or municipal ordinances
- May campaign for or against candidates in partisan elections
- May make campaign speeches for candidates in partisan elections
- May distribute campaign literature in partisan elections
- May hold office in political clubs or parties including serving as a delegate to a convention

Prohibited Activities for Employees

- May not use their official authority or influence to interfere with an election
- May not solicit, accept or receive political contributions unless both individuals are members of the same federal labor organization or employee organization and the one solicited is not a subordinate employee
- May not knowingly solicit or discourage the political activity of any person who has business before the agency
- May not engage in political activity while on duty
- May not engage/ in political activity in any government office
- May not engage in political activity while using a government vehicle
- May not be candidates for public office in partisan elections
- May not wear political buttons while on duty

For additional questions, contact:

US Office of Special Counsel

1730 M Street NW, Suite 218

Washington, DC 20036-4505

Phone 1-800-85-HATCH

Federal Relay Service

1-800-877-8339 www.osc.gov

Rules on Political Activity

Under the law, State and Local Employees in Federally Aided Programs may not:

- (1) *use their official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with or affecting the results of an election or a nomination for office;*
- (2) *directly or indirectly coerce, attempt to coerce, command or advise State or local officer or employee to pay, lend, or contribute anything of value to a party, committee, organization, agency, or person for partisan political purposes; or*
- (3) *be a candidate for public office in a partisan election.*

Caution: Activity permitted by Federal law may be restricted or prohibited by State or local law or regulation.

Voter Registration Information

Requests for elections-related data (voter registration lists, daily ballot returns and challenge reports, etc.) must be submitted to the Secretary of State Elections Division. This information is no longer available from the Chelan County Elections Office. This is the result of recently enacted law (RCW 29A.08.105(3)).

SB 5459 added paragraph (3) under Section 2 to RCW 29A.08.105 with the following language:

(3) Requests for records from, or any existing standard reports generated by, the statewide voter registration database must be submitted to and fulfilled by the Secretary of State per Title 42 RCW. If a county elections office receives a request for records from, or any existing standard reports generated by, the statewide voter registration database, the county elections office is not required to produce any records in response to the request, but shall, by the deadline set forth in RCW 42.56.520, direct the requestor to submit the request to the Secretary of State.

The Secretary of State's Data and Statistics page provides many standard reports already available. You may also reach out to the Public Records Office which would be a valuable resource for obtaining those records.

sos.wa.gov/elections/data-research/election-data-and-maps/data-and-statistics

For all future requests for data, please contact the Office of the Secretary of State.

Washington Secretary of State Elections Division
Public Records Office
PublicRecords@sos.wa.gov
PO Box 40224
Olympia, WA 98504-0224
Phone: (360) 704-5220

Precinct Maps

Precinct maps are found on our website. Use the menu on the left of our home page. Click on Research and Data and select Precinct Maps. Large area maps are listed first. Individual precinct maps are organized by school district. Contact our office for a list of precincts within your district or copies of maps.

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Voter Qualifications

To register to vote you must be:

1. **U.S. Citizen**

Having a green card or permanent residency status is not citizenship.

2. **A legal resident of Washington State.**

A person must establish a residential address in Washington at least 30 days before Election Day.

3. **At least 16 years old (qualify for Future Voters Program).**

To qualify for the Future Voter Program, a U.S. citizen must be at least 16 and a Washington resident. When they turn 18, Future Voters become automatically registered.

A voter who turns 18 between the August Primary and the November General Election can vote in the Primary. However, a voter must be 18 by the August Primary in order to vote for PCO.

4. **Not disqualified from voting due to a court order.**

Only a Superior Court Judge can declare a person unable to vote due to mental incompetency. Do not assume that a person under guardianship is ineligible to vote.

5. **Not serving a sentence of total confinement under the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections for a Washington felony conviction or currently incarcerated for a federal or out-of-state conviction.**

Once the right to vote is restored, a person must re-register to vote. If a person has questions about their status with DOC, they can call (800) 430-9674.

The Chelan County Auditor's Office has voter registration forms if you are conducting a voter registration drive. Please review the [Guide to Registering Voters](#) for all laws and rules. Contact our office for assistance at 509.667.6808 or email us at elections@co.chelan.wa.us

Voters can register to vote or update their voter registration at: www.VoteWA.gov They must have a Washington State ID or Driver License when registering online. If they are currently registered in Chelan County, they do not need any ID to update their registration (excluding name changes).

Registration Deadlines:

Registrations by mail or online / Updates by phone or email

The deadline for voters to register by mail or online (including address updates by phone or email) is 8 days before Election Day. Mailed registration forms must be physically received, not postmarked, by the deadline. Voters also have the option to register at a county elections department no later than 8:00 p.m. on election day.