

# Voter Registration & Voting Rights Training 2021

Welcome! We'll get started shortly. Please introduce yourself to each other using the chat function.

This meeting will be recorded; you will not appear in the recording unless you speak during the meeting.

Click the “Live Transcript” option for cc capabilities.



# Goals for this training

- Give you some background on the Coalition
- What does it mean to do nonpartisan voter registration work?
- Understand dates and deadlines for the upcoming August primary and November general elections
- Understand voting rights in WA
- Get comfortable registering people to vote and helping people to vote
- Registering to vote vs helping people to vote.

# Quick Background on the Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness





- Nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization (more on this later)
- **Mission:** We mobilize our community to challenge systemic causes of homelessness and advocate for housing justice.
- **Voter registration work**
  - Helps us build political power, which is required for systemic change
  - Ensures that people experiencing homelessness have their voice heard







# Nonpartisan Agreement

- The Coalition is a 501(c)3 nonprofit and so our voter registration work is **nonpartisan**.
- **Many organizations can do voter registration work so long as it is nonpartisan.**
- For more info, review Bolder Advocacy pdf

## You **can**:

-  Register people to vote
-  Help people to vote
-  Help people navigate elections information
-  Be politically active in your own time

## You **cannot**:

-  Wear pins/buttons endorsing candidates
-  Tell people who to vote for
-  Nod/gesture about candidates
-  Tell people that you like a candidate



# “I’m not sure the people I serve will be interested in voting.”

- Voter disenfranchisement and social disenfranchisement are intertwined. Voting helps people to feel more connected socially.
- Common misconception that people who are socio-economically disadvantaged or homeless are not interested in politics, even as most policies directly affect them.
- **Many people want to vote and will do so if barriers are removed.** While we can’t guarantee that everyone is in a place where voting is a priority, our goal is to remove barriers.

# Discussion: breaking down barriers

- **What are some barriers to getting people experiencing homelessness registered to vote? What can we do to address those barriers?**
  - Misinformation
  - Lack of access to resources
  - Lack of access to culturally-appropriate or in-language materials
  - Internalized ideas that their voice does not matter
  - Mistrust with institutions
  - Any others?

# Eligibility Requirements

You do not need a house to vote! To register to vote in WA, you must:

- Be a U.S. Citizen
- Be 18 or older on Election day (Primary - August 3; General – November 2)
- Have lived in WA for 30 days before the election
- Not currently under DOC supervision for a Washington state felony conviction
- **NOTE:** If they cannot say yes to each of these questions, DO NOT proceed with the form.

# Voting Rights Restoration (2008)

- In Washington, **many people with previous felony convictions can still vote**
- Voting rights are **restored** as soon as people are no longer under the authority of the Department of Corrections (DOC)
- Court fines, restitutions, and other legal financial obligations (LFOs) do not need to be paid off to have voting rights restored.



# Voting Rights Restoration (2022)

- In 2021, the Washington state legislature passed H.B. 1078.
  - Led by people directly impacted by the criminal legal system
  - Prime sponsor: Representative Tarra Simmons
- **Beginning in 2022, people who were convicted of a felony in Washington will have their voting rights restored immediately after leaving prison, not months or years later.**
- Court fines, restitutions, and other legal financial obligations (LFOs) do not need to be paid off to have voting rights restored and people will not be at risk of having their voting rights revoked for inability to pay.

# Ways to register in Washington

- **Online:** <https://olvr.votewa.gov/>
  - Requires valid WA ID or Driver's License
  - Deadline: 8 days before election date
- **By mail:** Paper voter registration forms
  - Does not require valid WA ID or Driver's License; can use last 4 digits of SSN
  - Deadline: must be received 8 days before election date
- **In person:**
  - King County Elections Office – Opens 20 days before Election Day
  - Vote Centers – typically open the weekend before Election Day

# August 3<sup>rd</sup> Primary Elections Timeline

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7/11	7/12	7/13 Voters pamphlets mailed	7/14 Ballots mailed	7/15 Ballot drop boxes open	7/16	7/17
7/18	7/19	7/20	7/21	7/22	7/23	7/24
7/25	7/26 Deadline to register online/mail	7/27	7/28	7/29	7/30	7/31 Vote centers open
8/1	8/2	8/3 Primary election date	*If registering by mail, ballot must be received by 7/26 not postmarked.			

# November 2<sup>nd</sup> General Election Timeline

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10/10	10/11	10/12 Vote pamphlets mailed	10/13 Ballots mailed & KCE center opens	10/14 Ballot drop boxes open	10/15	10/16
10/17	10/18	10/19	10/20	10/21	10/22	10/23
10/24	10/25 Deadline to reg. online/by mail	10/26	10/27	10/28	10/29	10/30 Vote centers open
10/31	11/1	11/2 <b>Election day</b>	*After deadline: register at Elections Office in Renton or a Vote Center			

# Key dates/activities

Key registration/voting info	August 3 Primary Election	November 2 General Election
Voter Pamphlets mailed	July 13	October 12
Ballots mailed	July 14	October 13
Online/Mail-in Registration deadline	July 26	October 25
In-Person Registration possible	July 27 - August 3	October 26 – November 2
Deadline to turn in ballot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Mail:</b> postmarked by 5 p.m. on 8/3</li><li>• <b>Ballot drop box or vote center:</b> 8 p.m. on 8/3</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Mail:</b> postmarked by 5 p.m. on 11/2</li><li>• <b>Ballot drop box or vote center:</b> 8 p.m. on 11/2</li></ul>

# Vote Centers for August 3 Primary

## **King County Elections Office**

919 SW Grady Way, Renton, WA 98057

Weekdays, July 14 – July 23, 8:30a – 4:30p

Weekdays, July 26 – August 2, 8:30a – 6:00p

Saturday, July 31, 10:00a – 4:00p

Election Day, August 3, 8:30a – 8:00p

## **Vote Center Hours 2021 August Primary**

Saturday, July 31, 10:00a – 4:00p

Monday, August 2, 8:30a – 6:00p

Election Day, August 3, 8:30a – 8:00p

## **Bellevue College Cafeteria**

3000 Landerholm Circle SE

Bellevue WA 98007

## **Federal Way Performing Arts & Event Center**

31510 Pete von Reichbauer Way S

Federal Way WA 98003

## **Kent Centennial Center**

400 W Gowe St

Kent 98032

## **Lumen Field Event Center**

800 Occidental Ave S

Seattle WA 98134

## **Kenmore City Hall**

18120 68th Avenue NE

Kenmore WA 98028









# Filling Out A Voter Registration Form

## Note & Tips

- **Must be completed in blue or black pen**
  - No pencils
  - No fun colors
- You can complete the form for someone, but **they must sign it**
- **Residential address vs mailing address**
  - **Residential** = Where people most often are
    - Shelters, cross street, park
    - Determines voting precinct
  - **Mailing** = Where people get mail, including where they want their ballot sent

- Sample -

Remember  
 • Voter ID card will come in the mail in 4-6 weeks, call 206-296-8683 if it doesn't  
 • VOTER ID card is a government issued ID - can help folks.

**Voting**  
 You will receive your ballot in the mail. Contact your county elections office for accessible voting options.

**Public Information**  
 Your name, address, gender, and date of birth will be public information.

**Notice**  
 Knowingly providing false information about yourself or your qualifications for voter registration is a class C felony punishable by imprisonment for up to 5 years, a fine of up to \$10,000, or both.

**Public Benefits Offices**  
 If you received this form from a public benefits office, where you received the form will remain confidential and will be used for voter registration purposes only. Registering or declining to register will not affect the assistance provided to you by any public benefits office. If you decline to register, your decision will remain confidential. If you believe someone interfered with your right to register, or your right to privacy in deciding whether to register, you may file a complaint with the Washington State Elections Division.

**Contact Information**  
 If you would like help with this form, contact the Washington State Elections Division.  
 web www.vote.wa.gov  
 call (800) 448-4881  
 email elections@sos.wa.gov  
 mail PO Box 40229  
 Olympia, WA 98504-0229

**Washington State Voter Registration Form**  
 Register online at www.myvote.wa.gov. **Required**

**1 Personal Information**

last first middle suffix  
 date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy) (optional) gender  
 Cross Street, Shelter - doesn't have to be full residential address in Washington apt #  
 Address. Must be identifiable on map to city ZIP determine mailing address, if different → ask if someone gets mail @ listed residential  
 MUST BE TRUE MAILING ADDRESS precinct.  
 see homeless voters guide info contact to verify signature/correct any issues - important not public info  
 city state and ZIP  
 phone number (optional) email address (optional)

**2 Qualifications**

If you answer no, do not complete this form. **MUST Fill OUT!**

yes  no I am a citizen of the United States of America.  
 yes  no I will be at least 18 years old by the next election.

**3 Military / Overseas Status**

yes  no I am currently serving in the military. Includes National Guard and Reserves, and spouses or dependents away from home due to service. **Likely won't apply**  
 yes  no I live outside the United States.

**4 Identification — Washington Driver License, Permit, or ID**

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ **← OR**  
 If you do not have a Washington driver license, permit, or ID, you may use the last four digits of your Social Security number to register. x x x - x x - □ □ □ □

**5 Change of Name or Address**

This information will be used to update your current registration, if applicable. **Any old info is helpful; Doesn't have to be complete**

former last name first middle  
 former residential address city state and ZIP

**6 Declaration**

I declare that the facts on this voter registration form are true. I am a citizen of the United States, I will have lived at this address in Washington for at least thirty days immediately before the next election at which I vote, I will be at least 18 years old when I vote, I am not disqualified from voting due to a court order, and I am not under Department of Corrections supervision for a Washington felony conviction.

**LEGAL SIGNATURE**  
 sign here date here Today's Date  
 sign the same way you would sign any other important document - If it is different, elections staff may call/mail to verify.

**KEEP AS NEAT AS POSSIBLE!**  
 Yes, you can help fill out form for people.

**Real!**

**\* Form must be turned in to elections in 5 Days!**

# Other information to know

- **Updating voter registration if someone has moved, changed name, etc.:**
  - **Online:** <https://voter.votewa.gov/WhereToVote.aspx>. Requires current WA ID/License
  - **Phone:** Call King County Elections at 206-296-VOTE (8683)
  - **Mail:** Fill out a voter registration form, and fill out the section with previous information
- **Turn in forms within 5 days**
  - Mail the voter registration forms (requires stamp)
  - Turn it in in person at King County Elections Office - 919 SW Grady Way, Ste. 100 Renton, WA 98057

# Need voter registration supplies?

## **Secretary of State Elections site: [sos.wa.gov/elections/](https://sos.wa.gov/elections/)**

- Request paper forms by mail from Secretary of State office
- Print forms online in multiple languages

## **King County Elections: [kingcounty.gov/depts/elections.aspx](https://kingcounty.gov/depts/elections.aspx)**

- Voter's pamphlets; call King County Elections to request voter pamphlets printed in other languages.

# Voter Registration Toolkit

**We'll post a toolkit to our website [www.homelessinfo.org](http://www.homelessinfo.org), which will include:**

- Bolder Advocacy – Keeping Nonpartisan During Election Season
- 2021 You Don't Need a Home to Vote Poster
- 2021 Guide For Homeless & Unstably Housed Voters
- Responding to common situations
- Annotated Voter Registration Form

Other helpful resources: National Coalition for the Homeless Guide, page 11 has a helpful guide on how to encourage reluctant voters.

# Getting out the vote

- Voter registration is one step; **we can also help make sure that people get their ballots and vote.**
- Ballots are mailed out 20 days before Election Day; if someone is registered but hasn't received it by 15 days before election, encourage people to **call King County Elections at 206-296-VOTE (8683)**
- **People can also get replacement ballots at in-person Vote Centers.**
- **Deadlines:**
  - **Mail in:** Ballots must be postmarked by 5 p.m. on date of election
  - **In person:** turned into a ballot drop box or vote center by 8 p.m. on date of election