

The Office of the Secretary of State of Washington is committed to ensuring accessible, fair and secure elections. Our office has a Disability Advisory Committee that meets three times a year to advise us on the vote by mail impacts to our diverse communities. The committee members are also our trusted messengers and outreach supporters. This committee created a PSA in support of the National Disability Voter Registration Week and we use it every year, with the exception of 2020 due to COVID-19.

Disability Advisory Committees (State and Local)

- Disability Advisory Committees are made up of people with disabilities, disability community advocates, and service providers. The committees provide county elections departments with input regarding reasonable accommodations that help ensure equal access so that all registered voters can vote independently and privately ([RCW 29A.04.223](#)).

Voter registration can be done by mail, online or in-person. Washington voters do not register by political party, in other words, voters do not declare political party affiliation.

Online and by mail in registration must be received 8 days prior to Election Day in order to process the registration and mail a ballot to the voter.

Same Day registration is available in person. This gives the voter the opportunity to register and get a ballot up until 8:00 pm on Election Day.

The 18-day voting period gives voters time to cast their vote either by mail, drop box or at a voting center where accessible voting units are available to access audio ballot and ballot marking option.

Registered voters can also log into **VoteWA.gov**, a self-service portal, to access their customized voting information, accessible voter guide, and ballot electronically. Voters will have the option to print and mark the ballot by hand or mark the ballot online and print the voted ballot. The ballot packet must be returned by mail, ballot drop box or drop off at the vote center by the deadline.

VoteWA is a secure, centralized system for both voter registration and elections management, and contains integrated petitions management, candidate management, and a self-service public portal. The VoteWA project is a winner of the [2020 Clearie Award](#) for outstanding innovation in Election Administration.

WA State has guidance for [Voting in Assisted Living Facilities](#).

Accessible Nonpartisan Voters' Pamphlets are mailed to all households in WA State for the General Election and Presidential Primaries. [Accessible format options include](#): PDF editions, Audio MP3 files, Flat text file, Video voters' guide featuring the state executive offices and measures. Our office can also mail a copy of the Voters Pamphlet on a USB drive by joining a subscription list. For a personalized version voters can log into VoteWA.gov portal.

Washington state voters that may have difficulty reading the printed Voters' Pamphlet can request audio files. Our sister agency, Washington Talking Book and Library (WTBBL) has an audio book production department and they produce our Voters Pamphlet Audio files. The Voter's Pamphlet production project in 2020 took 150 hours of recording and editing and 452 USB flashes were produced and sent to 41 organizations and 57 individuals. WTBBL has players that are loaned to their patrons and these players are compatible with the USB. Anybody can request audio files in USB and CD form. Our office uploads the audio files to the Secretary of State Office's website and WTBBL checks them on our website for accuracy.

From our [WA State 2020 Annual Report](#):

“Registration Transactions Over 1.3 million voter registration transactions were processed in 2020. This includes new registrations, address updates and county to county transfers, and updates to registration type, which indicates a new form of registration was received. The number of registration transactions increased in the months leading up to the November General Election, with over 260,000 transactions in September and over 235,000 in October.”