

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

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Ferry County to send out Presidential Primary ballots

County Auditor Dianna Galvan's office is sending out ballots May 5 to its 4541 registered voters for Washington's 2016 Presidential Primary.

Because this election is about the parties, voters are required to declare a party affiliation in order to vote. Each party drafted its own declaration language. Both party declarations will be included on the ballot return envelope, in addition to the standard ballot declaration. In order for your ballot to be counted, you are required to mark the box for one or the other party.

(And yes, your party preference is a matter of public record for the 22 months following certification of the Presidential Primary. And the parties do seek and use that information.)

The 18-day voting period for the state's Presidential Primary ends May 24. Ballots must be returned or postmarked by that date. Voters who wait until a couple of days before the deadline to fill out their ballot are urged to use a ballot drop box provided by the county to help ensure their vote counts.

The last day for online or mail-in voter registration or changing one's address before the Presidential Primary is April 25. Ferry County residents who are not registered to vote in Washington have until May 16 to do so in person at the Ferry County Auditor's Office, located at 350 E Delaware in Republic. Office hours are 8:00 am – 4:00 pm.

Remember your Ballots must be signed.

The Auditor's Office, 350 E Delaware Ave., Republic, is open Monday - Friday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm and on Election Day only from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm for the following services.

- Drop off voted ballots
- Obtain replacement ballots
- Disability Access Voting Units

The drop box will open May 4, 2016 – May 24, 2016. The drop box will be open until 8:00 pm on May 24, 2016.

Drop Box location:

Republic City Hall on the North side, on 987 S Clark Ave.

If you mail your ballot, sufficient first class postage (.47 cents) must be attached and it must be postmarked by the day of election, May 24, 2016. Check with your local post office for cut off times.

If you need to find out information about the issues you can use the following sources.

- On line voter guide – myvote.wa.gov
- Vote.wa.gov/ferry
- Sos.wa.gov/elections
- Ferry County View

Washington households will receive a state Presidential Primary Voters' Pamphlet around the same time that ballots are sent. Voters who don't receive a Voters' Pamphlet should contact the Office of Secretary of State's Election Division at (360) 902-4180, (800) 448-4881, or elections@sos.wa.gov.

Counties sent Presidential Primary ballots to military and overseas voters in early April, signaling the start of voting on favorites for the Republican and Democratic nominations.

Secretary of State Kim Wyman is forecasting a 42 percent voter turnout for the state Presidential Primary, Washington's first since 2008.

Both parties also held caucuses, with Democrats using theirs as the method of allocating national convention delegates. Republicans will use the primary to allocate 100 percent of their 44 delegates to the national convention.

The state's Presidential Primary law, passed overwhelmingly by Democratic and Republican lawmakers as a citizen Initiative to the Legislature in 1989, provides for the quadrennial election, but allows the parties to choose what to do with the results.

Here is an FAQ on the Presidential Primary: <http://tinyurl.com/hx2pgub>

Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders will appear on the Democratic ballot for the state's Presidential Primary, while Ben Carson, Ted Cruz, John Kasich and Donald Trump will be on the Republican ballot. Carson, who suspended his campaign in early March, is on the Republican ballot because state law calls for only candidates to remove themselves from the state's Presidential Primary. Carson did not do so by the March 18 deadline.

The Presidential Primary is different from all other Washington elections. So take your time, read the instructions, call us for help if you have questions, and return your ballot as early as possible.

Please feel free to contact the Auditor's Office 509-775-5225 ext. 1139.

We want your vote to count!