



**SKAMANIA COUNTY AUDITOR
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PRESS RELEASE

Ballots for the Washington Presidential Primary to be mailed by May 6th

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Stevenson, WA

Skamania County Auditor Robert Waymire announced today that ballots and voters' pamphlets for the May 24, 2016 Presidential Primary will be mailed by May 6th. Waymire also took time to remind voters about some specific differences in the way that a Presidential Primary is held.

While every registered voter will receive a Presidential Primary ballot in the mail, to participate in the Presidential Primary the voter must sign a political party declaration on the ballot return envelope. For a vote to count, the signed party declaration must match the voted candidate's political party. Since both the Democratic and Republican ballots will appear on a single consolidated ballot, unlike other elections, you may only vote for one candidate on the entire consolidated ballot page.

“Many voters have asked, ‘Why do I have to declare a party?’ The major political parties require that voters subscribe to their specific party declaration in order to participate,” said Waymire. “The party choice that a voter makes will become part of individual voter records for 60 days at the county level, but the Washington Secretary of State will retain that information for 22 months. During that time the party affiliation chosen by the voter is considered public record, and each party will receive a list of voters who chose to affiliate with them.”

While voters will have an opportunity to make their voice heard, each political party retains the authority whether or not to use the Presidential Primary results when determining which candidate(s) they will support at their respective convention. The Republican Party has announced that they will use the Presidential Primary results to allocate 100% of their convention delegates. The Democratic Party will not use the Primary Election results to allocate any of their delegates, and instead will rely solely on the results of their Precinct Caucuses held on March 26th.

Skamania County residents not currently registered to vote in the State of Washington can still register in person at the County Auditor's Office (240 NW Vancouver Ave, Room #27, Stevenson) until May 16, 2016 and receive a ballot for the Presidential Primary.

For more information, voters can call the Elections Department at (509) 427-3730, email elections@co.skamania.wa.us, or visit www.skamaniacounty.org/elections.

