

Power Up: Local Government Edition – Elections!

July 21, 2021

The ACLU would like to

ACKNOWLEDGE

THAT WE ARE ON

INDIGENOUS LAND

of the traditional territories of the
Coast Salish people,
specifically the Duwamish Tribe.

Whose land are you on? <https://native-land.ca>

Goals

- Prepare for upcoming local elections – primary in August and general in November.
- Learn how to utilize online tools to vet candidates.
- Make a plan to engage with candidates at events and get them on the record on issues you care about.
- Meet other activists in Washington!

Zoom Logistics

- This call is being recorded and will be sent to everyone who has registered for this training.
- No breakout rooms tonight
- To view captions, click on the “CC” button in your Zoom menu.
- The success of Power Up is built on participation!
 - On the Zoom toolbar, you can raise your hand to be called on or type a question or comment in the chat box.
 - Press *6 to unmute yourself on the phone.

Background materials



- Power Up handbook
- Local government supplement

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. 2021 Local Elections
3. Researching Candidates
4. Getting Candidates on Record
5. Who Can Vote?
6. Q&A
7. Wrap-Up & Announcements

Introductions

- In the chat box, please introduce yourself:
 - Name
 - Pronouns
 - Where you're joining from
 - Do you plan to vote in the primary, and if so, have you turned in your ballot yet?

2021 Local Elections

Local elections = state-level impact

- All politics are local
 - State lawmakers care about what is happening in the towns and counties they represent, and they take that information with them to Olympia
 - Smaller jurisdictions can pass ordinances that later inspire statewide legislation
 - Local officials are responsible for upholding state and national laws
- Many elected officials later run for higher office
 - Better representation at the local levels leads to better representation at the state level

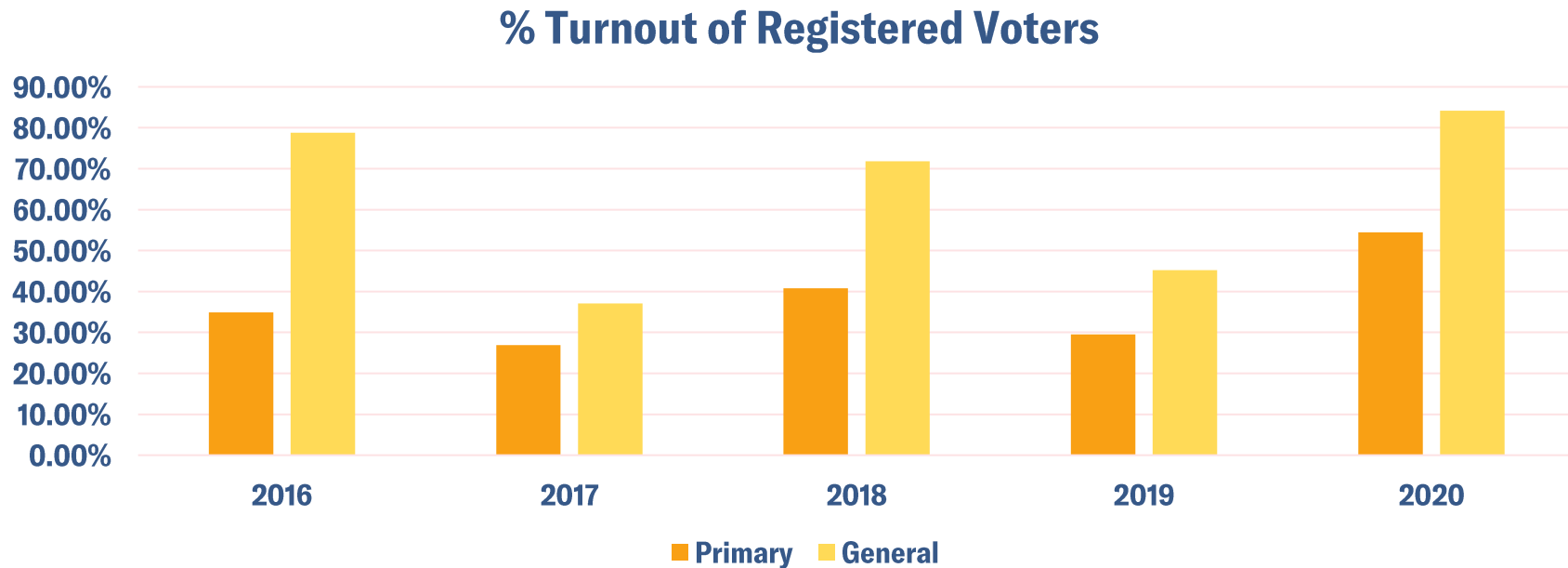
Hot issues in 2021

- Police accountability
- Housing access & homelessness
- COVID relief
- Climate change
- Transportation infrastructure
- Surveillance & government use of technology

Local elections matter, but turnout is low

- Decisions that impact day-to-day life are decided at the local level
 - Housing availability & affordability
 - Police & jail oversight
 - Funding for public transit
 - School budgets, curriculums & discipline policies
 - Ordinances related to homelessness, substance use, public safety, and more
- Because so few people vote in local elections, those who do vote have an outsized impact on local policies that impact everyone

Historical voting turnout in Washington



Source: Washington Secretary of State (sos.wa.gov)

What's on 2021 primary ballots?

- 320 Local races
 - 23 Mayor positions
 - 152 City positions
 - 89 School District positions
 - 14 Fire District positions
 - 42 Other local positions
 - 1,091 Total candidates
- 55 Local measures
 - 30 Fire Districts
 - 7 City
 - 4 Parks Districts
 - 3 Hospital Districts
 - 2 School Districts
 - 9 Other

Researching Candidates

Washington Secretary of State

Register today for the upcoming August Primary!



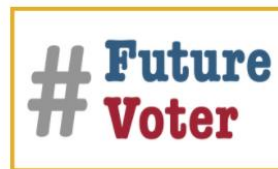
August Primary



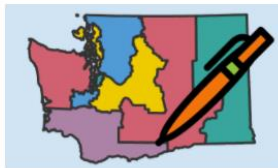
Running for office?



Sign in to get started



Learn more about the program



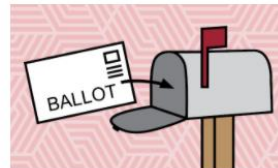
Redistricting FAQs



System Security



2020 General Election Summary



Learn about vote-by-mail

Washington Secretary of State

- Candidate information

Resources and Information

- » [File for Office](#) (online filing & paper forms)
- » [Candidates Who Have Filed](#)
- » [State Offices Open for Election](#)
- » [District Maps](#)
- » [Candidate Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- » [Write-in Candidacy Voter Intent, Forms, & FAQs](#)
- » [Washington State Officials' Salary Information](#)
- » [Descriptions of Elected Offices](#)
- » [Washington State Voter Registration Database](#)
- » [Guide to Registering New Voters](#)
- » [Top 2 Primary FAQ](#)
- » [Recount FAQ](#)
- » [Running for President of the United States](#)
- » [The Cybersecurity Campaign Playbook](#)

- Look at your county election website for similar local information

Washington Secretary of State

- VoteWA

The screenshot shows the VoteWA website interface. At the top, there is a dark header with the 'VoteWA' logo on the left and a globe icon with the text 'English' on the right. Below the header is a navigation menu on the left with the following items: 'Current Election' (with a dropdown arrow), 'Voters' Guide', 'Voting Centers', 'My Ballot' (with a dropdown arrow), 'Online Ballot', 'Ballot Status', 'Voter Registration', 'My Elected Officials', and 'Who Filed?'. The main content area has a dark banner at the top that reads 'PRIMARY 2021 Election (8/3/2021)'. Below this banner, there is a message: 'You can now access your voters' guide at www.kingcounty.gov/depts/elections/my-voter-information.aspx'. Below this message is a line of text: 'Please contact your county for assistance.' Further down, there is a section titled 'County Information' which includes the text: 'King County Elections', '206-296-8683', 'elections@kingcounty.gov', and '<http://www.kingcounty.gov/elections>'. The background of the main content area features a faint image of evergreen trees.

Public Disclosure Commission (PDC)



- Created via Initiative of the People in 1972 (Coalition for Open Government)
- Provides public access to information about financing of political campaigns, lobbyist expenditures, and financial affairs of public officials and candidates
- Comprised of 5 citizens appointed by Governor to 5-year terms
- How you can use the PDC website:
 - Looking campaign donations & expenditures
 - Finding contributions to ballot initiatives
 - Learning about WA's state filing requirements & contribution limits



FOLLOW THE MONEY

Use Campaign Explorer to find candidates by jurisdiction, across the state or specific to your location; search our database of candidates, committees and lobbyists by year; use Open Data for research and deep analytics. All these tools are available for you to follow the money.

Candidates by year

Committees by year

Lobbying by year

More ways to follow
the money

Open Data

Campaign Explorer

Election year: 2021 ▼

All campaigns

Showing all campaigns for 2021

Options

- [Campaigns in your voting district](#)

Address & City

example: 63 Elm St, Kent or Ash St, Elma

☐ This is a public computer ?

Election Year 2021



Campaign Contribution of all years

04/18/1963

01/09/2022

Source Data Last Updated
July 20, 2021

HOLMES PETER S



Nicole Thomas-Kennedy

Search up to 3 candidates by name or office

Total Contribution Total Expenditure

HOLMES PETER S

\$94,751.26

\$39,798.85

CITY ATTORNEY, CITY OF SEATTLE

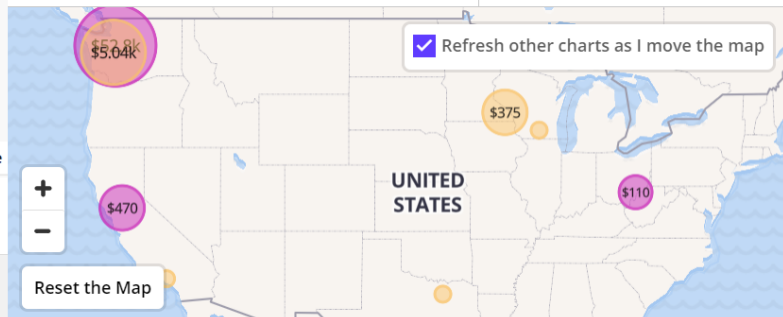
[Search Candidate via Google](#)

Nicole Thomas-Kennedy

\$16,837.04

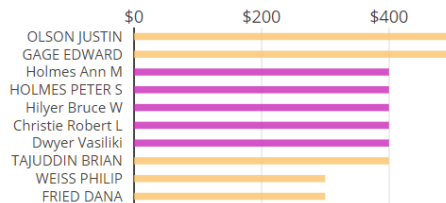
\$14,237.19

CITY ATTORNEY, CITY OF SEATTLE

[Search Candidate via Google](#)☒ Individual ☒ Organization☒ Refresh other charts as I move the mapContributions with insufficient address information will not display on the map. [Learn More](#)

Nicole Thomas-Kennedy HOLMES PETER S

Top Contributors

[Go to source data to explore more contributors](#)

Contributions Over Time



Ballotpedia

- Nonprofit, nonpartisan online politics encyclopedia
- Useful for general election information, historical data on races, term dates, and biographical information

[SUBSCRIBE](#)

BALLOTPEDIA

SEARCH THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF AMERICAN POLITICS

SITE NAVIGATION

The Biden administration

2021 elections


Redistricting

2022 elections

2024 elections

Government

The coronavirus pandemic



Cut cable.


Jay Inslee

Jay Inslee (Democratic Party) is the [Governor of Washington](#). He assumed office on January 16, 2013. His current term ends on January 13, 2025.

Inslee (Democratic Party) ran for re-election for [Governor of Washington](#). He won in the general election on [November 3, 2020](#).

Inslee also ran for election for President of the United States. He withdrew before the Democratic convention on [August 18, 2020](#).

Jay Inslee



POWER
UP

Voter Guides

- Many organizations and local political parties publish voter guides, with or without candidate endorsements
- Vote 411 (League of Women Voters)
- People Power Washington Voter Guide – specific to policing (King County, Seattle, Burien)



Getting Candidates on Record

Finding candidate events

- ACLU-WA Elections Center (www.aclu-wa.org/elections)
- Social media – search “candidate forum” in Facebook events
- Event listings in local newspapers
- Organizations that regularly host forums – League of Women Voters, local political parties, business associations, other community groups

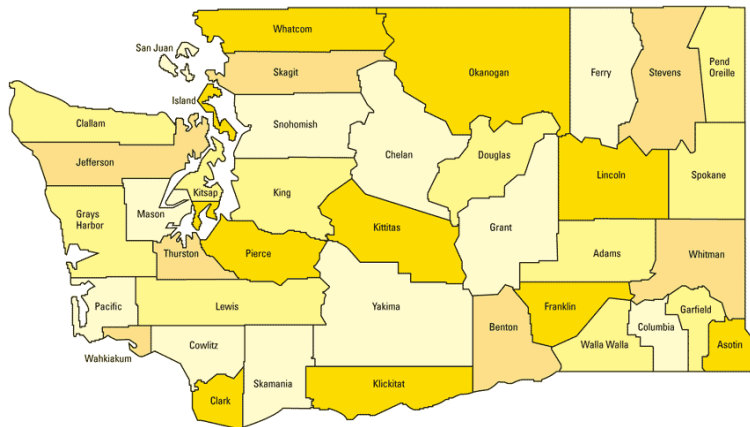
Crafting strong candidate questions

- Impactful questions are:
 - Close-ended
 - Short (60 seconds or less)
 - Focused on only one or two issues
 - Prepared ahead of time if possible
 - End with a commitment – “Will you promise to,” “Will you support,” or “Will you oppose”
- For online events, you may be asked to submit questions ahead of time
- Attend with other people so you have multiple chances of your question(s) being asked

Who Can Vote?

Same-Day Voter Registration

- Deadline to register online or via mail to vote in the primary is **Monday, July 26**
- You can register in-person to vote up until 8pm on election day at your county elections department



Voting Rights Restoration

- Effective **January 1st, 2022**, if you were convicted of a felony in Washington State, another state, or in federal court, **your right to vote will be restored automatically** as long as you are not currently serving a DOC sentence in total confinement.
- You're not required to completely pay off your fines, restitution, or other legal financial obligations (LFOs) before you register to vote.
- Your **right** to vote is restored, but you still need to **re-register**.

Q&A

Wrap-Up

Get Involved

- Make a voting plan and check in with your friends and family to make sure they're registered to vote in the primary.
- Check out our policing & elections blog posts focusing on candidates in Seattle, Tacoma & Vancouver – link tomorrow!
- Help us build out our elections center by letting us know about candidate forums & events happening in your communities.
 - You can email events to me or join our Rocket.Chat channel
 - Elections center will be continuously updated with new events; expect to see more after the primaries
- Join the People Power WA listserv

Upcoming Events

- One more Power Up training this summer – tell your friends!
 - Wednesday, August 18 – Local governments & policing
 - More trainings & webinars coming in the fall
- Flights & Rights: Systemic Equality
 - Tuesday, July 27, 5-6pm
- Save the date! Lobby Day in Olympia – January 16-17, 2022





For more information:

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www.aclu-wa.org

ACLU

Washington

WE THE PEOPLE