

# Letter from the Auditor



## Pierce County Auditor's Office

Dear Pierce County Voter:

The method for choosing candidates in the primary election may be different, but it's still easy to do. In fact, it's as **easy as one, two, three.**

For the past 70 years, Washington voters were able to vote for any candidate in any position on the primary ballot, regardless of the candidate's party affiliation. The new primary requires voters to select candidates from only one political party when voting in partisan (party) races.

This change affects only the primary election. The general election will be conducted in the customary manner.

### Voting in the primary will require voters to:

- 1. Pick a party:** **Democratic** (D – Red Section), **Republican** (R – Green Section) or **Libertarian** (L- Blue Section). Your selection is private and no record of your choice is maintained.
- 2. Vote for candidates from the party you selected:** Go to the section where candidates are listed for the party you selected. Vote your choices. To help you navigate your ballot and this pamphlet each party section has been color coded. Party colors were determined by the Office of the Secretary of State through a lot drawing process (**Democratic-Red**, **Republican-Green** and **Libertarian-Blue**).
- 3. Vote for Nonpartisan Candidates and Issues (No Party-NP):** Go to the section on the back of the ballot where the nonpartisan (no political party) races and issues are listed. Examples are judges, bond issues and tax levies. Vote your choices. These votes will be counted, even if you do not pick a party.

The primary election is different, but it is similar to systems in most states. It's also the law. Please don't let the changes stop you from exercising your right to vote. Democracy depends on it. You will notice that this Primary Voters' Pamphlet is substantially larger and that is because we have included all of the statewide candidates to provide you with information on all of these important races. The layout of this pamphlet is similar to the layout of the ballot. Candidates are separated by their party sections. We are very excited about the new absentee envelope design. We hope you like it. It was designed to provide privacy for your signature, while maintaining the cost efficiencies of our previous envelope. Finally, you will have an opportunity to share comments or concerns about the Primary or the process on a Primary Response Form. It's your right.

Democracy counts on your participation. Remember, it's as easy as one, two, three!

Sincerely,

Pat McCarthy, Pierce County Auditor

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