

State of Washington General Election 2016 Voter's Pamphlet



Be prepared. Get Informed.



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General Election 2016 - 2nd Revised Pamphlet ©Voter Info Association 2016 Printed and bound at Broadhead Media



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How to use this guide

The 2016 General Election Guide from Voter Info Association (VIA) is meant to be used to help voters make informed decisions about the items on their ballot. This guide provides partisan information with sources cited and facts checked to ensure maximum transparency.

Categories of Vote



Candidates

Persons running for political office. The offices up for election in Washington's 2016 General Election are as follows:

Presidential - Federal

The President is the head of state and head of government of the United States. The president directs the executive branch of the federal government and is the commander-in-chief of the United States Armed Forces.

Senatorial - Federal

United States Senators take part in meetings of congress, debate over the creation or update of laws and regulations and vote for or against certain political measures or motions.

Representative - Federal

Members of the United States House of Representatives introduce bills and resolutions, offer amendments and serve on committees.

Gubernatorial-State

The Washington State Governor is responsible for implementing state laws and overseeing the operation of the state executive branch.

Liuetenant Governor - State

The position of Lieutenant Governor falls within both the Executive and Legislative branches. While elected independently from the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor becomes the Acting Governor whenever the Governor leaves the state or is otherwise unable to serve.

Secretary of State - State

The Washington secretary of state serves as the state's chief administrative officer, overseeing elections, corporations, and archives.

State Treasurer - State

The state treasurer serves as the chief custodian of each state's treasury and as the state's head banker. They receive and deposit state monies, manages investments, and keep track of budget surpluses and deficits.

State Auditor - State

The executive officer of Washington State who serves as an auditor and comptroller for state funds.

Attorney General - State

The attorney general of Washington serves as the chief legal advisor and chief law enforcement officer for the state. In Washington, the attorney general provides official titles and summaries for ballot measures.

Commissioner of the Public Lands - State

The commissioner oversees the Washington Department of Natural Resources, which is responsible for environmental protection in the state.

Superintendent of Public Instruction - State

The Office of Superintendent of Public instruction is the primary agency charged with overseeing K-12 public education in the state.

Insurance Commissioner - State

The Washington state Office of the Insurance Commissioner protects insurance consumers and oversees the insurance industry.

Whoa! Why so many?

The government is a well-oiled machine that has a lot of moving parts. This guide aims to make sure that everyone can understand the people in charge of their government.

For more information, go online to voterinformationassociation.org (accessible at via.org) or talk to a representative at one of our kiosks in your area.

Categories of Vote (contd)



Rallot Measures

A ballot measure is a piece of proposed legislation to be approved or rejected by eligible voters. Includes the following:

Referendum Bills

Legislation that appears on the ballot because the Washington State Legislature voted to put it before voters. Voted by a **Yes** or **No** vote.

Initiatives to the People

Pieces of legislation that were directly put on the ballot through signatures. These are laws that can be put into place by popular vote and may be written by any citizen. Also known as a direct initiative. These initiatives let voters choose a simple **Yes** or **No**.

Initiatives to the Legislature

Citizens may also submit legislation directly to the Washington Legislature with enough signatures. If these laws are not adopted at the legislative session in January, they are placed on the ballot. Also known as an indirect initiative. These initiatives let voters choose a simple **Yes** or **No**.

Constitutional Amendments

Amendments to the state constitution put forth by the Washington State Legislature. Voters choose to **Approve** or **Reject** the amendment.

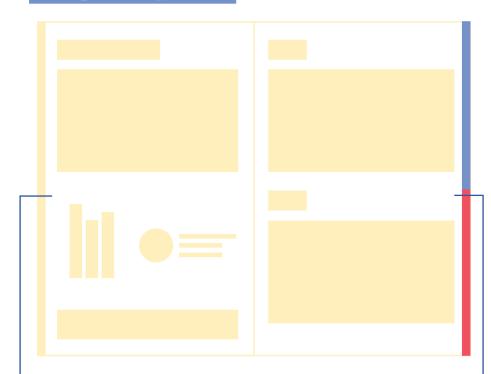
Veto Referendums

When the state legislature enacts a law, a group can gather signatures in opposition to the law. If enough signatures are gathered in the timeframe, these veto referenda enter the ballot. Voters can choose to **Ratify** or **Reject** the referendums.

Advisory Votes

Advisory votes are different from the other measures present on your ballot in that they are non-binding. This means that the outcome of the law is not decided by the vote in the ballot. Advisory Votes are used to measure public opinion before legislators make decisions at the congressional level. Advisory Votes allow voters to choose between Maintain or Repeal. Advisory votes are just as important to vote for.

Page Layout



Summaries

The left page will include a summary and relevant infographics about the candidate or measure specified. We fact check all our info by default, but certain important facts will be cited at the bottom of the page in the sources section, and at the back of the book in our index.

Progressives Say/Conservatives Say

This section contains information from representatives of both parties along with general trends and tidbits of information that might be relevant to certain political ideologies.

Why do we do it this way?

Through our research we found that traditional voters pamphlets are seen as untrustworthy in their claims to be non-partisan. We live in a partisan system and all statements and opinions will have some kind of partisan spin, whether it is in language or actual facts. Laying out information this way ensures our data is transparent and trustworthy.

Referendum Bill

Initiative Measure 1433

The Minimum Wage Initiative

Proposes an increase of the minimum wage from \$9.47 an hour to \$13.50 an hour by 2020.

As of 2016, the minimum wage for Washington State employees is \$9.47 per hour. Some cities within Washington State have adopted local laws that increase the minimum wage within their area. The proposed measure seeks to increase the hourly minimum wage in Washington State from \$9.47 to \$13.50 over the next four years. In 2020, when the hourly minimum wage has reached \$13.50, wages will proceed adjusting for inflation as they presently do. Beginning January 1, 2018, employers would be required to provide paid sick leave to employees. This leave will extend to survivors of domestic violence who must take time off to seek legal council, relocate or seek medical treatment.

Graphing Minimum Wage by Year



Seen in blue is minimum wage adjusting for inflation each year from 2017 to 2022, as it does presently. The yellow is the proposed change by I-1433 from 2017 to 2022.

Progressives Say Yes

Arguments For

- > I-433 will ensure every Washington worker can earn paid sick leave.
- > It will boost the income of more than 730,000 workers, lifting families out of poverty.
- > The rising minimum wage injects \$2.5 Billion into local economies

Arguments Against

> Mininum wage rising can mean less hours for marginalized workers

Sources

RaiseUpWa.com, The Seattle Minimum Wage Study Team. 2017.

Conservatives Say No

Arguments For

> Contrary to belief, this bill does not introduce new taxes

Arguments Against

> Seattle passed a \$15 per hour minimum wage. The City of Seattle's economists acknowledge the initial increase to \$11 per hour has not benefitted workers. While average pay per hour rose, workers are getting fewer hours and there are fewer jobs available.

Sources

KeepWaCompetitive.com, The Seattle Minimum Wage Study Team.

Constitutional Amendment

Joint Resolution 8210

Concerning State Legislative Redistricting

Moves the deadline for redistricting legislative districts to November 15th of each year, 46 days earlier than is currently required.

The amendment would require the state redistricting commission to approve a redistricting plan for state legislative and congressional districts by November 15 of each year ending in a one. This would, in effect, shorten the time for the commission to complete a redistricting plan by 46 days (for example, the commission would need to approve the next redistricting plan by November 15, 2021, rather than the current deadline of December 31, 2021). All other deadlines for redistricting would remain the same.



Important Note

This amendment has overwhelming bipartisan support with 0 nay votes in the Senate and House of Representatives. Virtually no group opposes the stipulations of this referendum.

Progressives Say Approve

Arguments For

- > This simple yet important change shortens a year-long process by six weeks, offering benefits to voters and taxpayers alike.
- >The past three redistricting plans were adopted during year-end holidays, limiting public feedback and input. SJR 8210 sets a final deadline of November 15, ensuring the plan is adopted when the public is better able to provide feedback.

Arguments Against

[none provided or found]

Sources

Washington State Senate, Washington State House of Representatives

Conservatives Say Approve

Arguments For

*** Same as above

> The current January 1 deadline leaves county officials little time to implement new boundaries before spring elections; a November 15 deadline resolves this and closes the redistricting office many weeks sooner, saving taxpayers thousands of dollars.

Arguments Against

[none provided or found]

Sources

Washington State Senate, Washington State House of Representatives

Initiative to the People

Initiative Measure 1491

Concerning Access to Firearms

This measure allows citizens to obtain court orders temporarily preventing firearms access by persons exhibiting mental illness, violent or other behavior.

The measure would allow courts to issue "extreme risk protection orders." These orders would prevent a person who poses a significant danger to himself/herself or others from possessing or accessing firearms. The measure refers to such a person as the "respondent."

Expenditures

I-1491 would result in indeterminate fiscal impacts to the Department of Licensing, the Department of Corrections and the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Local government may have higher costs to fulfill duties in the initiative. However, due to the lack of data to determine the level of activity, the expenditure impact to local governments cannot be determined.

New Revenues

I-1491 creates two new misdemeanors and a new felony. A person convicted of filing a petition **knowing the information is false**, or convicted of possessing or purchasing a firearm **with knowledge that he or she is prohibited from doing so**, may be subject to a fine of up to \$5,000.

Progressives Say Yes

Arguments For

- > Provides a venue for family members who see non-illegal "warning signs" of an unstable individual to prevent that individual from accessing firearms legally until treatment can be assessed.
- > Endorsed by Washington State Public Health Association, League of Women Voters, Faith Action Network, law enforcement, gun owners, and gun violence survivors.

Arguments Against

> I-1491 stigmatizes mental illness. Mentally ill does not mean violent.

Sources

Washington State Senate, Washington State House of Representatives

Conservatives Say No

Arguments For

> This measure creates new opportunities for state income

Arguments Against

- > I-1491 doesn't require evaluation, treatment, or monitoring and does nothing to address underlying issues.
- > There are existing laws that attempt to solve this issue and do not.
- > Infringes on second amendment rights*
- > Confiscating firearms from unstable individuals will make them angrier.

Sources

Washington State Senate, Washington State House of Representatives

Presidential Candidate

A Hillary Rodham Clinton



Democratic Party Nominee

Statement

Our campaign is based on the notion that Americans are stronger together. We're stronger when everyone can contribute to the economy and share in its growth. We're stronger when we work with each other and with allies around the world to keep America secure. We're stronger when we're united, not divided; when we come together to overcome the challenges we face.

Experience

67th United States Secretary of State 2009-2013 United States Senator from New York 2001-2009 First Lady of the United States 1993-2001 First Lady of Arkansas 1983-1992, 1979-1981

On the issues:

Supports

Marriage Equality Clean Energy Fighting Climate Change Addressing Mental Health Rights for Disabled Persons Abortion Rights Income Tax Increases Gun Control Further involvement in Iraq Further involvement in Syria Net Neutrality

Opposes

Mandatory Minimum Sentences Repeal of ACA Requiring Illegal Immigrants to return to their country of origin before being granted citizenship Expanded Social Security

Arguments For

- > Clinton would be the most qualified person to ever enter the office of President, bringing years of experience and a deep understanding of international politics from her time as Secretary of State.
- > Clinton has sworn to fight for the marginalized and impoverished.
- > Clinton supports clean energy and believes in climate change.

Arguments Against

- > Clinton has flip-flopped on important issues like gay marriage and wars in the middle east over the past decade in the public eye.
- > Clinton takes large sums of money from Wall Street despite claiming to be against big banks

Sources

Washington State Senate, Washington State House of Representatives

Conservatives Say...

Arguments For

> A strong stance on keeping America safe and defeating ISIS

Arguments Against

- > Clinton has had several scandals with her handling of sensitive information, including using a public and non-secure email server to discuss top-secret information with campaign staff.
- > Clinton supports marriage equality and gender-neutral restrooms.
- > Clinton is married to a previous president, Bill Clinton, which has implications of Oligarchy.

Sources

Washington State Senate, Washington State House of Representatives

Presidential Candidate

8 Donald John Trump



Republican Party Nominee

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Experience

Real Estate

On the issues:

Supports

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Sources

Washington State Senate, Washington State House of Representatives

Governor (Incumbent)

8 Jay Inslee



Democratic Party (Incumbent)

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Experience

Federal 2012-2014 State 2010-2013

On the issues:

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Sources

Washington State Senate, Washington State House of Representatives

Governor Candidate

8 Bill Bryant



Republican Party

Statement

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Sources

Washington State Senate, Washington State House of Representatives

Lieutenant Governor Candidate

8 Cyrus Habib



Democratic Party

Statement

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Washington State Senate, Washington State House of Representatives

Lieutenant Governor Candidate

8 Marty McClendon



Republican Party

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Washington State Senate, Washington State House of Representatives

Secretary of State Candidate

8 Kim Wyman



Republican Party

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Secretary of State Candidate

8 Tina Podolowski



Democratic Party

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Advertisement

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Behavior

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Committee

The Washington State Governor is responsible for implementing state laws and overseeing the operation of the state executive branch.

Congressional

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Districts

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The position of Lieutenant Governor falls within both the Executive and Legislative branches. While elected independently from the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor becomes the Acting Governor whenever the Governor leaves the state or is otherwise unable to serve.

Adjustment

The President is the head of state and head of government of the United States. The president directs the executive branch of the federal government and is the commander-in-chief of the United States Armed Forces.

Advertisement

United States Senators take part in meetings of congress, debate over the creation or update of laws and regulations and vote for or against certain political measures or motions.

Behavior

Members of the United States House of Representatives introduce bills and resolutions, offer amendments and serve on committees.

Committee

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Congressional

The Washington State Governor is responsible for implementing state laws and overseeing the operation of the state executive branch.

Districts

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Distribution

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Expansion

United States Senators take part in meetings of congress, debate over the creation or update of laws and regulations and vote for or against certain political measures or motions.

Exchange

Members of the United States House of Representatives introduce bills and resolutions, offer amendments and serve on committees.

Federal

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Factual

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Special Thanks

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