





# Fact Sheet: Top-Two Primary



Thurston County Auditor's Office - Elections Division  
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## **What is a Top Two Primary?**

A Top Two Primary is a Primary Election in which the top-two vote getters advance to the General Election, regardless of party affiliation. It changes our way of thinking about the Primary. Instead of the Primary Election being an election where each party chooses it's nominee, the Primary Election is now simply a means of qualifying candidates to appear on the General Election ballot. The two candidates who receive the greatest number of votes will qualify. Because of this important change, voters will NOT have to select a party ballot, and will be free to vote for whomever they choose, regardless of party affiliation.

## **How does this change the General Election?**

There are two important changes to the General Election ballot. First, independent and minor party candidates will appear on the Primary Election ballot, and will have to qualify to appear in the General. Second, since we are not nominating one candidate from each party to advance, it is possible voters may see two candidates who have listed the same party preference on the General Election ballot.

## **What does a candidate's Party Preference really mean?**

Candidates are allowed to list their party preference on the ballot, as a way of informing voters which party they personally prefer. This designation does not indicate that the party has selected, nominated, endorsed or otherwise agrees with the views of the candidate. The political parties may hold nominating conventions and select their designated candidate, but that designation will not appear on the ballot itself. Voters need to know that the party preference information on the ballot is SELF-REPORTED by the candidate.

## **Will I still get three ballots for the Primary?**

No. Voters will only receive one ballot, listing ALL candidates who have filed for office in our county. Voters may select any candidate for each race, regardless of party preference.

## **How did we end up with this Top Two Primary?**

Voters passed I-872 in 2004, which created the Top Two Primary. A lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of I-872, which stopped the state from conducting an election under this system. In March the United States Supreme Court ruled that the state may conduct a Top Two Primary as passed by voters.



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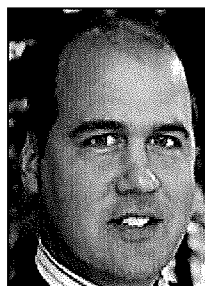
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## Prefers a better primary system

By **Bruce Ramsey**  
Seattle Times editorial columnist

A few weeks ago, Krist Novoselic, formerly of the band Nirvana, filed to run for Wahkiakum County clerk. He is active as a Democrat, and could have asked to appear on the ballot with the line, "prefers Democratic Party." But he was trying to make a point about Washington's new election laws. He filed as, "prefers Grange Party."



Krist Novoselic

There isn't a Grange Party. The Washington State Grange is a farmers' organization, and it doesn't run bass-guitar players for political office. Our new "top two" primary, however, allowed Novoselic to choose whatever label he wanted, after the word "prefers." Last year, a candidate ran as "prefers Salmon/Yoga Party," and, to the derision of Democrats, Dino Rossi appeared on the ballot as "prefers G.O.P. Party."

"G.O.P." is not a real name. "Grange" is. Novoselic — who is master at Grays River Grange No. 124 — wanted the Grange to defend its rights. He wanted a fight, so he could make a point about a group's right to its name. But he didn't get much of a fight out of "Grange Party."

"Maybe I should have called it the Microsoft Party," he says.

Novoselic has dropped out. He filed only to raise a public question: Should candidates be able to use any party name they want?

In day-to-day life, you can't publicly label yourself with a group's name without asking them. Washington's new primary-ballot law skirts this problem by using the word "prefers." The ballot said, for example, that Gov. Chris Gregoire "prefers Democratic Party." Did it prefer her? It did, but the ballot fudged that part.

"This confuses voters," Novoselic says.

In Gregoire's case it didn't, and even Rossi's "prefers G.O.P. Party" didn't confuse that many. But the "prefers" thing has only been around a short time. Political brains have barely explored the opportunities in it.

Novoselic argues that the ballot should identify as Democrats only those candidates approved by the party, meaning actual party members. "Democrat" is *their* name. He is, not coincidentally, the chairman of the Wahkiakum County Democratic Central Committee.

Here's a problem. In a 36th District race, the top-two candidates were both labeled, "prefers Democratic Party." John Burbank was endorsed by the 36th District Democrats. Reuven Carlyle wasn't.

Under Novoselic's system, Carlyle would have had to appear on the ballot as an independent. Yet he is a Democrat, and since he won, he has organized with the Democrats. In his case, "prefers Democratic Party" was useful information for voters.

Sam Reed, secretary of state, said he agrees with Novoselic, partly. Reed wants to get rid of the "Salmon/Yoga" and "G.O.P.

Party" nonsense by limiting labels to real ones. But he has no desire to give activists control of the names.

"I'm a moderate Republican," he says. "I have some people — right-wingers — who say I'm really a Democrat. Shouldn't I, as a citizen, be able to decide for myself what party I'm in, rather than have other people decide for me?"

What if it's Lyndon LaRouche, claiming he's a Democrat?

There are problems both ways. Maybe the answer is to ask both the candidate and the party, more information being better than less. With the party's nod, the ballot line for Sam Reed could say, "endorsed Republican." Without the party's nod it could say, "prefers Republican." That way, the voter would know something about the candidate — and also about his party.

*Bruce Ramsey's column appears regularly on editorial pages of The Times. His e-mail address is [bramsey@seattletimes.com](mailto:bramsey@seattletimes.com)*

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Article published Mar 10, 2009

## **Election change focus of secretary of state's talk to Port Angeles chamber**

By Paige Dickerson  
Peninsula Daily News

PORT ANGELES -- Change might have been a buzz word in last November's election, but changes have been under way in the election system in Washington for several years, the state's chief elections officer said Monday.

And more are to come, Secretary of State Sam Reed told the Port Angeles Regional Chamber of Commerce on Monday.

Reed spoke to an audience of about 75 at the weekly Monday meeting at the Port Angeles CrabHouse Restaurant in the Red Lion Hotel.

With the introduction of the Top 2 primary last year, the third type of primary was used in Washington since 2002, Reed said.

Reed is author of the Top 2 primary scheme, which advances the top two vote-getters to the general election, regardless of party.

It replaced the popular blanket primary system, which was invalidated by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2002.

Like Top 2, the blanket system allows voters to cross party lines with impunity and vote for candidates of their choice.

Top 2 went before the U.S. Supreme Court, which sided with Reed and allowed the system to be implemented.

"People really wanted to vote who they wanted to vote for and not be restricted to one party like they are in some states," Reed said.

In between the blanket primary and Top 2 was the unpopular "pick a party" system, which was implemented at the direction of the Supreme Court when it outlawed California's blanket system.

In "pick a party," the primary voter had to select a partisan ballot from four offered and vote only on that ballot.

No crossover voting was permitted.

Vote tallying

Reed's latest attempt at election reform was in the form of establishing when all-mail election ballots must



be received to be tallied.

Ballots currently must be postmarked by Election Day. He wanted them to be received by Election Day to count.

"What happens is that county courthouses are being overwhelmed on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday after the election -- and sometimes, if it is really close, they can't even declare who a winner is until all the ballots come in," he said.

"Another problem is many people might mail ballots on Election Day, but then sometimes they don't get postmarked until the next day -- that results in thousands of votes not being counted because they are not properly postmarked.

"This would be better system of ensuring that the results are quickly counted and that more votes get counted," Reed told the chamber.

However, his plan to receive ballots earlier died in legislative committee last week.

#### 'Archaic' caucuses

Reed said that although there is no solution in the near future, he and many others nationwide are working toward a more efficient and effective primary system than the caucus system.

"The caucus system is kind of archaic, and they discriminate against people who can't be there or who have disabilities or who speak English as a second language," he said.

"We usually have a voter turnout rate of about 47 percent in our elections.

"The caucuses get about 7 percent of people voting."

He said that it would have to be a change in the system implemented by the parties.

"We are also working on making the primaries later and also a more systematic way of rotating them regionally," he said.

"We have been strong advocates of this, and it won't happen right away, but we are taking steps to get there."

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► Missouri arm of Planned Parenthood, a pro-choice group.

Pro-lifers disagree. "We're just as distraught as anybody else," says Troy Newman, who runs Operation Rescue, a group that often picketed Dr Tiller's clinic in Wichita. It is not pro-life to murder someone, argues Mr Newman, sitting in his office, a former abortion clinic that the group bought and "redeemed in the name of the Lord". And besides, he says, "we were two months away from shutting him down." Mr Newman says the Kansas medical authorities were about to revoke Dr Tiller's licence following ethical complaints, though Dr Tiller had stayed open for decades despite a barrage of similar ones.

Pro-life groups worry that Dr Tiller's murder will make the public think pro-lifers are violent. "This guy, I'd never heard of him [before this week]" complains David Gittrich of Kansans for Life. Reports suggest that the murderer acted alone. The suspect had a history of mental illness, according to his family. In the 1990s he associated with anti-government militia groups and was caught with bomb-making materials but freed on a technicality. More recently, he became obsessed with abortion and apparently posted comments on pro-life websites likening Dr Tiller to a Nazi.

Pro-choice groups fear that Dr Tiller's murder will deter doctors from providing abortions and women from seeking them. It will surely scare those who offer abortions in the third trimester, as Dr Tiller did, but it will not come as news to such people that they have enemies. Dr Tiller was shot in both arms in 1993. His clinic was bombed in 1986, blockaded in 1991 and repeatedly vandalised. He hired a bodyguard, but was defenceless on the day he was murdered.

To activists, abortion is either murder or the inalienable right of every woman. Despite Mr Obama's soothing words, it is hard to find common ground between those two positions. The public are split, but trending conservative. For the first time last month a Gallup poll found that a majority (51%) of Americans call themselves pro-life, up from 33% in the mid-1990s. Only 42% call themselves pro-choice. But these labels hide a lot of nuance. Most Americans would restrict abortion, but not ban it completely.

To ardent pro-lifers, the law today is immorally lax. Kansas, for example, allows late-term abortion only if two doctors agree it is necessary to save the woman's life or prevent "substantial and irreversible" harm to "a major bodily function". This has been interpreted to include damage to mental health, which pro-lifers say creates a big loophole.

Pro-choice groups say they exaggerate. Most abortions are done early, sometimes by means of a pill. Only about 1% occur after 21 weeks. Pro-lifers retort that this is

still a huge number. Some 820,000 legal abortions were reported in 2005. The Guttmacher Institute, a pro-choice think-tank, puts the true total at 1.2m. That is down a quarter since 1990; still, more than a fifth of American pregnancies are terminated. Meanwhile, in Washington, D.C., the Senate is preparing to grill a Supreme Court nominee whose views on abortion are unknown. Expect fireworks. ■

#### Primaries in Washington state

## The centrist north-west

SEATTLE

**What explains the remarkably moderate politics of one state?**

**W** E IN Washington state "get our business done", says Lisa Brown, a Democrat who leads the state's Senate and may be a future candidate for governor. In contrast to California, say, Washington passes its budgets on time. Districts are drawn in a neutral process. Party machines are weak, heresy condoned. Ms Brown's own Senate caucus recently grew by two Republican defections.

Rob McKenna, the state's boyish attorney-general and a likely Republican candidate for governor, also declares himself proudly centrist. Like everybody he knows, he never votes a straight ticket: "I always voted for a state auditor who is a Democrat, because he's good," he says.

And so it goes. Stuart Elway, a leading pollster, says that moderation runs deep in a state that voted twice for Ronald Reagan and then for Michael Dukakis. Washington leans left to the west of the Cascade mountains, right to their east, but very few of its political outcomes are extreme.

In polarised and dysfunctional states such as California, the search is on to find the reason for this moderation in order to import it. There are several factors, but one stands out. It is, says Sam Reed, Washington's secretary of state, the state's long tradition of holding non-partisan primary elections. Because independents, Democrats and Republicans vote on the same ballot, "you do tend to get people who fit the centre of the electorate," he says. It is a tradition, however, that Washington state has been forced to refine in recent years.

Washington's old system, adopted in 1935, was a "blanket primary". Voters were not required to declare a party affiliation and instead voted for one candidate for each office, no matter from which party. The leading vote-winner from each party for each office then went on to contest the general election.

For 65 years Washington carried on merrily, with only Louisiana and Alaska

trying something similar, until California copied the system, hoping for a bit of moderation. California's party bosses were horrified and sued, and in 2000 the Supreme Court declared blanket primaries unconstitutional. Its reasoning was that parties are "associations" (like, say, the Rotary Club), and that the constitutionally-guaranteed freedom of association includes the right of parties to control their own nominating processes. The decision also threw out Washington's blanket primaries, even though voters loved them.

Mr Reed then had the idea of changing the primaries so that they ceased being a "nominating process" and became instead a simple mechanism to find the top two vote-getters. In such a system, a Republican and a Democrat might face off in the general election, or two Republicans or two Democrats. And Washingtonians could again avoid declaring an affiliation.

Party bosses fought that idea bitterly. In 2004, for the first time since the 1930s, Washingtonians could vote in only one party's primary, and they hated it. But Mr Reed, increasingly popular, kept fighting all the way back to the Supreme Court and eventually won. At last, in 2008, Washingtonians had their non-partisan primaries back. As advertised, the winners were moderates, and some races indeed ended with two Republicans or two Democrats in the run-off.

Daniel Evans, a three-term governor of Washington in the 1960s and 1970s and the epitome of moderation admits that it is too early, after just one cycle, to say that "top-two" primaries always lead to centrism. In places with gerrymandered districts, the outcome could even be more polarisation. But so far the system looks promising, and California is right to consider it. Maybe the country should, too. ■



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THE WENATCHEE WORLD

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## Keane to face competition in bid for fourth term

By Dan Wheat

World staff writer

Posted June 07, 2008

WATERVILLE — Douglas County Commissioner Dane Keane, who filed his candidacy for a fourth four-year term Monday, had three opponents by the end of filing on Friday.

Keane, a Rock Island Republican, drew Dale Snyder, Waterville, and Terry Barnes, East Wenatchee, as Republican opponents; and Russell Clark, Rock Island mayor, as a Democrat.

The top two vote getters among the four in the Aug. 18 primary, regardless of party, will advance to the Nov. 4 general election.

Barnes is an East Wenatchee Water District commissioner and former district employee. Snyder is a member of the Waterville School Board.

Chelan County Commissioner Ron Walter, a Wenatchee Republican, drew Chuck Largent, Wenatchee, as a Democratic opponent. Largent is a Wenatchee School Board member and former city parks director.

Doug England, manager of Manson Fruit Cooperative, was the last of four candidates to file for the Chelan County Commission seat being vacated by Buell Hawkins.

Filing week concluded at the close of business on Friday. Here is a list of who filed for offices in North Central Washington. Incumbents are designated by (I).

U.S. Congress, 4th District: Doc Hastings (I), R-Pasco; Gordon Allen Pross, R-Ellensburg; George Fearing, D-Richland

U.S. Congress, 5th District: Cathy McMorris Rodgers (I), R-Spokane; Kurt Erickson, R-Clarkston; Barbara Lampert, D-Spokane; Mark Mays, D-Spokane; John Beck, Libertarian Party, Spokane; Randall Yearout, Constitution Party, Otis Orchards

State Legislative Dist. 12: Senator: Linda Evans Parlette (I), R-Wenatchee; Rep. Pos. 1: Cary Condotta (I), R-East Wenatchee; Rep. Pos. 2: Mike Armstrong (I), R-Wenatchee

State Legislative Dist. 7: Rep. Pos. 1: Sue Madsen, R-Edwall; Shelly Short, R-Addy; Kelly White, R-Kettle Falls; Mike Davis, R-Deer Park; Rep. Pos. 2: Joel Kretz (I), R-Wauconda

State Legislative Dist. 13: Rep. Pos. 1: Judith Warnick (I), R-Moses Lake; Rep. Pos. 2: Bill Hinkle (I), R-Cle Elum

Chelan County Commission, Dist. 1: Ron Walter (I), R-Wenatchee; Chuck Largent, D-Wenatchee

Chelan County Commission, Dist. 2: Jay Witherbee, R-Chelan; Stan Morse, R-Chelan; Deanna Walter, R-Chelan; Doug England, R-Manson

Chelan County PUD Commission, Dist. A at-large: Carnan Bergren, Peshastin; Werner Janssen (I), Leavenworth

Chelan County Superior Court Judge, Pos. 1: Lesley Allan (I), Wenatchee

Chelan County Superior Court Judge, Pos. 2: T.W. "Chip" Small (I), Wenatchee

Chelan County Superior Court Judge, Pos. 3: John Bridges (I), Malaga

Douglas County Commission, Dist. 1: Ken Stanton (I), R-East Wenatchee

Douglas County Commission, Dist. 2: Dane Keane (I), R-Rock Island; Terry Barnes, R-East Wenatchee; Dale Snyder, R-Waterville; Russell Clark, D-Rock Island

Douglas County PUD Commission, Dist. 1: Lynn Heminger (I), East Wenatchee

Douglas County Superior Court Judge, Pos. 1: John Hotchkiss (I), East Wenatchee

Grant County Commission, Dist. 1: Richard Stevens (I), R-Soap Lake

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Grant County PUD Commission, Dist. A at-large: Sam Johnson, Mattawa; Tom Flint (I), Ephrata; Don Schmauder, Wilson Creek

Grant County PUD Commission, Dist. 3: Don Long, Ephrata; Randy Allred (I), Royal City

Grant County Superior Court Judge, Pos. 1: Evan Sperline (I), Soap Lake

Grant County Superior Court Judge, Pos. 2: John Knodell, Moses Lake; Douglas Anderson, Ephrata

Grant County Superior Court Judge, Pos. 3: John Antosz (I), Ephrata

Okanogan County Commission, Dist. 1: Larry Campbell, R-Okanogan; Andrew Lampe (I), R-Omak

Okanogan County Commission, Dist. 2: Don "Bud" Hover (I), R-Winthrop

Okanogan County PUD Commission, Dist. 1: David Womack (I), Omak

Okanogan County Superior Court Judge, Pos. 1: Jack Burchard (I), Okanogan

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## McCarthy's name didn't belong on survey

### THE NEWS TRIBUNE

Last updated: October 23rd, 2008 12:40 AM (PDT)

Election officials can't look like they have their thumbs on the scale, especially when they are on the ballot.

Pat McCarthy knows that. So what was the Pierce County auditor thinking when she signed her name on a voter survey stuffed into the envelopes bearing mail ballots that will decide her bid for Pierce County executive?

The answer, we hope, was that she wasn't thinking.

The survey registers somewhere between "What's the big deal?" and "How dare she!" on the outrage meter. Some voters – for whom the Pierce County executive race is somewhat of an afterthought in this presidential election year – might not even make the connection.

The intent – to gauge voter response to the county's new ranked choice system – is commendable. But the execution was awful. McCarthy should have been more careful in a year when she was running for election.

Sure, the Secretary of State's office's says McCarthy has done nothing wrong legally. She probably hasn't. But a more telling question is, what would Sam do?

Secretary of State Sam Reed, known for his scrupulous administration of elections, is extra-cautious about using the trappings of his office to get his name before voters. A ballot stuffer that Reed's office put out to explain August's Top Two primary included no names from the Secretary of State's office.

McCarthy's survey is certainly not the only case of Pierce County executive candidates using public funds to boost their candidacies. To a certain extent, such publicity is a perk of elected office. But coming this close to the election, her case is the most troubling.

We give McCarthy the benefit of the doubt – not because we endorsed her as the second best candidate in the bunch last Sunday, but because we've watched her the past six years.

Her administration of the auditor's office has been above board, professional and customer service oriented. The survey appears to be largely patterned after a similar voter poll she conducted in 2004 when the state introduced the pick-a-party primary.

But this is a blemish on her record. The ballot envelope is sacred. The county's chief elections official should know that more than anyone.

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## **Selection of county commissioner begins**

Gov. Chris Gregoire today will decide how many candidates to interview for the open Thurston County commissioner seat.

She will receive feedback from three top advisers: Ron Jodd, senior adviser; Robin Arnold-Williams, policy office director; and Marty Brown, legislative affairs director. The advisers met with the candidates for a half-hour Monday.

The decision goes to Gregoire and the advisers because Thurston County commissioners Sandra Romero and Cathy Wolfe were unable to agree on the process to select the replacement for former commissioner Bob Macleod, who resigned Dec. 31 for medical reasons.

Wolfe wants to interview the three nominees recommended by the Thurston County Democratic Party: Tumwater City Councilwoman Karen Valenzuela; Macleod's assistant, Susan Bogni; and former Tumwater City Councilman Walt Jorgensen. Romero wants to appoint the party's top pick, Valenzuela, without conducting interviews. Bogni finished second in the party's voting; Jorgensen finished third.

Gregoire will decide whether to interview one, two or all three candidates.



Friday, Jan. 09, 2009  
Comments (0)

## Top 2 primary system complicates replacement of state lawmakers

By Michelle Dupler and Joe Chapman, Herald staff writers

The state Legislature will be missing two members when it resumes Monday.

The recent deaths of Reps. Steve Hailey, R-Mesa, and Bill Grant, D-Walla Walla, mean a major chunk of Eastern Washington will be without two veteran legislators.

And the process for replacing them could face a court test if political parties decide to file challenges, officials in Secretary of State Sam Reed's Office said.

Dave Ammons, a spokesman for Reed's office, said the state is in uncharted territory for replacing legislators who don't finish their terms because of the new Top Two primary system.

It used to be Democrats and Republicans each were guaranteed a spot on the ballot when they nominated a candidate, but the new primary system advances the top two vote-getters in the primary to the general election -- and that can mean two politicians of the same party facing off in November, as happened in the 8th District race when Republican Rob Welch challenged incumbent Rep. Larry Haler of Richland.

State law says if a political party nominated the legislator who steps down or dies, then that party gets to pick a slate of replacements.

But the new primary system raises the question of whether Hailey or Grant were truly "nominated" by their parties, Ammons said.

He said the thinking is that by voting for a candidate nominated by the party, voters also were voting for the party. But that isn't necessarily the case anymore.

"Right now, the party's main claim to power over that seat is that they endorsed the person who won in both cases, and with that knowledge we will assume voters approved (them)," Ammons said.

Elections officials have interpreted the law to mean 9th District Republicans can pick a list of three possible successors for Hailey, and Democrats can pick three for Grant's seat.

"If anybody wants to sue, they're welcome to ask for clarification from the courts, or anyone is welcome to propose legislation this winter if anybody thinks there should be a different policy," Ammons said.

Ninth District Republican precinct officers met Saturday and chose three nominees to replace Hailey.

County commissions from the six Eastern Washington counties in the 9th District are to meet Jan. 19 in Colfax to choose Hailey's successor.

Nominees include Don Cox, a former state representative from Colfax who held the District 9 seat before Hailey; Jeff Holy, an attorney and former police officer from Spokane; and Jochen Engelke, a Mesa-area businessman and farmer who ran for the Franklin commission in 2006.

A quorum of at least half of the 18 county commissioners have to attend the meeting. It is open to the public and starts at 11 a.m. in the Whitman County Public Service Building auditorium, 310 N. Main St., Colfax.

Franklin County Commissioner Rick Miller, when asked which nominee he prefers, said he likes having a representative from Franklin County's end of the district, but that he also values having a skillful legislator who can represent the area's needs.

"So I'm going to look for a good legislator. I'm going to look for who's going to do the county the best," Miller said.

At the selection meeting, candidates will introduce themselves, and each commissioner will get to ask each candidate a question. Then the commissioners will vote on the nominees until one wins a majority.

Democrats have yet to meet to nominate potential replacements for Grant.

In Franklin County, it will be the third time in just over a year that the county commission has participated in proceedings to appoint a legislator in mid-term.

Ninth District county commissioners chose state Rep. Joe Schmick to succeed David Buri, who resigned to become a lobbyist in late 2007.



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**THE PETRI DISH****DECEMBER 17, 2008****Hope hoping to make it official**

Posted at 6:16 pm by Jerry Cornfield

Weather permitting, Republican Mike Hope will be sworn into office as a state legislator tonight.

Snohomish County District Court Judge Tam Bul is scheduled to conduct the swearing-in ceremony at a private Marysville home. Hope said he's invited a few close friends and campaign confidantes — including Ed Nixon, brother of former President Nixon.

Hope unseated Rep. Liz Loomis, D-Snohomish, in the 44th Legislative District following a hand recount. Results of the recount were certified Monday and Hope emerged the winner by 134 votes.

Also today, Hope said he's hired Blair Anderson as his legislative aide. Anderson managed Hope's campaign in the final three months of the race.

Anderson is a former leader of the Lake Stevens Chamber of Commerce and his resume includes a stint with Barclay's North Inc., the now defunct development company owned by Patrick McCourt.

And Anderson is not a stranger to the ways of Olympia. He worked for HROC — the political arm of the House Republican Caucus — in 2004 and 2005, according to Hope.

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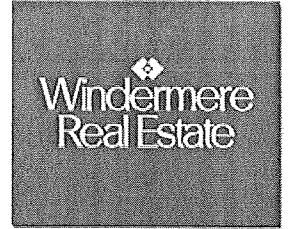
Today is **Tuesday**,  
Dec. 30, 2008

Search Chronicle

# Alexander, Swecker Maintain Top Positions in Legislature

*Ranking Republicans: Local Lawmakers Lead GOP Effort on Transportation, Ways and Means Committees*

Posted December 20, 12:05 am, 2008. E-mail this article to a friend.



By The Chronicle

The state House of Representatives Republican Caucus announced Thursday that Rep. Gary Alexander, R-Olympia, will maintain his seat as the ranking minority member of the House Ways and Means Committee, while Sen. Dan Swecker, R-Rochester, will stay on as top Republican on the Senate Transportation Committee.

Alexander, 64, represents District 20, encompassing Lewis and Southwest Thurston counties, and has made the state budget his bailiwick.

He commented Thursday on a tough budget released by recently re-elected Gov. Chris Gregoire. The state is facing a projected \$5 billion shortfall for the upcoming 2009-2011 biennium.

"In 2007, the majority party in the Legislature passed an unsustainable budget that spent \$1.7 billion more than we had. Even with a good economy, promises were made that everyone knew would not be kept," Alexander said in a press release. "I commend the governor for putting forth a balanced budget that does not raise taxes or fees. House Republicans have long believed that increasing taxes or fees is not the right approach while families are struggling with everyday expenses and workers are losing jobs."

This will be Swecker's fifth year on the Senate Transportation Committee. As ranking member he said he looks forward to continuing work on Lewis County projects as well as work on such Seattle-area traffic needs as the Alaskan Way Viaduct and the 520 floating bridge.

"I am especially pleased that I will continue serving as ranking Republican on the transportation committee," said Swecker. "Although money is very scarce, it is important for us to continue moving forward with these important congestion relief and safety projects."

Swecker also returns to the Natural Resources, Ocean and Recreation committee that considers issues relating to fish, shellfish, and wildlife; forest practices, forest health, and forest fire protection; mining and oil and gas exploration; ocean and coastal resources; and recreation.

The third lawmaker from District 20, Rep. Richard DeBolt, R-Chehalis, will continue as the top Republican in the state House.

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Published December 19, 2008

## Pay raises, public aid, schools face cuts in next state budget

Brad Shannon And Adam Wilson

Gov. Chris Gregoire waded into a river of red ink Thursday and proposed a no-new-taxes budget that would make deep cuts in general spending, eliminate pay increases for public employees and reduce the state's health care safety net and money for schools.

The proposal is meant to bridge a shortfall for 2009-11 that Gregoire now estimates at \$5.7 billion. Gregoire, a Democrat, blames the national economic crisis for most of the problem.

She drew praise from Republican lawmakers and the Association of Washington Business for avoiding tax increases at a time when individuals and businesses are struggling. Some activists also credited her with keeping most funding for early-childhood education.

But critics were everywhere — taking aim at the budget's deep reductions in health care programs for the poor, elimination of cost-of-living raises for state employees and public school teachers, cuts to programs that help the elderly with adult day-care centers and \$375 million in cuts to higher education.

Gregoire said the cuts are necessary but also that she hates having to make the changes and cannot consider tax increases.

"Nothing went untouched," she said at a news conference at the Capitol. She ruled out tax increases and said she doesn't expect the Democrat-controlled Legislature to send her tax requests.

"There is no way to tax yourself out of this problem. You have to live within your means," Gregoire said, adding in prepared remarks: "These are hard times for us all. Our families are tightening our belts, and that's what government must do. The state must squeeze every ounce of value out of each taxpayer dollar."

Some members of her Democratic Party had doubts about her plan but called it a first step to deal with red ink. Senate Ways and Means Chairwoman Margarita Prentice, D-Renton, estimated that the actual shortfall is closer to \$6 billion.

And Senate Majority Leader Lisa Brown, D-Spokane, warned that the budget relies on \$1 billion in hoped-for federal Medicaid money from President-elect Barack Obama. Brown said she has faith in Obama but called this a "glaring flaw" in the budget because Obama has not been sworn in.

Brown said she wants to see how communities are affected when cuts to the Basic Health Plan and elimination of cash grants and health care for the chronically unemployed are added in. State Rep. Gary Alexander, the top House Republican on the budget, said he was pleased Gregoire staked out a no-new-taxes or fees approach. He called the \$1 billion in federal aid a "reasonable assumption" given that Gregoire met with Obama recently to talk about federal aid.

Gregoire expected to save \$156 million by eliminating the stipends to unemployed people who do not qualify for federal help, a move that also cuts 57 full-time state employee positions.

And she directed the state Health Care Authority to cut the state subsidized Basic Health Plan — used by 105,000 people — by 42 percent. That would save \$250 million.

The budget would cap coverage under the children's health insurance program to families whose income is 250 percent of the federal poverty line. It eliminates cost-of-living pay increases for K-12 teachers, which Initiative 732 assured by voter approval in 2000. Gregoire also outlined a transportation plan aimed at putting some \$3 billion worth of projects to work in the next summer, as well as a capital budget calling for \$3.8 billion in construction projects over the next two years.

The budget cuts drew criticism from many quarters:

- **Health and human services:** Gregoire said she hopes her proposed 42 percent cut to the Basic Health Plan can prompt innovation and lower-cost insurance alternatives that don't require equivalent cuts to the 105,000 slots in the program.

"The cuts to the BHP could increase the number of uninsured people in the state by up to 6 percent virtually overnight," said Rebecca Kavoussi of Community Health Networks of Washington. The network represents low-income health clinics such as Sea Mar, which has facilities in Thurston County.

Robin Zukoski of Columbia Legal Services predicted that without the \$339 monthly General Assistance Unemployable aid and medical benefits, many of the 21,000 cut from eligibility "will be unable to pay their rent and utilities and to cover other basic necessities. ... With the economy in such bad shape and charitable giving at an all-time low, this is the worst possible time to eliminate programs for people who cannot support themselves."

The GAU program provides cash and medical coverage to adults whose mental, physical or emotional disabilities prevent them from working. People addicted to alcohol or drugs are not eligible for GAU. They receive treatment through another program.

- **Elder care:** Activists including the AARP and Washington State Senior Citizens Lobby gave credit to Gregoire for retaining funds for home care services for more than 39,000 residents through Medicaid programs. But they said cuts of an adult day health program, which gives a break to families that provide direct in-home care to an aging relative, could have ill effects by pushing some of those aging people into nursing homes, which are more expensive. Walt Bowen, director of the Senior Lobby, said all seniors are going to feel an effect from the reductions in health care and related spending.

- **State workers:** Greg Devereux of the 40,000-member Washington Federation of State Employees said it doesn't make sense to suspend pay raises that state workers negotiated with the governor. Devereux called for closure of tax loopholes and tax exemptions for interest groups.

- **Education groups:** The budget trims about \$800 million from K-12 schools and makes \$300 million more in unspecified cuts to higher-education institutions. The K-12 cuts include \$349 million for pay increases, \$178 million (24 percent) of the money that I-728 directs into class-size reductions, and \$125.4 million in levy-equalization money sent to tax-poor schools.

The Washington State PTA would have favored having no cuts, but executive director Bill Williams said the group understands the cuts and is pleased money was retained for early childhood education and health care for children in families with incomes up to 250 percent of the poverty level.

- **Environment:** Craig Engelking, lobbyist for Sierra Club's Cascade Chapter, said his group is pushing for an end to tax breaks on equipment and machinery for five in-state oil refineries. This could raise at least \$20 million for green-jobs training programs and to stave off parks closures, he said.



---

**From:** Ammons, Dave [mailto:dammons@secstate.wa.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 11, 2008 3:28 PM  
**To:** Deutsch, Joanie  
**Subject:** RE: One-party primaries in one-party districts

Tnx.

d.

David Ammons  
Communications Director  
Office of Secretary of State  
o (360) 902-4140  
c (360) 280-3944  
h (360)357-8908

---

**From:** Deutsch, Joanie  
**Sent:** Monday, August 11, 2008 3:27 PM  
**To:** 'agarber@seattletimes.com'  
**Cc:** Ammons, Dave  
**Subject:** RE: One-party primaries in one-party districts

Hi Andrew,

Here is the information you requested:

**Legislative District 7 (Ferry, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens)**

**State Representative Position 1**

Sue Lani Madsen  
(Prefers Republican Party)  
Shelly Short  
(Prefers Republican Party)  
Mike Davis  
(Prefers Republican Party)  
Peter Davenport  
(Prefers Republican Party)  
Kelly White  
(Prefers G.O.P. Party)

**Legislative District 11 (King)**

**State Senator**

Juan Martinez  
(Prefers Democratic Party)  
Margarita Prentice  
(Prefers Democratic Party)  
Scott McKay

---

(Prefers Democratic Party)

**Legislative District 22 (Thurston)**

**State Senator**

Karen Fraser

(Prefers Democratic Party)

Erik Lee

(Prefers Democratic Party)

Feel free to let me know if you need anything else, it was good to talk to you today ☺

Joanie Deutsch | Policy Analyst  
Office of the Secretary of State | Elections Division  
PO Box 40220 | Olympia, WA 98503  
Phone: (360) 902-4182 | Cell: (360) 791-4239  
[www.secstate.wa.gov/elections](http://www.secstate.wa.gov/elections)

**From:** Ammons, Dave  
**Sent:** Monday, August 11, 2008 1:49 PM  
**To:** Deutsch, Joanie; Motz, David; Handy, Nick  
**Subject:** One-party primaries in one-party districts

Has anyone compiled a list that would answer Andrew Garber's question?

Tnx.

David Ammons  
Communications Director  
Office of Secretary of State  
o (360) 902-4140  
c (360) 280-3944  
h (360)357-8908

---

**From:** Andrew Garber [<mailto:agarber@seattletimes.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 11, 2008 1:39 PM  
**To:** Ammons, Dave  
**Subject:** interview

I need to get through to Sam today or tomorrow, if possible, for a story I'm working on about the primary. Can you help me connect?  
Also, do you have anything handy that shows which primary races only have candidates from the same party running for office?

Thanks -- Andrew







**Rob McKenna**  
**ATTORNEY GENERAL OF WASHINGTON**

Administration Division  
PO Box 40100 • Olympia, WA 98504-0100 • (360) 753-6200

**CLIENT ADVICE MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** November 25, 2008

**TO:** Nick Handy  
Director of Elections  
Office of the Secretary of State

**FROM:** Jeffrey T. Even *JTE*  
Deputy Solicitor General

**SUBJECT:** Election of Precinct Committee Officers

Your office has received communications concerning the election and seating of precinct committee officers (PCO's) for political parties. At issue is the way that state law relates to party rules.

PCO's are officers of the major political parties. They compose the county central committees of each major political party. RCW 29A.80.030. The county central committees in turn elect the statutory state central committees of the political parties. RCW 29A.80.020.

State law provides for the election of PCO's on the primary ballot. RCW 29A.80.051. The applicable statute provides that, among other requirements, "to be declared elected, a candidate must receive at least ten percent of the number of votes cast for the candidate of the candidate's party receiving the greatest number of votes in the precinct." *Id.* As explained by administrative rule, however, this requirement "is not in effect because candidates for public office do not represent a political party." WAC 434-262-075. As a result, counties certify the PCO candidate who receives the most votes as elected, and are not in a position to compare the number of votes that candidate receives with the number received by a candidate of that party. *Id.*

State law also recognizes that as private organizations, a political party "may adopt rules governing its own organization and the nonstatutory functions of that organization." RCW 29A.80.010. State law governs the manner in which the election is conducted and determines which candidates are certified as the winners. State law also reserves to political party rule, however, the manner in which the party is organized internally. Accordingly, state law addresses the certification of election results, but not the seating of PCO's.





PRINTER-FRIENDLY FORMAT

Tacoma, WA - Wednesday, December 10, 2008

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## Pierce County auditor post at center of fight

Democrats vow suit over county selection plan

**DAVID WICKERT; [david.wickert@thenewstribune.com](mailto:david.wickert@thenewstribune.com)**

Last updated: December 10th, 2008 06:19 AM (PST)

A fight over how to replace Pierce County's nonpartisan auditor took a partisan turn Tuesday and may wind up in court.

At issue is whether the County Council must accept Democratic Party recommendations for a new auditor or whether it can open the job to all comers.

On a 4-3 party-line vote, the council on Tuesday approved an emergency ordinance that lays out a replacement process that does not rely on nominations from the Democratic Party.

The council's four Republicans supported the measure. Its three Democrats did not.

The vote answers for now how the council will proceed in replacing Auditor Pat McCarthy, who was elected county executive last month. She'll assume her new job at the beginning of January, but has two years remaining on her auditor's term.

The county charter gives the council the authority to fill vacant elected offices. For partisan offices it must choose from three nominees submitted by the party of the person leaving the office.

McCarthy was twice elected auditor as a Democrat. But last year Pierce County voters approved charter amendments making the auditor, assessor-treasurer and sheriff nonpartisan offices.

The problem: The charter is silent on how to fill vacancies for nonpartisan offices.

Local Democratic leaders say they should still get to nominate McCarthy's replacement because she was elected as a Democrat. And Chairman Nathe Lawver said the party might take its case to court.

"We have a very solid case here," Lawver said Tuesday. "If it comes down to it, yeah, we'll be working through the courts."

Councilman Terry Lee, R-Gig Harbor, sponsored the ordinance the council approved Tuesday, at its last meeting of the year. He said filling a nonpartisan office in a nonpartisan fashion makes sense.

"You either assume this should be filled by a Democrat or you assume this should be filled by a nonpartisan process," Lee said. "We came down on the side of a nonpartisan process."

The ordinance cites a state law that requires county legislators to appoint a qualified person at its first meeting after being notified of a vacancy. McCarthy has not given that notice, but is expected to when she becomes executive.

Lee said the council needed to have a process in place quickly so it can comply with the requirement to appointment McCarthy's successor at the council's next meeting Jan. 13.

The process calls for advertising the position, with an ad hoc committee whittling the applicants to three finalists. The council would conduct interviews with the finalists in public, though it can convene in executive session to discuss their qualifications.

Though the council majority describes the process as nonpartisan, at least one Democrat sees party politics at work.

Councilman Tim Farrell, D-Tacoma, said he believes the council Republicans will appoint one of their own – Councilman Shawn Bunney of Lake Tapps – to the auditor’s job in January.

Bunney ran unsuccessfully against McCarthy for executive last month. Farrell said he believes Bunney will use the auditor’s job as a perch to run for executive again in 2012.

Bunney said Tuesday that he is considering seeking the appointment but has not made up his mind. He said the council needed to approve the replacement process regardless of whether he seeks the job.

Whoever gets the auditor’s appointment would have to run for office in a special election next November. The office will be up for election again in 2010, when McCarthy’s term would have expired.

David Wickert: 253-274-7341

[blogs.thenewstribune.com/politics](http://blogs.thenewstribune.com/politics)

Originally published: December 10th, 2008 12:28 AM (PST)



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**John White**

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**From:** Blinn, Katie [kblinn@secstate.wa.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 19, 2008 9:50 PM  
**To:** Miller, Paul; Kasselmann, Russell; WEI Development Support  
**Cc:** Elections - Cert & Training  
**Subject:** RE: Party preference designations for the August 19 Primary

Thank you to both of you.

One possibility is that the declaration of candidacy could have the candidate fill in:

\_\_\_\_\_ prefers the \_\_\_\_\_ Party.

Katie Blinn prefers the Democratic Party.

---

**From:** Miller, Paul  
**Sent:** Wed 3/19/2008 6:52 PM  
**To:** Kasselmann, Russell; WEI Development Support  
**Cc:** Elections - Cert & Training  
**Subject:** RE: Party preference designations for the August 19 Primary

Russell,

Pls take words like "party affiliation" out of your vocabulary when discussing this primary.  
Preference...Preference....Preference

Just kidding you ... :-)

However, I want you to call me on it if you catch me slip. I think it important to be consistent in our use of terms about this primary.

In this I-872 primary, the label can not be construed as the party with which the candidate affiliates. Instead, the label is useful for the candidate to communicate something about his/her views.

The candidate might prefer to associate with a particular party (BTW, Green-Frog Libertarian was my favorite ) but in no way does it mean the party wants to or will associate itself with that candidate. So even Kermit the Frog and his message can be disavowed by the Libertarians - even those with Green Frog leanings.

Sincerely,

*Paul Miller*

Technical Services Manager  
Secretary of State  
(360) 725-5783

---

**From:** Kasselmann, Russell  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 19, 2008 4:23 PM  
**To:** WEI Development Support

12/10/2008

**Cc:** Elections - Cert & Training

**Subject:** Party preference designations for the August 19 Primary

It was brought to my attention today that we will need to make some changes to the way we deal with party designations in the WEI, which will impact the way online candidate filing and over the counter candidate filing is done.

Apparently, a candidate will be allowed to put in whatever he or she feels best identifies the party they prefer. This means that a person could identify themselves as a Yellow-Dog Democrat or a Green-Frog Libertarian, or a Left-Leaning Republican Patriot or basically anything that they feel best describes their party affiliation. Obviously, the candidates will be prohibited from certain types of descriptors, including vulgar or obscene references, but it also looks like they will be prevented from using words like nominee or nominated by or blessed by. Candidates will also be limited by the number of characters that will fit on one line of one column of a ballot. Right now, the character limit is looking like it will be somewhere between 60 characters and 100 characters.

All the limitations will be set down in WAC, but it will be very difficult to stop a candidate from entering certain words if he or she is filing online. So, the proposal was made that there needs to be a disclaimer under the Party Preference field that provides a link to the appropriate WAC that describes all the limitations, and also informs the candidate that if the party preference entered does not meet the guidelines as stated in the WAC the candidate will be contacted to edit that party designation so that it does meet the guidelines. C&T will be doing the contacting of the candidates to make sure that the designations meet the requirements of the WAC.

In terms of changes to the WEI Admin interface, it means we are going to do away with the party table for now and include the party preference designation as a field that is associated with the candidate's record. The party preference designation will need to display below the candidates name in the online voter guide and in election results displays on both county and state websites.

If there is anything that I have forgotten to mention, please feel free to add it in here.

Thank you,

Russell

-----

Russell Kasselmann  
Election Information Specialist  
Office of the Secretary of State  
520 Union Ave SE  
PO Box 40229  
Olympia, WA 98504-0229  
Phone: 360.725.5796  
Cell: 360.584.2210  
Fax: 360.664.4619  
[www.vote.wa.gov](http://www.vote.wa.gov)

12/10/2008





**John White**

---

**From:** Blinn, Katie [kblinn@secstate.wa.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 09, 2007 2:25 PM  
**To:** Hamlin, Shane; Moreno, Megan  
**Subject:** RE: what do you think - PPP ballot Rules letter

Thank you!

---

**From:** Hamlin, Shane  
**Sent:** Mon 4/9/2007 2:19 PM  
**To:** Ridout, Megan; Blinn, Katie  
**Subject:** RE: what do you think - PPP ballot Rules letter

I like it, but I think we should take out the reference to 5561. I don't want to touch that nerve.

Thanks!

---

**From:** Ridout, Megan  
**Sent:** Monday, April 09, 2007 2:18 PM  
**To:** Hamlin, Shane; Blinn, Katie  
**Subject:** what do you think - PPP ballot Rules letter

For a Rules Pull letter to Senators Brown and Spanel (sponsors of same-day registration):

With SB 5561's likely trial run for the 2008 Presidential Preference Primary, we encourage you to bring HB 1526, modifying the form of the Presidential Primary ballot, to the Senate Floor Calendar. Currently a voter may choose a Democratic, Republican, or unaffiliated ballot to cast in the Presidential Primary. However, the unaffiliated ballots have not been used by either party. Forty percent of voters participated in the last Primary using unaffiliated ballots, and did not have their voices heard. This is intellectually dishonest. HB 1526 eliminates the unaffiliated ballot option for voters, ensuring the ballot they cast will count. Additionally, producing one less ballot saves the State money. Please pull HB 1526 to the Floor Calendar.

It's a little rough, but generally is what I'd like to convey.  
Your thoughts?

*Megan Ridout*  
Assistant Legislative Liaison  
Office of the Secretary of State  
Office: (360) 902-0445  
Cell: (360) 584-3349  
[mridout@secstate.wa.gov](mailto:mridout@secstate.wa.gov)

11/26/2008



# Spokane County Washington

## PCO WINNERS FOR AUGUST 19, 2008 ELECTION

PRECINCT	PARTY	NAME	VOTES	
3102	DEM	LLOYD E APITZ	1	WRITE-IN
3104	DEM	CAROL MCGIRK	96	
3105	DEM	MARSHA L CURLESS	137	
3106	DEM	BRUCE V. VAILS	162	
3107	DEM	DOROTHY MEHL	99	
3109	DEM	DAN C. BROWN	162	
3110	DEM	PAMELA J CARLSON-HAFNER	1	WRITE-IN
3111	DEM	HOWARD KELLOGG	2	WRITE-IN
3112	DEM	JOYCELYNN STRAIGHT	148	
3113	DEM	ZONA GAIL SPAETH	1	WRITE-IN
3114	DEM	PAUL MCCARTHY	120	
3115	DEM	JAMES W HOLDEN	1	WRITE-IN
3118	DEM	SAMUEL N WARREN	1	WRITE-IN
3120	DEM	GUY NASATO	1	WRITE-IN
3121	DEM	MICHAEL P MOLAN	1	WRITE-IN
3122	DEM	BRIAN A KAMP	1	WRITE-IN
3123	DEM	MICHAEL L RAPP	146	
3124	DEM	HOLLY ANN O'CONNELL	172	
3125	DEM	RACHEL M. SHIERLING	142	
3127	DEM	JANICE BAKER	237	
3128	DEM	MICHAEL C MILLER	145	
3129	DEM	MIKE EKINS	234	
3130	DEM	RICK CLAPP	104	
3131	DEM	MAGGI DUNN	180	
3132	DEM	JAMES (RICK) W. GALLOWAY III	141	

# Spokane County Washington

## PCO WINNERS FOR AUGUST 19, 2008 ELECTION

PRECINCT	PARTY	NAME	VOTES	
3133	DEM	PATRICIA A. HANSEN	181	
3134	DEM	MICHAEL CARBONE	233	
3135	DEM	BRADLEY W ADDINGTON	1	WRITE-IN
3136	DEM	JOSE E PACHECO	1	WRITE-IN
3137	DEM	BETSY A ROSENBERG	1	WRITE-IN
3138	DEM	CATHY GUNDERSON	208	
3142	DEM	KAREN ANN BAKER	2	WRITE-IN
3144	DEM	MARY M. CHEEK	188	
3145	DEM	SADIE CHARLENE COONEY	154	
3146	DEM	CATHERINE MERRITT	196	
3147	DEM	DAVID SMITH	87	
3148	DEM	SHARON SMITH	149	
3149	DEM	SCOTT G GRAYBAN	1	WRITE-IN
3150	DEM	JOANNE AUSTIN	248	
3151	DEM	PATRICIA ROSE MATISSE	1	WRITE-IN
3152	DEM	MARTIN EDWARD KALLENBACH	1	WRITE-IN
3153	DEM	DEAN LYNCH	232	
3154	DEM	NORMAN F. PARK	163	
3156	DEM	BUELL HOLLISTER	175	
3157	DEM	DAN LAMBERT	212	
3158	DEM	APRIL BRESGAL	194	
3159	DEM	PAUL E NAUERTZ	2	WRITE-IN
3160	DEM	MALCOM D HAWORTH	2	WRITE-IN
3161	DEM	JEFFREY S DUTY	1	WRITE-IN
3162	DEM	DAVID L SCHLEIGH	1	WRITE-IN

# Spokane County Washington

## PCO WINNERS FOR AUGUST 19, 2008 ELECTION

PRECINCT	PARTY	NAME	VOTES	
3163	DEM	LINDA MCHENRY	167	
3165	DEM	RUTH GUSTAFSON	180	
4000	DEM	RICHARD (RICO) REED	128	
4001	DEM	JOE DEMPSEY	2	WRITE-IN
4002	DEM	LEON SPROULE	191	
4005	DEM	KATHRYN L KIMMEL	1	WRITE-IN
4006	DEM	MARGARET KLUBBEN	3	WRITE-IN
4007	DEM	ALEXANDER S MADSEN	79	
4009	DEM	LORNA J. ST. JOHN	106	
4010	DEM	RICHARD W. NESBITT	74	
4011	DEM	SHARILYNN KAY SIMONSMEIER	125	
4012	DEM	PATRICIA J KELLY	1	WRITE-IN
4014	DEM	RICHARD W. SANGER	78	
4016	DEM	JEANNE M PETERSON	2	WRITE-IN
4017	DEM	ROBERT F BLANGERES	2	WRITE-IN
4022	DEM	IAN GRAHAM	149	
4025	DEM	BILL BURKE	138	
4028	DEM	JIM PECK	152	
4101	DEM	DANA M SIMMONS	2	WRITE-IN
4200	DEM	LESLIE LINDGREN	1	WRITE-IN
4201	DEM	DOUG PHELPS	106	
4300	DEM	BRIAN A SAYRS	229	
4301	DEM	FRANKIE G ARTEAGA	1	WRITE-IN
4400	DEM	JAMES D. FITZGERALD	166	
4401	DEM	GREGORY A BAKER	2	WRITE-IN

# Spokane County Washington

## PCO WINNERS FOR AUGUST 19, 2008 ELECTION

PRECINCT	PARTY	NAME	VOTES	
4402	DEM	ANNE S WHIGHAM	1	WRITE-IN
4403	DEM	RAYMOND H BLOWERS	1	WRITE-IN
4404	DEM	GILBERT R. VANBROCKLIN	294	
4405	DEM	AMY BIVIANO	152	
4406	DEM	PATRICK K SATER	1	WRITE-IN
4408	DEM	LINDA J. THOMPSON	148	
4409	DEM	RAGAN FAYLOR	177	
4410	DEM	MICHAEL C. DEMPSEY	296	
4412	DEM	EARL W. WOOD, JR.	195	
4413	DEM	TROY LANG	147	
4414	DEM	MARSHA ROBERTSON	1	WRITE-IN
4415	DEM	JEANNE H SOWL-NAVARRO	1	WRITE-IN
4416	DEM	BEN T WICK	2	WRITE-IN
4417	DEM	PAUL A DICKS	2	WRITE-IN
4418	DEM	TIM HATTENBURG	350	
4419	DEM	CURTIS LAW	1	WRITE-IN
4420	DEM	CRYSTAL BOWMAN	74	
4421	DEM	SALLY JACKSON	165	
4422	DEM	ED MEADOWS	182	
4423	DEM	SKYLAR E TURNER	1	WRITE-IN
4425	DEM	WESLEY S STRAIT	1	WRITE-IN
4426	DEM	JENNIE WILLARDSON	169	
4427	DEM	MARY E COLBY	2	WRITE-IN
4428	DEM	KURT E. PARKER	271	
4430	DEM	STEVEN P DICKEY	158	

# Spokane County Washington

## PCO WINNERS FOR AUGUST 19, 2008 ELECTION

PRECINCT	PARTY	NAME	VOTES	
4431	DEM	MARY E. LLOYD	174	
4433	DEM	VALERIE BRADY RONGEY	210	
4434	DEM	ANDREW JACKSON	160	
4435	DEM	MAYO A. SAYRS	138	
4436	DEM	EUGENE (GENE) VOLLAND	126	
4437	DEM	GARY L ELDRIDGE	1	WRITE-IN
4440	DEM	ROBERTA EATON	199	
4441	DEM	ROSE BAILEY	1	WRITE-IN
6001	DEM	ROBERT STIRLING	1	WRITE-IN
6002	DEM	GAYE L LAGANA	2	WRITE-IN
6003	DEM	CAROL J MAURER	1	WRITE-IN
6004	DEM	TONY FAGUNDES	1	WRITE-IN
6005	DEM	JO E. STEIGER	158	
6006	DEM	BART HAGGIN	147	
6009	DEM	AMY M JOHNSON-COLWELL	2	WRITE-IN
6010	DEM	MEL FITZPATRICK	154	
6011	DEM	ROSEMARIE SCHMIDT	123	
6012	DEM	GALE A SNYDER	1	WRITE-IN
6014	DEM	KEITH A. FINLEY	144	
6015	DEM	LAURIE J. FLEMING	237	
6016	DEM	ROBERT M. PAULL	142	
6018	DEM	(DORIS) DIANNE WILSON	132	
6019	DEM	HUGH DAVIS	172	
6020	DEM	ROBERT S SCULLY	1	WRITE-IN
6022	DEM	ORVILLE L ARNOLD	1	WRITE-IN

# Spokane County Washington

## PCO WINNERS FOR AUGUST 19, 2008 ELECTION

PRECINCT	PARTY	NAME	VOTES	
6023	DEM	NED E BESTER	1	WRITE-IN
6024	DEM	DANIEL R STARK	1	WRITE-IN
6026	DEM	GREG LAHTI	117	
6027	DEM	URSULA QUINN	115	
6031	DEM	ROBERT D SIMPSON	1	WRITE-IN
6032	DEM	SAMANTHA D MERCHANT	63	
6033	DEM	RONALD J RIORDAN	1	WRITE-IN
6035	DEM	JOHN D CULLIGAN	1	WRITE-IN
6036	DEM	MARY M. WISSINK	153	
6037	DEM	DESIREE DESSELLE	1	WRITE-IN
6038	DEM	SUZI W HOKONSON	136	
6102	DEM	MISTY LEE GORUM	1	WRITE-IN
6103	DEM	KANDYS J. DYGERT	190	
6104	DEM	RONALD A MYERS	3	WRITE-IN
6106	DEM	KELLY MALONE	1	WRITE-IN
6109	DEM	DAVID VOLTZ	1	WRITE-IN
6110	DEM	TOMMIE L RADCLIFF	1	WRITE-IN
6111	DEM	ADONNA YUSE	173	
6112	DEM	KENNETH E PELO	1	WRITE-IN
6115	DEM	NANCY JUNE INGALLS	135	
6116	DEM	DUANE ELDON HERMAN	1	WRITE-IN
6117	DEM	EMILIE HAMILTON	1	WRITE-IN
6119	DEM	BARBARA LAMPERT	127	
6120	DEM	KANDY I KRAIG	172	
6121	DEM	BETH THEW	167	



# Spokane County Washington

## PCO WINNERS FOR AUGUST 19, 2008 ELECTION

PRECINCT	PARTY	NAME	VOTES	
6122	DEM	DENNIS ANTONELLIS	118	
6123	DEM	MARILYNN KNAPP	2	WRITE-IN
6124	DEM	FLOYD F. BURCHETT	184	
6125	DEM	JAMES W JANDA	1	WRITE-IN
6126	DEM	BERNARD L HARRIS	1	WRITE-IN
6127	DEM	PETER DUFFY	195	
6128	DEM	DENNIS PASQUALE	193	
6129	DEM	BRIAN K PIERCE	2	WRITE-IN
6130	DEM	CHARLES A LEMCKE	1	WRITE-IN
6131	DEM	JUDITH G SUGG	3	WRITE-IN
6132	DEM	JANE E. CUNNINGHAM	243	
6133	DEM	ELEANOR V. FICHTENBERG	256	
6135	DEM	PAUL SCHNEIDER	270	
6136	DEM	A K EILAND	1	WRITE-IN
6137	DEM	JANET L POLEK	2	WRITE-IN
6138	DEM	REBECCA BOHN	220	
6139	DEM	CONNIE K. LINDGREN	149	
6140	DEM	KEISHA CARLSON	2	WRITE-IN
6141	DEM	EDWARD A RING	2	WRITE-IN
6142	DEM	RYAN D YAHNE	2	WRITE-IN
6143	DEM	DEVEN F JOHNSON	2	WRITE-IN
6144	DEM	JANET BURNETT GROSSMAN	1	WRITE-IN
6145	DEM	CHARLES KERKERING	210	
6146	DEM	MARIE BJORK-HAUGEN	204	
6147	DEM	J L ISAACSON	1	WRITE-IN

# Spokane County Washington

## PCO WINNERS FOR AUGUST 19, 2008 ELECTION

PRECINCT	PARTY	NAME	VOTES	
6148	DEM	LINDA S. CUNNINGHAM	153	
6149	DEM	BRUCE ERICKSON	4	WRITE-IN
6150	DEM	LEA E C DUDLEY	1	WRITE-IN
6151	DEM	CYNTHIA C. LAMBARTH	333	
7000	DEM	BOB SCHLEIN	160	
7001	DEM	CHRISTINE E. CLARK	161	
7002	DEM	DAVID RONNFELDT	1	WRITE-IN
7003	DEM	FLORENE (FLO) E. MOORE	107	
7005	DEM	VICKI L PRICE	1	WRITE-IN
7007	DEM	LINDY B SCOTT	8	WRITE-IN
7008	DEM	LOWELL E BARTMESS	1	WRITE-IN
7009	DEM	JACK MILLER	112	
7010	DEM	ROBERT J RODGERS	2	WRITE-IN
7100	DEM	CLANCY R MULLINS	2	WRITE-IN
7301	DEM	EDWIN J HARTILL	1	WRITE-IN
9000	DEM	CLIVE D JONES	1	WRITE-IN
9001	DEM	MARY B WEATHERS	69	
9003	DEM	DEBRA K BROWN	1	WRITE-IN
9005	DEM	AUDREY BURR	1	WRITE-IN
9006	DEM	MITCHELL W SMITH	2	WRITE-IN
9007	DEM	JAMES R WYND	1	WRITE-IN
9009	DEM	RON J HARMON	1	WRITE-IN
9010	DEM	CHARLES M HANSEN	1	WRITE-IN
9013	DEM	BRIAN DELONG	1	WRITE-IN
9015	DEM	DAVE KOCH	172	

# Spokane County Washington

## PCO WINNERS FOR AUGUST 19, 2008 ELECTION

PRECINCT	PARTY	NAME	VOTES	
9017	DEM	THERESA R LIBERTY	1	WRITE-IN
9020	DEM	VICKIE T APPLGATE	1	WRITE-IN
9101	DEM	CAMILLE T STURDIVANT-DALY	2	WRITE-IN
9201	DEM	TIMOTHY ROBERT HARNOIS	1	WRITE-IN

# Spokane County Washington

## PCO WINNERS FOR AUGUST 19, 2008 ELECTION

PRECINCT	PARTY	NAME	VOTES	
3100	REP	ROBERTA K. TATRO	141	
3101	REP	CAROL M. LYNCH	128	
3102	REP	DOROTHY J. MILLARD	187	
3103	REP	SHERYL B. WILLIAMS	83	
3105	REP	JOHN C MATTHEWS	1	WRITE-IN
3106	REP	ANITA S. MESSEX	88	
3107	REP	JARON LEACH	84	
3109	REP	NANCY MCLAUGHLIN	89	
3110	REP	ROBERT A. LARSON	152	
3111	REP	WILLIAM E HALL JR	173	
3112	REP	LESA BAXTER	122	
3114	REP	JENNIFER BETTS	69	
3115	REP	AARON M HOCHSTEDLER	1	WRITE-IN
3116	REP	STEPHEN W. BLACK	154	
3117	REP	MICHAEL J. FAGAN	148	
3118	REP	PAECA M SOUTHER	1	WRITE-IN
3120	REP	NANCY LEE CARLSON	181	
3121	REP	CHRIS SIMMONS	1	WRITE-IN
3122	REP	TERRY LYNN BURTON	2	WRITE-IN
3124	REP	DIANE REYNOLDS	72	
3125	REP	BOBBY CARUSO	116	
3126	REP	RYAN A. LATHROP	180	
3127	REP	TOM NEWBURY	187	
3128	REP	CLIFF WINGER	99	
3129	REP	M. JEANELL MALONE	125	

# Spokane County Washington

## PCO WINNERS FOR AUGUST 19, 2008 ELECTION

PRECINCT	PARTY	NAME	VOTES	
3131	REP	MIKE NOVAK	82	
3132	REP	CHUD WENDLE	112	
3133	REP	ROBERT A CHAMBERS	72	
3134	REP	KIRK SMITH	71	
3135	REP	TERRENCE A HERION	2	WRITE-IN
3136	REP	JUDY LANDRUS	1	WRITE-IN
3137	REP	NICOLAS HUNT	151	
3138	REP	ELDON DEAN MEADE	1	WRITE-IN
3139	REP	C. J. MAYER	154	
3141	REP	M. VIRGINIA KAVANAUGH	147	
3142	REP	STEVEN D. SCHENNUM	108	
3143	REP	ROBERT W ROLL	1	WRITE-IN
3144	REP	EDWARD F LASSMAN	1	WRITE-IN
3145	REP	JOHN D CORTES	1	WRITE-IN
3146	REP	YOUSSEF SLEIMAN	89	
3147	REP	HEATHER MCLAIN	48	
3149	REP	MARVIN NEWCOMB	141	
3150	REP	DON PETERS	121	
3151	REP	MARGARET A. TAMBLYN	152	
3152	REP	WILLIAM C. BROCKUS	137	
3154	REP	AIMERO B. DESTA	68	
3156	REP	MARY L. KIENHOLZ	94	
3157	REP	KATHERINE C KELLY	152	
3158	REP	DONALD A CLUEVER	134	
3159	REP	CAMELIA C LAMBERT	1	WRITE-IN

# Spokane County Washington

## PCO WINNERS FOR AUGUST 19, 2008 ELECTION

PRECINCT	PARTY	NAME	VOTES	
3160	REP	BRANDON FLATGARD	150	
3161	REP	ROBERT L STACEY	105	
3162	REP	RICKEY JEROME PIERSON	2	WRITE-IN
3163	REP	ROBERT F. GREER	99	
3164	REP	DAVID A. CONDON	75	
4000	REP	DAVID STAPP	179	
4001	REP	DAVID A. BENNETT	314	
4002	REP	GLEN R. LARSON	230	
4003	REP	MARGE BUCK	303	
4004	REP	CLARK E. HAGER SR.	183	
4005	REP	MATT SHEA	313	
4006	REP	MARY ELLAN MOE	237	
4007	REP	LYLE JOHNSTON	86	
4008	REP	DENISE B. JOHNSON	110	
4009	REP	JACQUELINE B GRAMLOW	177	
4010	REP	CHRIS KNIGHT	161	
4011	REP	DAN CLARK	166	
4012	REP	JAMES ROBINSON	292	
4013	REP	NEAL DAVIS	188	
4014	REP	KEN WITHEY	78	
4015	REP	KEVIN STRAIN	272	
4016	REP	TIM CARSON	360	
4017	REP	JEFFREY H BAXTER	2	WRITE-IN
4018	REP	LISLE E. SWIFT	147	
4019	REP	LINDA C. FOREMAN	141	

# Spokane County Washington

## PCO WINNERS FOR AUGUST 19, 2008 ELECTION

PRECINCT	PARTY	NAME	VOTES	
4020	REP	LUCINDA N. MARSHALL	259	
4021	REP	BEVERLY POWELL	215	
4022	REP	MURIEL C TINGLEY	1	WRITE-IN
4024	REP	CAROL K. SNYDER	157	
4025	REP	A. MICHELE MAHER	153	
4026	REP	JOEL P. WHITE	118	
4027	REP	GEORGE CONRAD	158	
4028	REP	ROBERT CHASE	224	
4029	REP	BRIAN E GEHLEN	111	
4100	REP	PETER D RAYNER	1	WRITE-IN
4101	REP	BRANDON M. BLASBERG	40	
4200	REP	KATHLEEN RUTH EWART	55	
4300	REP	JARED D. EVANS	137	
4301	REP	JOHN KORONDY	452	
4401	REP	JOHN W. GOOD	228	
4402	REP	JEFF WHITESIDE	219	
4403	REP	LYNN Y. JACOBS	156	
4404	REP	SHAYNE L WING	1	WRITE-IN
4406	REP	JOSEPH A MCGRATH	274	
4408	REP	BILL GOTHMANN	166	
4409	REP	J. CRAIG MECHAM	262	
4410	REP	STEVE TAYLOR	345	
4411	REP	LEONARD CHRISTIAN	122	
4412	REP	LAUREL J. DURKEE	170	
4413	REP	STEVE LARSON	191	

# Spokane County Washington

## PCO WINNERS FOR AUGUST 19, 2008 ELECTION

PRECINCT	PARTY	NAME	VOTES	
4414	REP	BRYAN WADE	167	
4415	REP	JACQUELINE I EIDE	224	
4416	REP	MARGARET A JAMES	259	
4417	REP	RICHARD M. JAMISON	204	
4418	REP	CLAYTON S HOGSTROM	254	
4419	REP	NICK WISENOR	215	
4420	REP	KRISTIAN C HENRICKSON	141	
4421	REP	FRANKIE DEWITT	116	
4422	REP	SANDRA P BROWN	111	
4423	REP	PAUL W. PETERSON	281	
4424	REP	GRANT RODKEY	136	
4425	REP	TERRY HATCH	138	
4426	REP	JAN MUNSON	146	
4427	REP	JERRY GLEESING	156	
4428	REP	MARY POLLARD	235	
4429	REP	RAYMOND WARD	131	
4430	REP	SUE WILSON	137	
4432	REP	GEOF BERGLAND	213	
4433	REP	MOLLY C. GROSS	224	
4434	REP	JULIE JOHNSON	182	
4435	REP	KURT KOVICH	173	
4436	REP	GERALD J. QUINN, SR	289	
4437	REP	KENNETH B REHFELD	1	WRITE-IN
4438	REP	NEAL DAVIS	2	WRITE-IN
4439	REP	BRUCE FOREMAN	153	



# Spokane County Washington

## PCO WINNERS FOR AUGUST 19, 2008 ELECTION

PRECINCT	PARTY	NAME	VOTES	
4440	REP	MARK W. DURGIN	174	
4441	REP	ELLSWORTH D. FOREMAN	204	
6000	REP	STEVEN E. GRUBB	223	
6001	REP	SCOTT SENTENN	1	WRITE-IN
6002	REP	JOHN BAXTER	130	
6003	REP	JOSH KERNS	137	
6005	REP	DAVID NIBARGER	206	
6006	REP	GAYLE CORATIVO	149	
6008	REP	DONN TRAMPUSH	1	WRITE-IN
6009	REP	BILL GILCHRIST	159	
6010	REP	HAROLD W. (BUD) MALMSTEN	153	
6011	REP	CURTIS HOLLAWAY	1	WRITE-IN
6012	REP	JULIET F. CRUZ	129	
6014	REP	DWIGHT CALKINS	198	
6015	REP	KRIS E HANSEN	2	WRITE-IN
6016	REP	CHRISTOPHER FERRIS	2	WRITE-IN
6018	REP	ROBIN BALL	217	
6019	REP	RICHARD M. LELAND	179	
6020	REP	BRADLEY H. JOHNSON	184	
6022	REP	TEDD R. NEALEY	171	
6023	REP	JOSEPH D CADWALLADER	2	WRITE-IN
6024	REP	ROBERT W. CONDON	227	
6025	REP	MICHAEL N. MACAULAY	33	
6026	REP	GARY E BENNER	1	WRITE-IN
6027	REP	CAROL BINDER	134	

# Spokane County Washington

## PCO WINNERS FOR AUGUST 19, 2008 ELECTION

PRECINCT	PARTY	NAME	VOTES	
6028	REP	DAVID W PHILLIPS	1	WRITE-IN
6029	REP	JOSEPH JURKOVAC JR	190	
6030	REP	THOMAS TEMTE	173	
6031	REP	SHARON SILZEL	198	
6032	REP	JOHN F. CHRISTINA	177	
6033	REP	MATTHEW W. CUDNEY	178	
6034	REP	DENNIS THRASH	174	
6035	REP	SYLVIA MILLER	207	
6036	REP	ROBERT B. MURRAY	128	
6037	REP	CENDERELLA A. BASS	160	
6038	REP	FRED W. NEIDHOLD	123	
6039	REP	RICHARD L. WHITE	170	
6100	REP	MARIANNE LATHROP	165	
6101	REP	MARK W. BELL	306	
6102	REP	DAVID W. KELLER	258	
6103	REP	CURTIS FACKLER	210	
6104	REP	CARLA FORD	256	
6105	REP	GEORGE R. BAXTER	485	
6106	REP	W. PAUL MANLY	246	
6107	REP	GARY L RANNEY	1	WRITE-IN
6108	REP	LYN ALLEN	116	
6109	REP	MARJORIE J. ENGLAND	115	
6110	REP	CHARLOTTE M. KARLING	192	
6111	REP	JOEL CROSBY	110	
6112	REP	RICK HAFFNER	280	

# Spokane County Washington

## PCO WINNERS FOR AUGUST 19, 2008 ELECTION

PRECINCT	PARTY	NAME	VOTES	
6115	REP	HELEN F. TOWNSEND	81	
6116	REP	JUDY HARPER	533	
6117	REP	KATHY KRAMER	175	
6118	REP	CHARLES R. YOUNG	154	
6119	REP	RICHARD C WOOD	151	
6120	REP	JENNIFER SWISHER	170	
6121	REP	WAYNE MCMORRIS	103	
6122	REP	KEITH A. GLANZER	112	
6123	REP	DANIEL R. DAY	195	
6124	REP	EMILY SUE PIKE	75	
6126	REP	DALE DVERGSDAL	217	
6127	REP	BRIAN STEELE	120	
6128	REP	TAMMY FLEIGER	190	
6130	REP	MARIANNE GUENTHER	154	
6131	REP	DAVID STOREY	130	
6132	REP	JACK W. KENDALL	57	
6133	REP	GARY B. DANKS	257	
6135	REP	ROBERT CHADDUCK	167	
6136	REP	JOSEPHINE A. (JOANNE) MCCANN	204	
6137	REP	TIM GREENWOOD	203	
6138	REP	JOHN E. SONNELAND	237	
6139	REP	DONALD J. CROTEAU	150	
6140	REP	BLAIR STRONG	408	
6141	REP	HOWARD C. PETTIBONE	129	
6143	REP	JAMES DOUGLAS BRYANT	1	WRITE-IN

# Spokane County Washington

## PCO WINNERS FOR AUGUST 19, 2008 ELECTION

PRECINCT	PARTY	NAME	VOTES	
6144	REP	VIRGINIA L. WARREN	124	
6145	REP	DANIEL F FULTON	2	WRITE-IN
6146	REP	RYAN LEONARD	150	
6147	REP	LISA J. NIELSEN	204	
6148	REP	THOMAS G. JARRARD	80	
6149	REP	TODD REUTER	240	
6150	REP	CHARLES F SHANNON	2	WRITE-IN
6151	REP	LORI ANN D'ANDREA	382	
6400	REP	JOHN LADD	152	
7000	REP	JULIAN HALE	128	
7001	REP	SHEILA M. WHISLER	262	
7002	REP	RON OGLE	210	
7003	REP	DEAN H IDE	1	WRITE-IN
7005	REP	LORI A BLAU	148	
7006	REP	MARTIN J. LUNSFORD	120	
7007	REP	NANCY A. DIBLER	302	
7008	REP	LORRAINE RATTRAY	380	
7009	REP	RUSSELL J. ATCHISON	113	
7010	REP	H. KIM MANGIS	284	
7011	REP	RICK SINCLAIR	168	
7012	REP	ROBERT T WILSON	2	WRITE-IN
7100	REP	MATTHEW S. PEDERSON	217	
7101	REP	J. D. PERRY HENDERSON	60	
7300	REP	JEREMY HASTINGS	167	
7301	REP	JOSHUA B. GILSTRAP	175	

# Spokane County Washington

## PCO WINNERS FOR AUGUST 19, 2008 ELECTION

PRECINCT	PARTY	NAME	VOTES	
9001	REP	SUSAN A WILMOTH	1	WRITE-IN
9002	REP	MIKE R. MUMFORD	57	
9003	REP	KENT O. CLAUSEN	236	
9004	REP	JULIA ANN FAIRCHILD	208	
9005	REP	RUTH I. RYAN	257	
9006	REP	KEN MULLER	227	
9007	REP	SYRIE L. BARSNESS	378	
9008	REP	JEFF M. HOLY	176	
9009	REP	DENNIS W. LYBBERT	288	
9010	REP	SHANNON R. TOWN	208	
9012	REP	JON SCHAD	44	
9015	REP	PHYLLIS M. LAMB	295	
9017	REP	MICHAEL STEPPER	67	
9018	REP	CHRIS ECKMAN	89	
9019	REP	LAURA TOEPFER	2	WRITE-IN
9020	REP	MICHAEL J DANIELSON	2	WRITE-IN
9100	REP	KEN GUIDRY	322	
9101	REP	DON KENNEDY	186	
9201	REP	ENOCH LYBBERT	147	
9500	REP	KAYDEE GILKEY	108	
9600	REP	CAROL LEE (KELLY) CROCKETT	30	
9700	REP	MARLON R JAMISON	1	WRITE-IN





PRINTER-FRIENDLY FORMAT

Tacoma, WA - Thursday, October 23, 2008

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## Swing voters will decide state attorney general race

Attorney general race up for grabs

**RICHARD ROESLER; The Spokesman-Review**

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At a recent debate in front of a business group, Democrat John Ladenburg compared his record as a prosecutor to Attorney General Rob McKenna's. The state, he told the crowd, doesn't have time for "on the job training" of its highest law enforcement official.

"Ask yourself who you would hire, as a businessman," Ladenburg said. "A person with 26 years in the courtroom, or a person who has never tried a case in his life?"

McKenna chuckled, shook his head and turned to the crowd.

"I think John is the only person in Washington state who believes that being attorney general for four years isn't a qualification to run for attorney general in Washington state," he said.

The crowd laughed.

The moment was a portrait in miniature of the monthslong, \$1.5 million campaign: Ladenburg, a leader in Pierce County politics for years, throwing punches and McKenna seeming unscathed.

The two are vying to lead what is essentially the state's largest law firm, a stable of 550 government attorneys. Among their jobs: cracking down on scams and fraud, advising state agencies and officials, and taking on high-profile cases such as the vehicular homicide trial of Fred Russell and the continued confinement of Spokane rapist Kevin Coe.

After months of campaigning and nearly half a million dollars spent, polls and the August primary suggest that McKenna has a comfortable lead over his challenger. But Ladenburg's hoping that a surge of Democratic votes for Barack Obama will boost his numbers as well.

Many voters appear undecided. Independent pollster Stuart Elway said his most recent poll, in early September, showed 42 percent of likely voters supported McKenna, 29 percent Ladenburg, and 29 percent undecided.

"That hadn't changed since July," Elway said. "The state is running pretty blue, so let's see what happens. But that's a lot of ground (for Ladenburg) to make up."

McKenna, a former corporate attorney and King County councilman, was elected attorney general in 2004. He's pushed for tighter restrictions on sex offenders, tougher laws against methamphetamine, and to open more government records to the public. He's persuaded lawmakers to improve some protections against identity theft and scammers preying on families facing foreclosure. And he's fostered a computer crime unit that goes after Internet con artists and spammers.

In his first term, he argued two cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, including one to uphold the new "top-two" primary. He won both cases.

Ladenburg, however, maintains that McKenna is largely a paper tiger, producing task forces and press releases instead of

really going to bat as an advocate for Washingtonians.

“You can do this job as the people’s lawyer,” he said.

He mocked McKenna for organizing shred-your-old-records days with volunteer shredding trucks as part of a campaign against identity theft.

“Totally worthless to people,” Ladenburg said. “Everybody in this state knew that 20 years ago.”

He criticized McKenna for a monthslong investigation into gasoline prices that resulted in no subpoenas. The result was a mere study that revealed little, Ladenburg said. And he said the state still ranks high in identity theft, despite years of McKenna touting it as a key issue.

“Look for results,” Ladenburg said.

As Pierce County’s prosecutor for 14 years and Pierce County executive for seven, Ladenburg said, he has the experience to be a far more effective attorney general. He’s run a business, handled all manner of cases, and spent years battling in courtrooms.

“You can’t name a function in that office that I haven’t personally done,” he said of the agency’s duties.

As prosecutor, he helped write tougher laws against drug dealing and gang violence. He pioneered sex-predator notifications and the state’s “three-strikes” law, and he helped rewrite the state’s sex-predator laws.

As attorney general, Ladenburg said, he’d be an “activist attorney” who would get answers and results.

McKenna said that on his watch, meth lab problems have dropped steeply, although he noted that the county with the worst meth problem is the one Ladenburg runs.

“I say, yeah, let’s look at results,” Mc-Kenna said.

If re-elected, McKenna said, he will expand the fight to include prescription drug abuse. He said he’ll propose legislation to better protect vulnerable adults, as well as a domestic violence overhaul aimed at making sure serial abusers serve jail time.

The candidates

### **John Ladenburg**

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**Occupation:** Pierce County executive

### **Rob McKenna**

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**Occupation:** Attorney general

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