

2024 Special Election Report

The 2024 electorate, Special Election results, and a preview of the 2024 General Election

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Summary

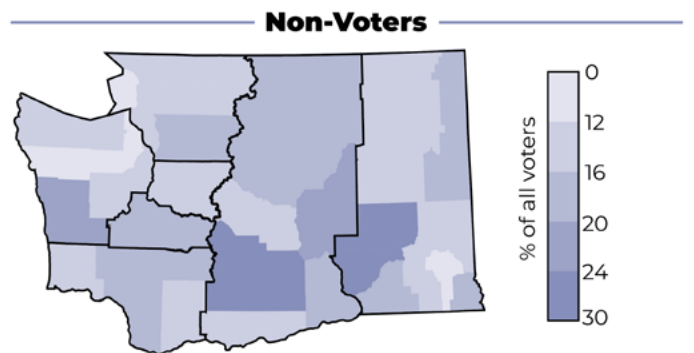
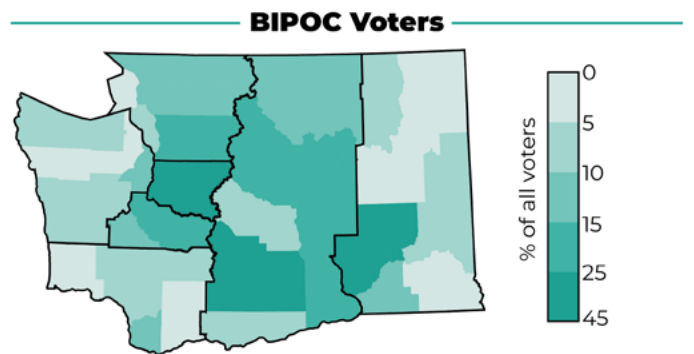
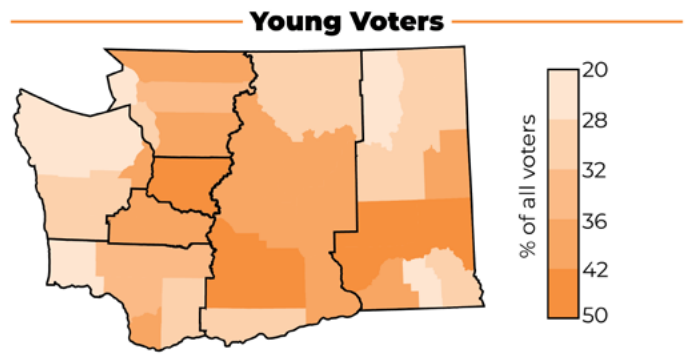
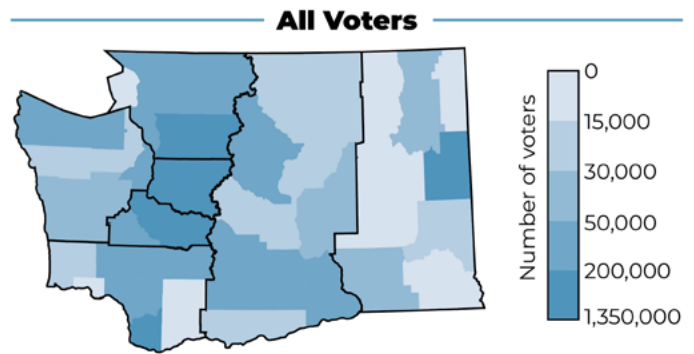
2024 has been a busy year already in Washington State. In the February and April Special Elections, voters approved 207 school levies and passed a minimum wage increase in Renton, and in the March Presidential Primary voters voiced their support (and opposition) for the presumptive Democratic and Republican nominees for the U.S. president. This fall, voters will make some critical decisions that will influence the future of Washington State. In addition to high-stakes federal races – including Washington's delegates for President, a U.S. Senate seat currently held by Sen. Maria Cantwell, and all ten U.S. Representatives – all statewide executive positions, all 98 State Representative positions, and 26 State Senate seats are up for election, leaving control of the state legislature up for grabs. Voters will also weigh in on at least three statewide initiatives that seek to roll back policies related to the climate, healthcare, and progressive taxation. The outcome of these initiatives in particular will largely depend on who turns out to vote in November. While young voters and voters of color make up the fastest growing segments of the electorate and largely support progressive policies, turnout of older, White voters remains disproportionately higher, giving these voters an oversized influence over electoral outcomes.

Washington's Electorate

As of April 30th, 2024, there were 5,153,854 registered voters in Washington state, including 4,725,120 “active” voters and 428,734 “inactive” voters. Washington’s electorate is steadily growing: since 2020, 600,000 people have registered to vote for the first time in Washington (“new voters”). These new voters are predominantly concentrated around the Puget Sound, with additional density in Clark, Spokane, Benton, and Yakima counties. New voters of color are most densely located in King, Pierce, Snohomish, Clark, and Yakima counties, while new young voters are most densely located in King, Pierce, Snohomish, Clark, and Spokane counties. Overall, Washington’s electorate remains dominated by older White voters, though trends in voter registration indicate steady diversification, both in terms of age and race.

Young Voters & Voters of Color

The median age of all voters in Washington State is 49 years old, with Baby Boomers (60-78 years old) accounting for the largest slice of the electorate (>28%). GenZ and Millennials (18-42 years old) make up more than 70%



Distribution of Washington’s electorate by County. Maps show the density of all voters, young voters (GenZ or Millennials), BIPOC voters (AAPI, Black, Hispanic, or Native American), and non-voters (have not voted since at least 2020) throughout the state.

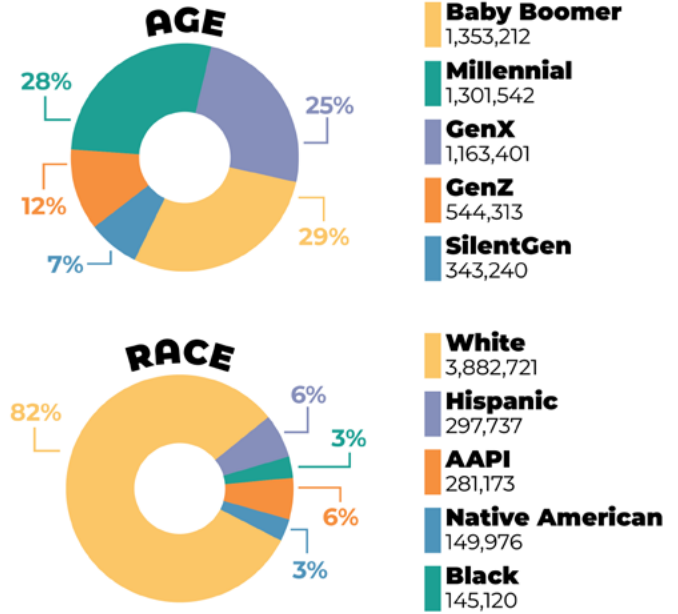
of new voters in the state, and those generations now account for more than 40% of the electorate. These young voters now make up large segments of the electorates in Franklin (50%), Whitman (45%), Adams (44%), King (43%), Yakima (42%), Benton (41%), Pierce (41%), Spokane (41%),

Whatcom (41%), Snohomish (41%), Grant (40%), and Clark (40%) counties, but much smaller slices of the electorates in Ferry (24%), Wahkiakum (24%), Pacific (23%), San Juan (23%), and Jefferson (21%) counties. Washington's young voters are far more racially diverse than the rest of the electorate: voters of color make up 26% of young voters (6.8% AAPI, 4.3% Black, 10.3% Hispanic, 4.4% Native American), but only 13% of voters 42 and older (5.4% AAPI, 2.2% Black, 3.6% Hispanic, 2.3% Native American).

Washington's electorate is currently 82% White, with people of color making up less than one-fifth of the overall electorate (6% Hispanic, 6% AAPI, 3% Black, 3% Native American). Relative to the overall electorate, however, people of color make up a much larger share of Washington's new voters: 43% of new voters are people of color, including 95,435 new Hispanic voters; 82,305 new AAPI voters; 42,016 new Native American voters; and 41,753 new Black voters. Hispanic voters are the fastest growing slice of Washington's electorate, with a nearly 50% increase in voter registrations in the past four years (189,406 voters in 2020 compared to 284,841 voters in 2024). Voters of color make up more than one-fifth of the electorates in Adams (43%), Franklin (41%), Yakima (37%), King (28%), Grant (22%), and Pierce (21%) counties, but <4% of the electorates in Columbia, Wahkiakum, San Juan, Jefferson, Stevens, Skamania, Asotin, Pend Oreille, Lincoln, and Garfield counties.

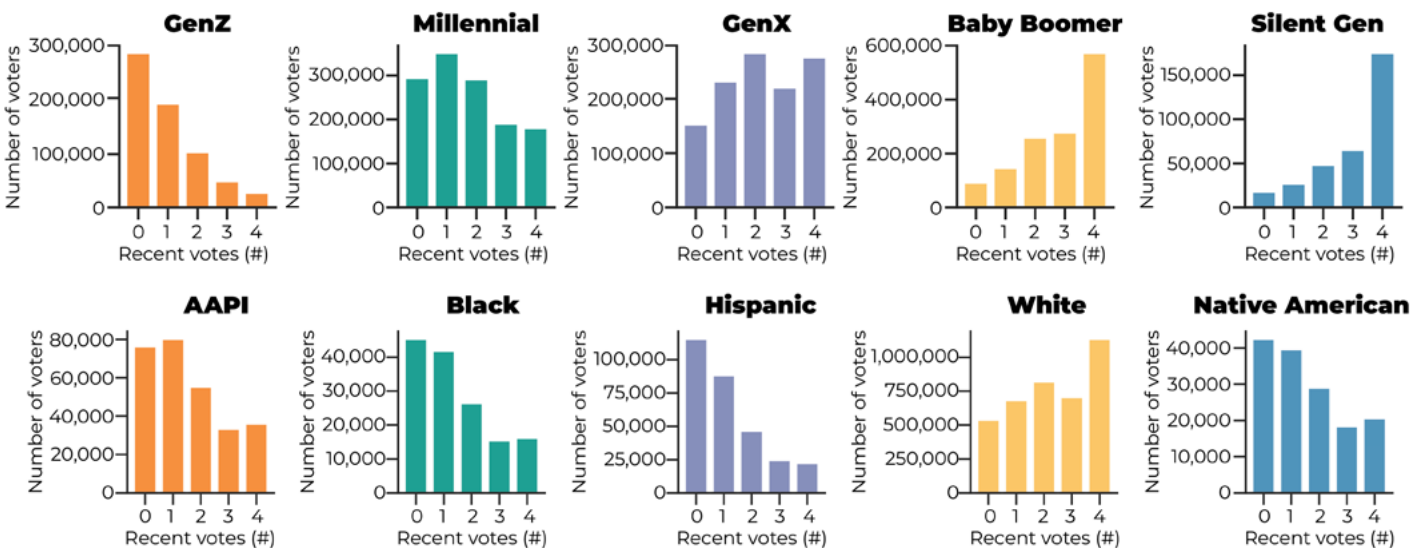
Voting History

Although young voters and voters of color are the fastest

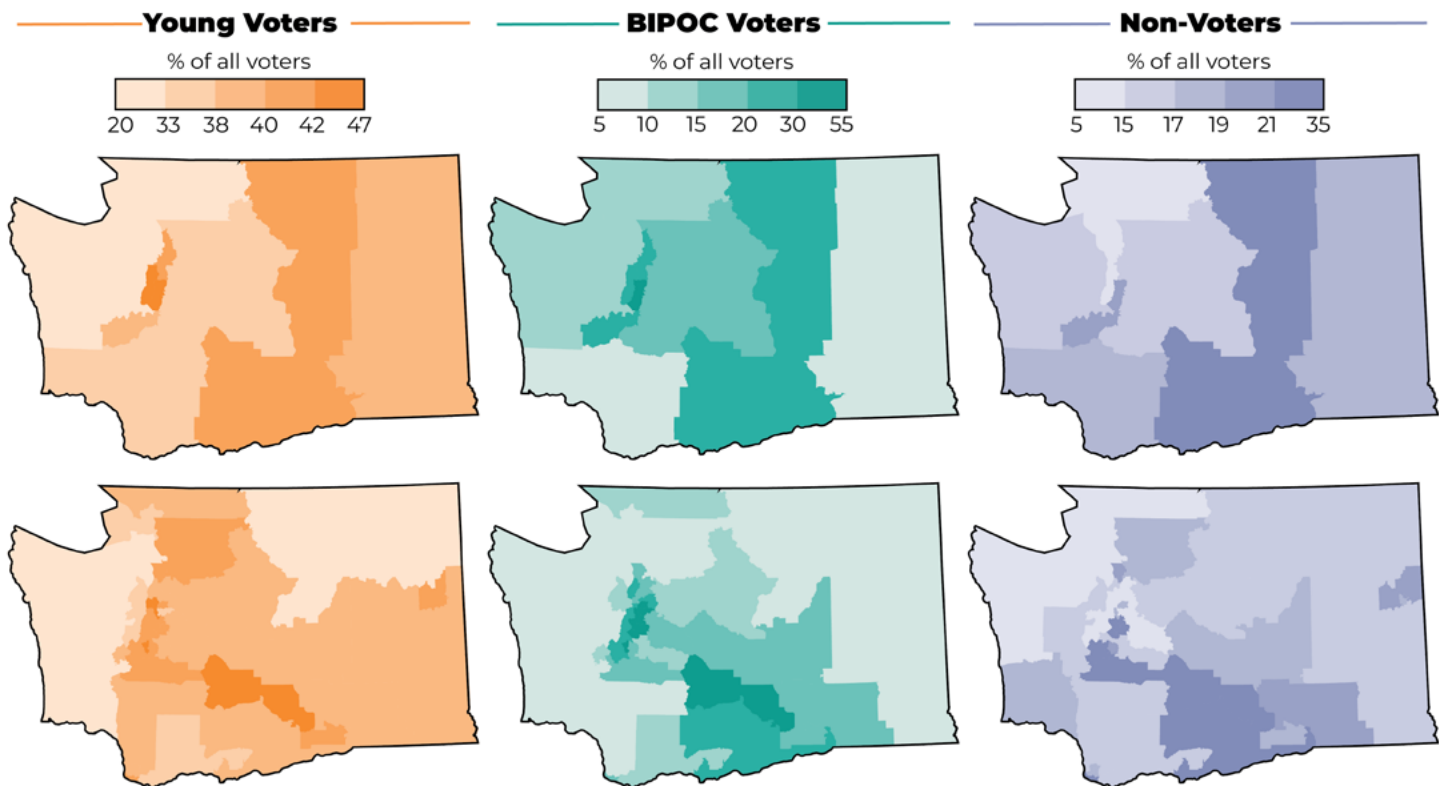


Demographics of Washington's electorate. Charts show the relative composition of Washington's electorate by age and race.

growing segments of the electorate, these voters have yet to emerge as a reliable voting bloc. More than 26% of the electorate has voted in all four recent General Elections (2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023), 17% have voted three times, 21% voted twice, 20% voted just once, and 17% did not vote a single time. This breakdown is starkly different across age and racial groups. In the past four elections, 73% of GenZ voters and 50% of Millennials voted zero or one time, while 63% of Baby Boomers and 72% of SilentGen voters voted at least three times. Similarly, 56% of AAPI voters,



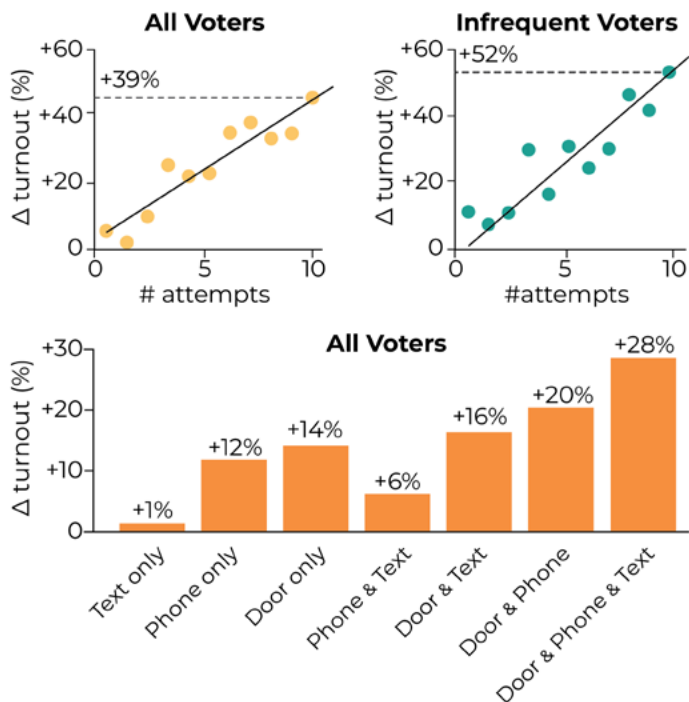
Voting frequency in Washington's electorate by age and race. Bars show the total number of voters by (top) age or (bottom) race, grouped by total number of votes in recent General Elections (2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023). The majority of young voters (GenZ, Millennial) and voters of color (AAPI, Black, Hispanic, Native American) have voted once or none, while the majority of older voters (Baby Boomer, SilentGen) and White voters have voted in every election.



Density of young, BIPOC, and non-voters by district. Maps show the relative density of young voters, BIPOC voters, and non-voters across (top) congressional districts and (bottom) legislative districts. See page 17 for district numbers.

60% of Black voters, 69% of Hispanic voters, and 55% of Native American voters voted zero or one time, while 47% of White voters voted at least three times.

In five of Washington's ten congressional districts – CD1, CD7, CD9, and CD10 in the Puget Sound and CD4 in Central Washington – young voters account for >40% of the electorate and voters of color account for >20% of the electorate. Not coincidentally, three of these districts – CD9, CD10, and CD4 – also have the largest density of non-voters: voters who have not voted since at least 2020. In CD4, young voters and Hispanic voters make up 41% and 22% of the electorate, respectively, yet the segment of the electorate who has voted in each of the previous four general elections is 97% White with a median age of 67 years old. A similar disparity is found in legislative districts in the South Sound and Yakima Valley – for example, in LD11, LD14, LD15, LD29, LD30, LD33 and LD47 – older, White voters' votes disproportionately impact electoral outcomes, despite these areas having increasingly diverse electorates. Intentional and sustained outreach from trusted, nonpartisan community-based organizations is known to boost participation among these groups of voters in particular. This outreach has the potential to convert these infrequent voters into a reliable voting bloc that ultimately could reshape Washington's voting electorate into one that is truly representative of our diverse communities.



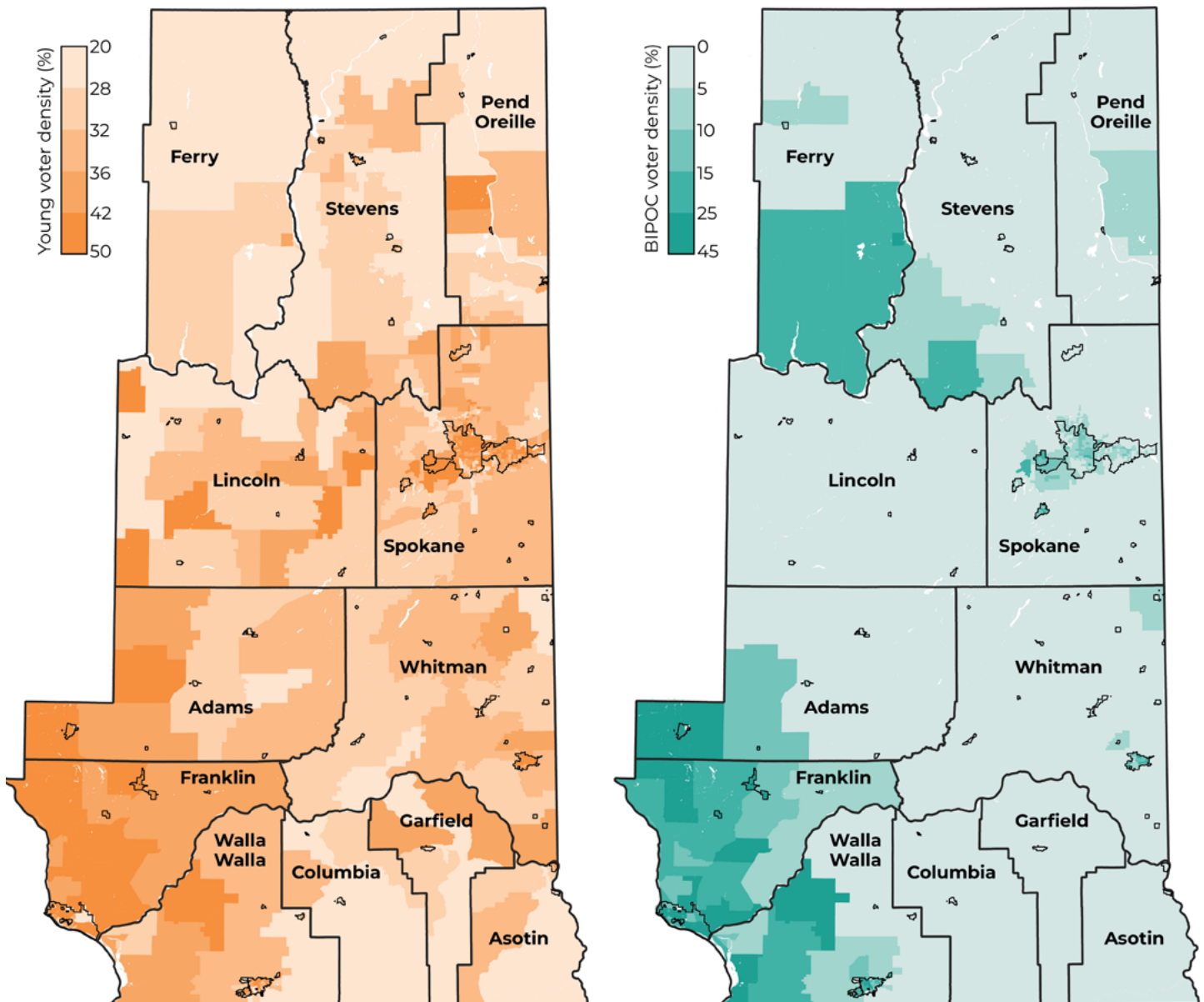
Voter outreach boosts turnout, particularly among infrequent voters. (Top) Relative increase in turnout based on number of contact attempts among (left) all voters and (right) infrequent voters (voted 0-1 times since 2020). (Bottom) Relative impact on turnout by different outreach methods. Data from WCA Data Hub partner outreach in the 2023 General Election. Δ turnout = change in turnout, relative to voters who received no outreach.

Eastern Washington

Eastern Washington is one of the largest regions geographically and has the fourth largest electorate in the state with 548,028 voters. Spokane County has the largest electorate in the region with 359,996 voters, followed distantly by Franklin (43,444), Walla Walla (36,728), Stevens (34,227), Whitman (22,615), Asotin (14,510), Pend Oreille (10,634), Lincoln (8,333), Adams (7,922), Ferry (5,135), Columbia (2,856), and Garfield (1,628). Eastern Washington's electorate is relatively evenly divided based on their voting behavior: of the four recent General Elections, 27% voted in all four, 17% voted three times, 18% voted twice, 19% voted once, and 19% did not vote at all.

Young voters make up nearly 40% of the electorate in Eastern Washington, with the highest density in Franklin

(50%), Whitman (45%), Adams (44%), and Spokane (41%) counties. At the municipal level, Pullman has the youngest electorate in the region (56% young voters), followed by Airway Heights (53%), Pasco (51%), and Spokane (43%). Eastern Washington's electorate is the second least racially diverse in the state, with voters of color making up just 9.4% of the total electorate (6.1% Hispanic, 1.6% Native American, 0.9% Black, 0.8% AAPI). Hispanic voters make up large segments of the electorate in Adams (43%) and Franklin (41%) counties, and a modest segment of the electorate in Walla Walla county (13%); otherwise, voters of color make up <8% of the electorate in each county. Pasco is the only city in Eastern Washington with a sizable Hispanic population (44%).



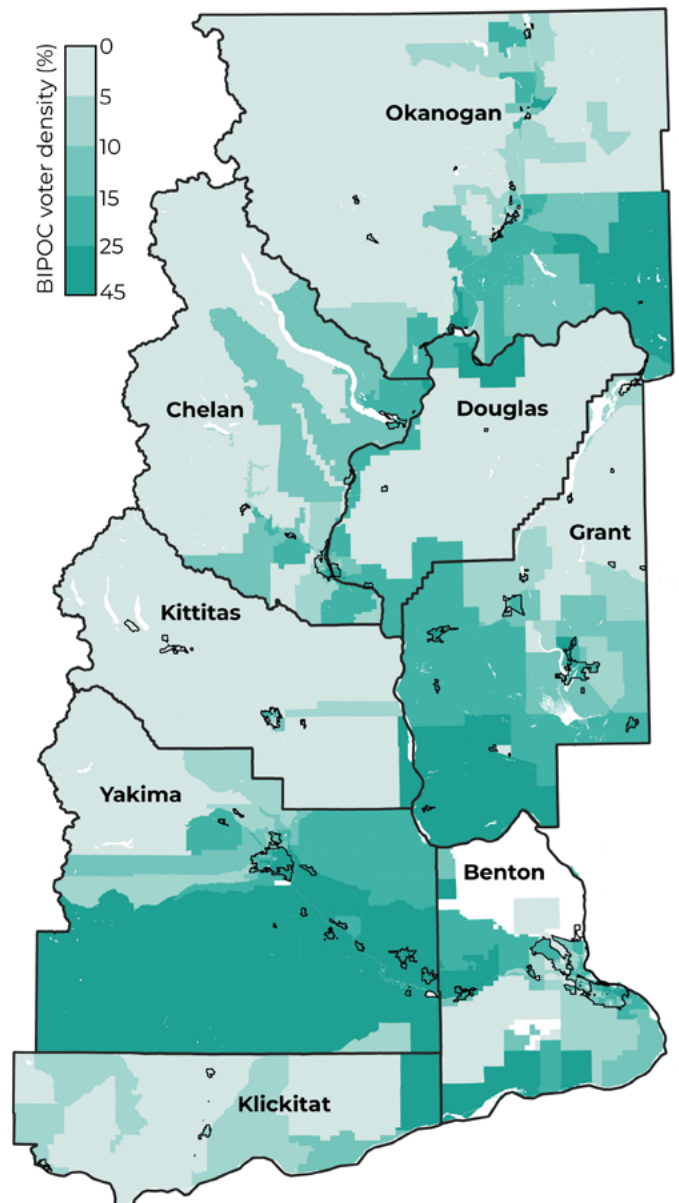
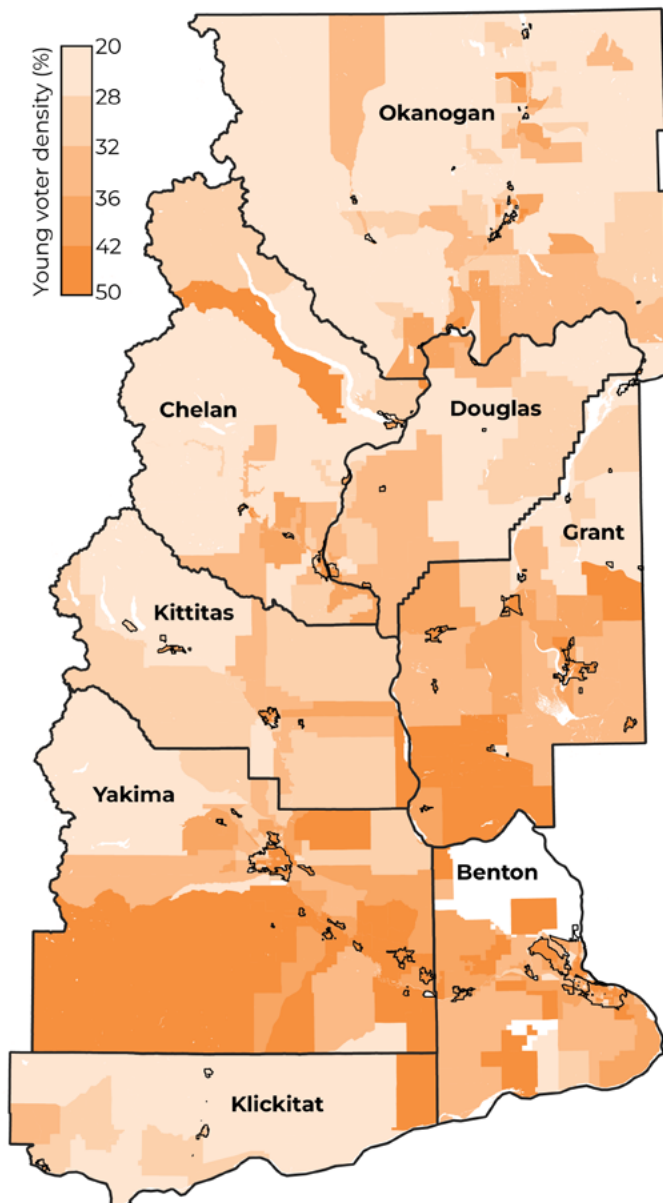
Density of young voters and voters of color in Eastern Washington. Maps show precinct-level density of (left) young voters and (right) voters of color throughout the region. Dark outlines = county lines, light outlines = municipal lines.

Central Washington

Central Washington is the other largest region geographically and has the second smallest electorate in the state with 446,363 voters. Yakima and Benton counties have the largest electorates in the region (126,262 and 124,712 voters, respectively), followed by Chelan (51,046), Grant (47,341), Kittitas (29,462), Douglas (26,515), Okanogan (25,492), and Klickitat (15,533) counties. Central Washington's electorate is relatively divided based on their voting behavior: of the four recent General Elections, 24% voted in all four, 16% voted three times, 19% voted twice, 20% voted once, and 21% did not vote a single time.

Young voters make up 39% of the electorate in Central Washington, with the highest density in Yakima (42%),

Benton (41%), Grant (40%), and Douglas (38%) counties. At the municipal level, Toppenish has the youngest electorate in the region (55% young voters), followed by Sunnyside (55%), Grandview (54%), and Quincy (53%). Central Washington's electorate is the second most racially diverse in the state, with voters of color making up 21.4% of the total electorate (18% Hispanic, 2.4% Native American, <1% Black, <1% AAPI). Hispanic voters make up a large segment of the electorate in Yakima County (37%) and a modest segment of the electorate in Grant (22%), Douglas (19%), Chelan (16%), and Benton (16%) counties. Hispanic voters make up the majority of the electorate in Toppenish (88%), Wapato (86%), Sunnyside (75%), Grandview (72%), and Quincy (52%).

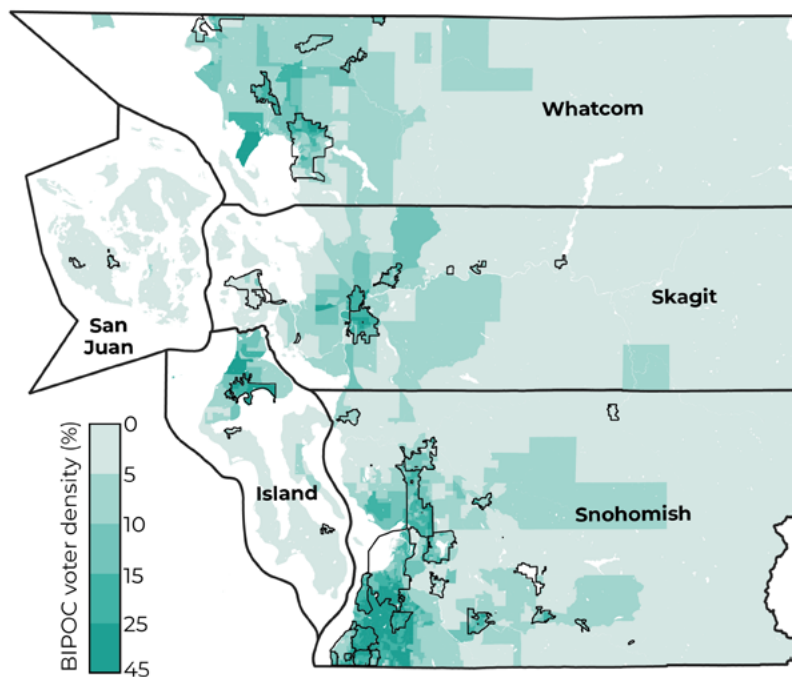
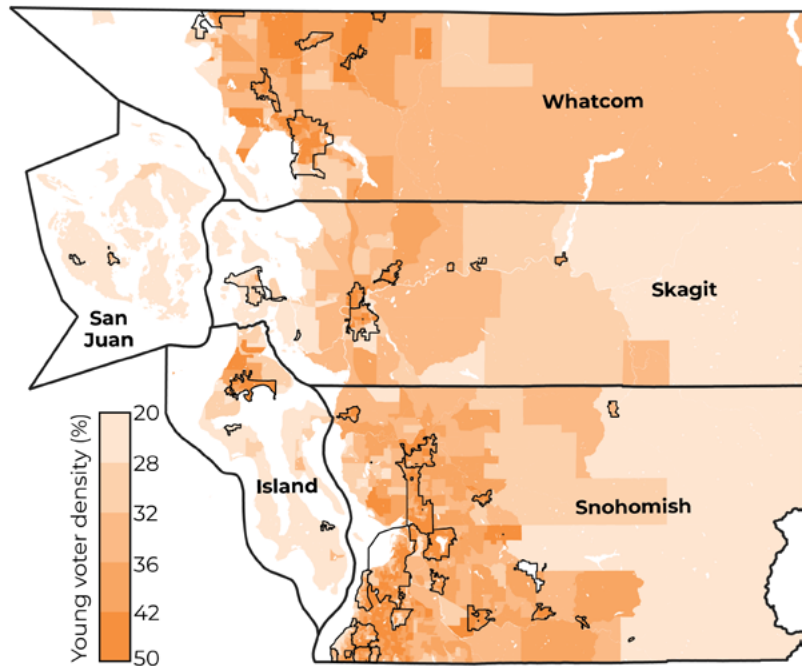


Density of young voters and voters of color in Central Washington. Maps show precinct-level density of (left) young voters and (right) voters of color throughout the region. Dark outlines = county lines, light outlines = municipal lines.

Northwest Washington

Northwest Washington has the second largest electorate in the state with 823,662 voters. Snohomish County has the largest electorate in the region (504,839 voters), followed by Whatcom (158,309), Skagit (84,875), Island (61,095) and San Juan (14,544) counties. Northwest Washington's electorate is a relatively reliable segment of the electorate: of the four recent General Elections, 28% voted in all four, 17% voted three times, 21% voted twice, 19% voted once, and just 15% did not vote at all.

Young voters make up 39% of the electorate in Northwest Washington, with high numbers in Whatcom (41%), Snohomish (40%), and Skagit (34%) counties and modest numbers in Island (29%) and San Juan (23%) counties. At the municipal level, Bellingham has the youngest electorate in the region (46% young voters), followed by Oak Harbor (46%), Burlington (45%), Marysville (44%), and Everett (43%). Voters of color make up just 15.3% of the electorate in Northwest Washington (5.6% AAPI, 5.2% Hispanic, 2.8% Native American, 1.7% Black). Voters of color make up 19% of the electorate in Snohomish County, 11% of the electorate in Skagit and Whatcom counties, and <10% of the electorate in Island and San Juan counties. At the municipal level, Lynnwood is the most racially diverse city in the region (32% voters of color), followed by Mukilteo (25%), Oak Harbor (23%), Burlington (23%), Everett (23%), Bothell (22%), and Mount Vernon (22%).

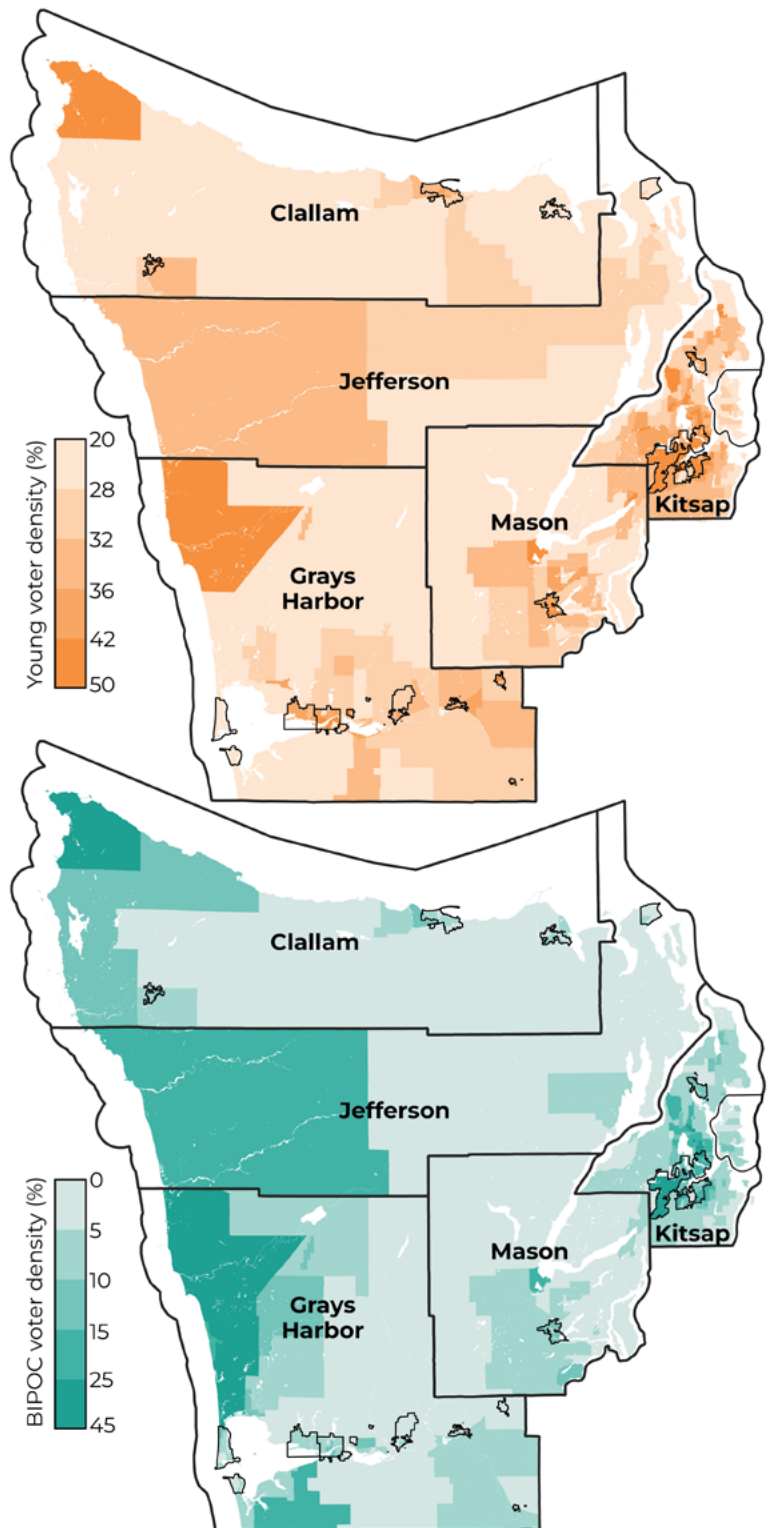


Density of young voters and voters of color in Northwest Washington. Maps show precinct-level density of (top) young voters and (bottom) voters of color throughout the region. Dark outlines = county lines, light outlines = municipal lines. The far eastern ends of Whatcom, Skagit, and Snohomish have been cropped to improve readability.

Olympic Peninsula

The Olympic Peninsula has the smallest electorate in the state with just 362,104 voters. Kitsap County alone has more than half of the total electorate in the region (186,077 voters), followed distantly by Clallam (56,599), Grays Harbor (48,168), Mason (44,012), and Jefferson (27,248) counties. The Olympic Peninsula's electorate is the most reliable in the state: of the four recent General Elections, 28% voted in all four, 19% voted three times, 21% voted twice, 18% voted once, and just 14% did not vote a single time.

The Olympic Peninsula has the oldest electorate in the state (median age = 56 years old), with young voters making up just 32% of the electorate. At the county level, young voters make up 37% of the electorate in Kitsap, 31% in Grays Harbor, 29% in Mason, 26% in Clallam, and 21% in Jefferson. At the municipal level, Bremerton has the youngest electorate in the region (47% young voters), followed by Port Orchard (43%), Aberdeen (39%), Oakville (38%), Forks (37%), Poulsbo (36%), and Port Angeles (35%). Voters of color make up just 8.6% of the electorate in the Olympic Peninsula (3.2% Hispanic, 2.9% Native American, 1.4% AAPI, 1.1% Black). Voters of color make up 12% of the electorate in Kitsap County, and <8% in all other counties in the region. At the municipal level, Bremerton is the most racially diverse city in the region (18% voters of color), followed by Port Orchard (15%), Poulsbo (11%), and Forks (10%).

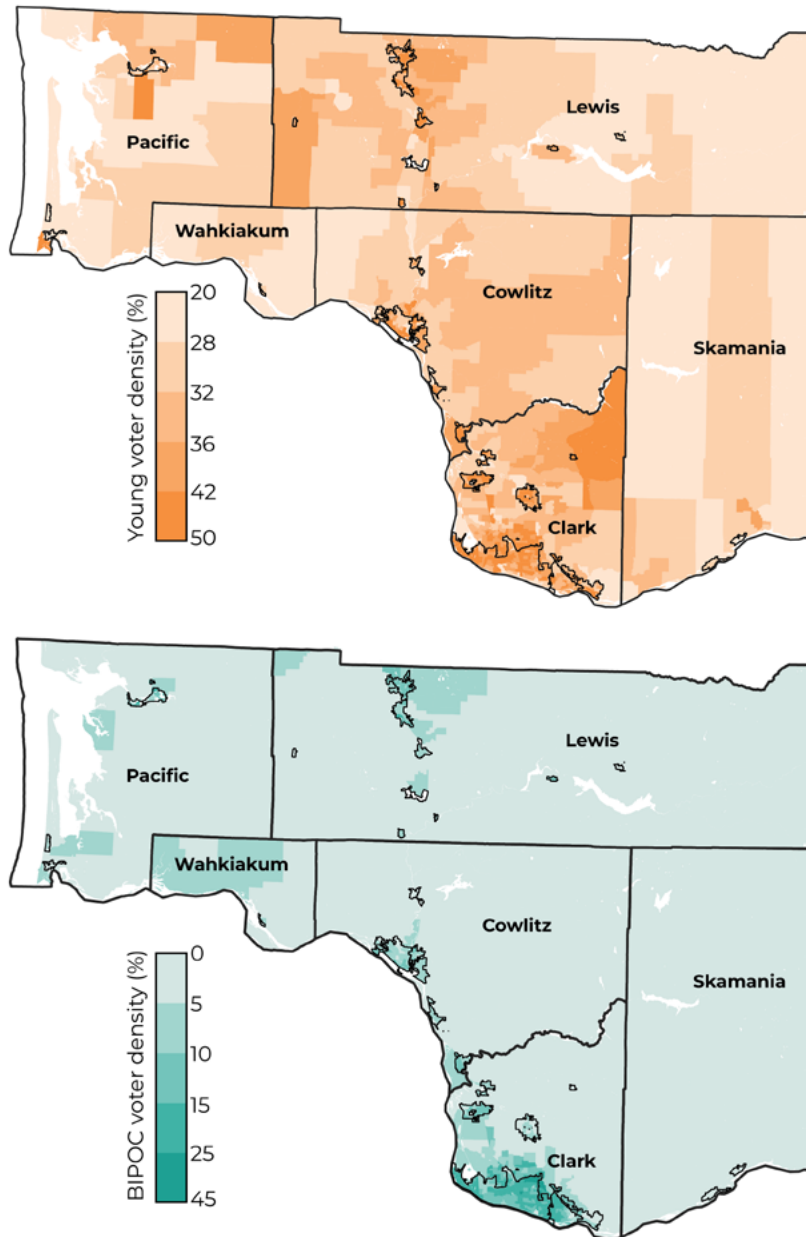


Density of young voters and voters of color in the Olympic Peninsula. Maps show precinct-level density of (top) young voters and (bottom) voters of color throughout the region. Dark outlines = county lines, light outlines = municipal lines.

Southwest Washington

Southwest Washington has the third smallest electorate in the state with 482,771 voters. More than two-thirds of the region's electorate are located in Clark County (327,326 voters), with the rest spread between Cowlitz (71,830), Lewis (54,571), Pacific (16,708), Skamania (8,879), and Wahkiakum (3,457) counties. Of the four recent General Elections, 20% voted in all four, 18% voted three times, 24% voted twice, 20% voted once, and 18% did not vote at all.

Young voters make up 37% of the electorate in Southwest Washington, with high numbers in Clark (39%), Cowlitz (35%), and Lewis (34%) counties and modest numbers in Skamania (30%), Wahkiakum (24%), and Pacific (23%) counties. At the municipal level, Centralia, Woodland, and Battle Ground have the youngest electorates in the region (43% young voters), followed by Vancouver (41%). Voters of color make up just 9.5% of the electorate in Southwest Washington (4.1% Hispanic, 2.4% AAPI, 2% Native American, 1% Black). Voters of color make up 11% of the electorate in Clark County and <6% of the electorate in all other counties. At the municipal level, Vancouver is the most racially diverse city in the region (16% voters of color), followed by South Bend (15%), Camas (14%), and Centralia (11%).

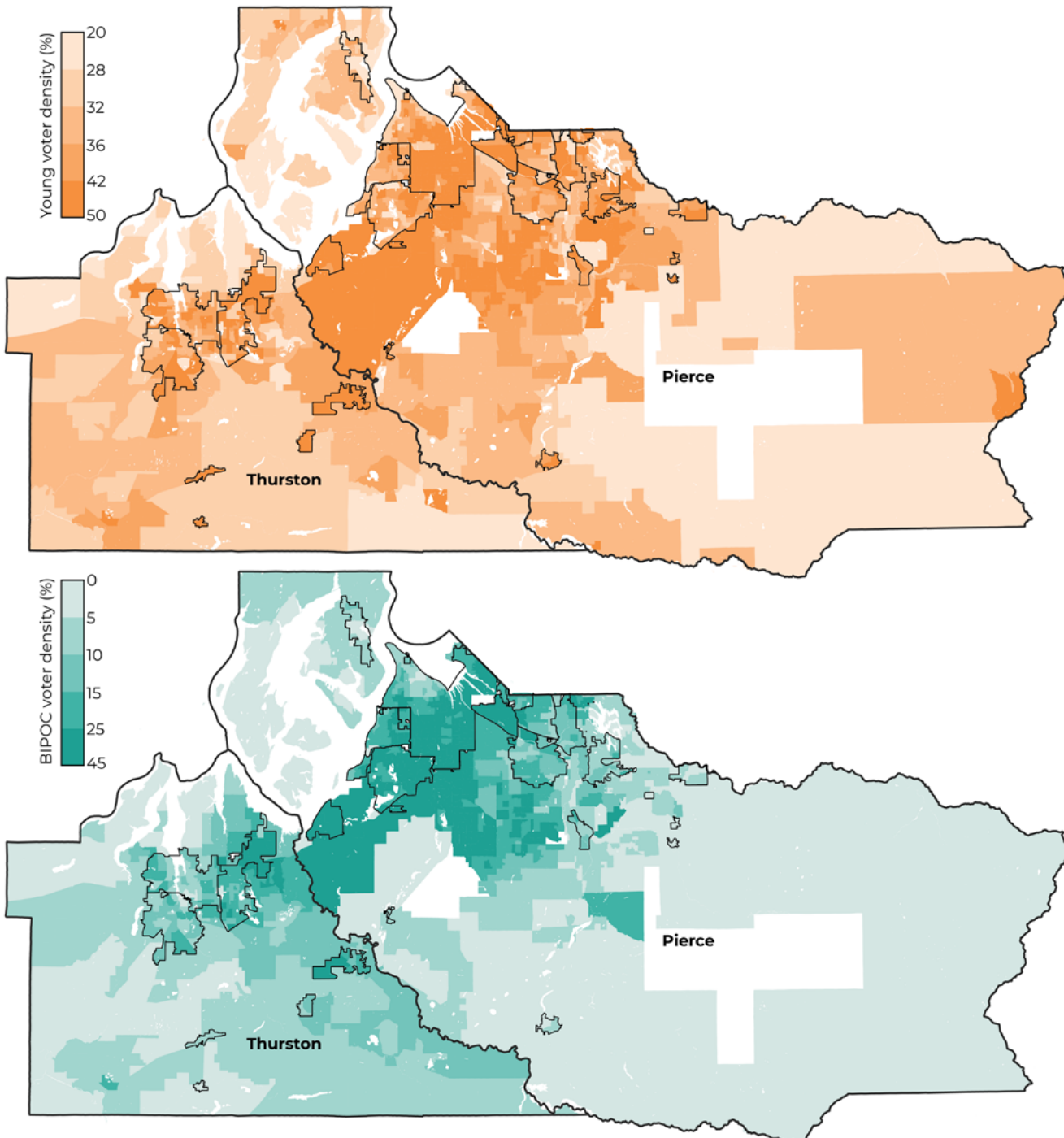


Density of young voters and voters of color in Southwest Washington. Maps show precinct-level density of (top) young voters and (bottom) voters of color throughout the region. Dark outlines = county lines, light outlines = municipal lines. The far eastern edges of Lewis and Skamania have been cropped to improve readability.

The South Puget Sound

The South Sound has the third largest electorate in the state with 741,279 voters, with three-quarters in Pierce County (546,004) and one-quarter in Thurston County (195,275). Of the four recent General Elections, 21% voted in all four, 15% voted three times, 22% voted twice, 22% voted once, and 20% did not vote at all. Young voters make up 40% of the electorate in the South Sound, including 41% in Pierce and 38% in Thurston. At the municipal level, Yelm has the youngest electorate in the region (54% young

voters), followed by Carbonado (50%), Fife (49%), Orting (46%), Rainier (45%), Buckley (44%), Tacoma (43%), Auburn (43%), and Eatonville (42%). Voters of color make up 19.2% of the electorate in the South Sound (5.5% Hispanic, 5.3% Black, 4.3% AAPI, 4.1% Native American), including 21% in Pierce and 14% in Thurston. At the municipal level, Fife is the most racially diverse city in the region (42% voters of color), followed by Lakewood (35%), Dupont (33%), Auburn (28%), and Tacoma (27%).



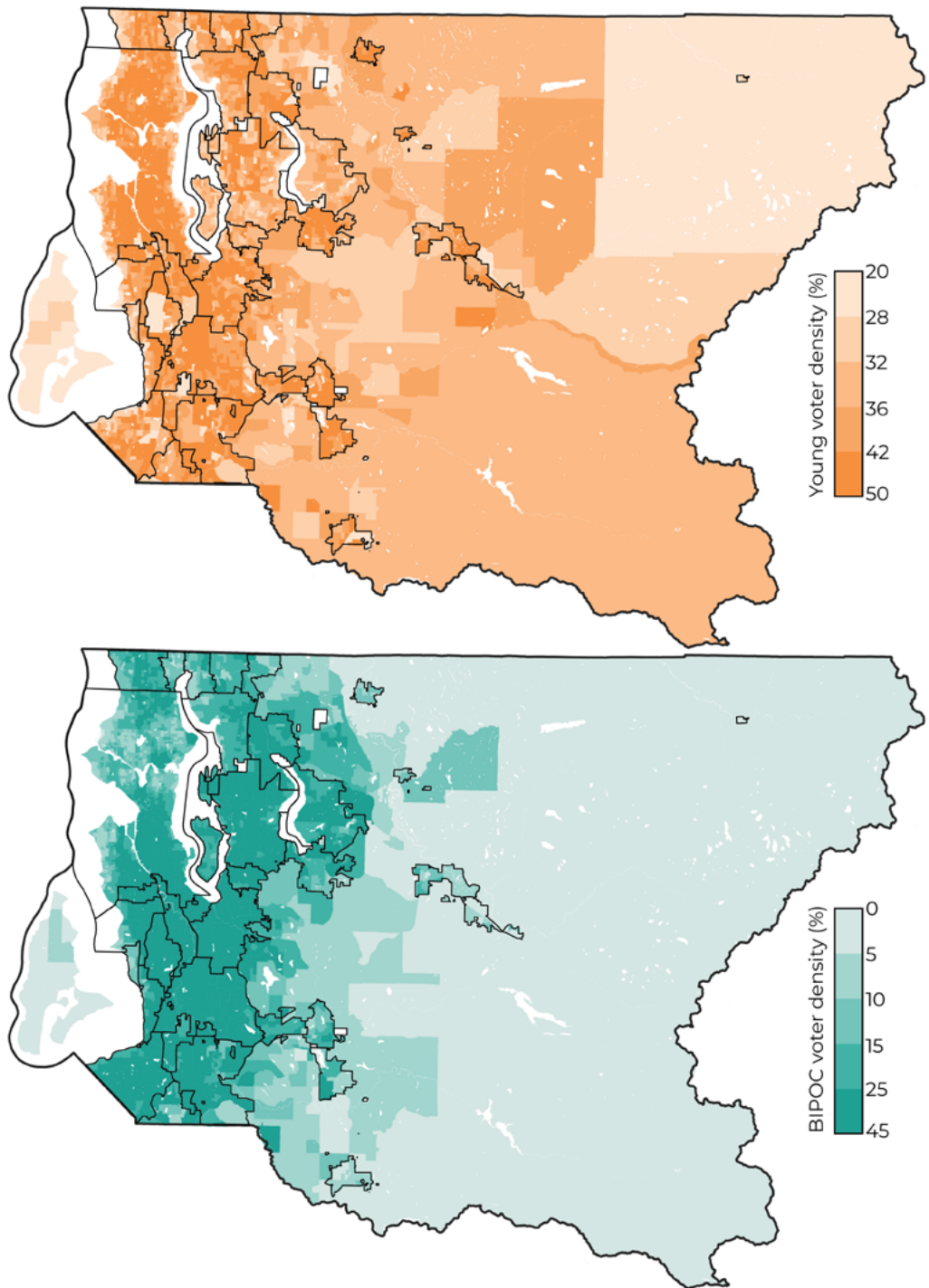
Density of young voters and voters of color in the South Puget Sound. Maps show precinct-level density of (top) young voters and (bottom) voters of color throughout the region. Dark outlines = county lines, light outlines = municipal lines.

King County

King County has the largest electorate, with 29% of all voters in the state (1,352,144). Of the four recent General Elections, 28% of King County's electorate voted in all four, 17% voted three times, 20% voted twice, 19% voted once, and 16% did not vote a single time.

Young voters make up 43% of the electorate in King County, with the highest density in Seattle (49%), Redmond (45%), Covington (45%), Algona (44%), Pacific (44%), Duvall (44%), Renton (44%), Kent (43%), Tukwila (43%), Maple Valley (42%), Auburn (42%), SeaTac (42%), Snoqualmie (42%), and Bothell (41%).

Voters of color make up 28.2% of the electorate in King County (13.3% AAPI, 5.6% Black, 5.2% Hispanic, 4.2% Native American), with the most racially diverse electorates in Tukwila (61%), SeaTac (57%), Kent (47%), Renton (47%), and Federal Way (43%). The largest density of AAPI voters is in Seattle (49,016), Bellevue (21,162), Kent (14,141), and Renton (12,944); the largest density of Black voters is in Seattle (26,195), Kent (7,704), Federal Way (6,391), and Renton (6,200); the largest density of Hispanic voters is in Seattle (19,690), Kent (6,038), Federal Way (5,242), and Renton (4,213); and the largest density of Native Americans is in Seattle (18,583), Kent (4,382), Renton (3,517), Federal Way (3,305), and Bellevue (3,138).



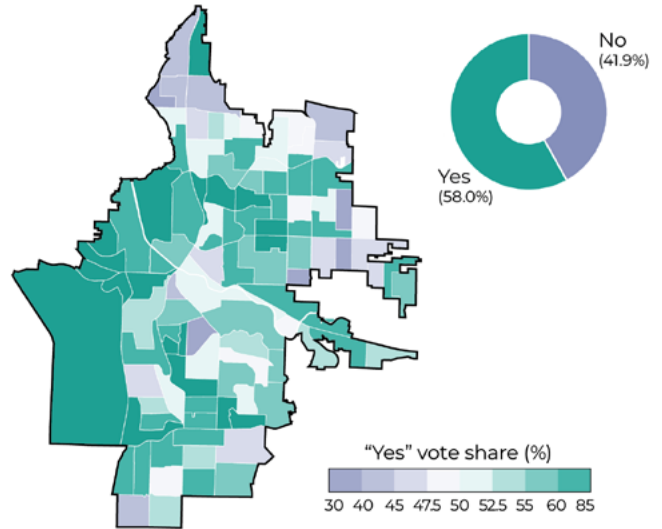
Density of young voters and voters of color in King County. Maps show precinct-level density of (top) young voters and (bottom) voters of color throughout the region. Dark outline = county lines, light outlines = municipal lines.

Special Election Results

February Special Election

The 2024 February Special Election included a number of school and fire district levies and bonds, as well as a handful of municipal initiatives. 2,194,081 Washington voters were eligible to vote in the February election, and 744,725 voters returned their ballots (33.9% of voters). The vast majority of voters who participated in this election were frequent voters – 74% voted in the 2023 General Election, and 91% voted in both the 2020 and 2022 General Elections – and these voters were overwhelmingly White (93%) and older (median age = 62 years old), which is fairly typical for a special election. 92% of school levies – which require 50% of the vote to pass – were approved by voters (193 of 207); however, zero school bonds – which require 60% of the vote to pass – were approved by voters (0 of 5). All six citywide initiatives – including those in Electric

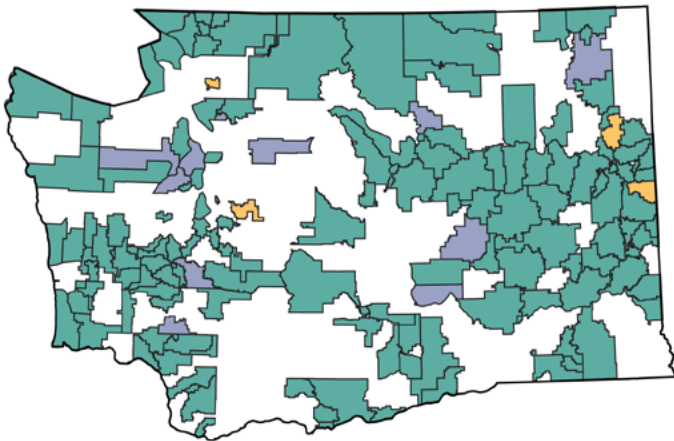
Renton Measure 2 Results



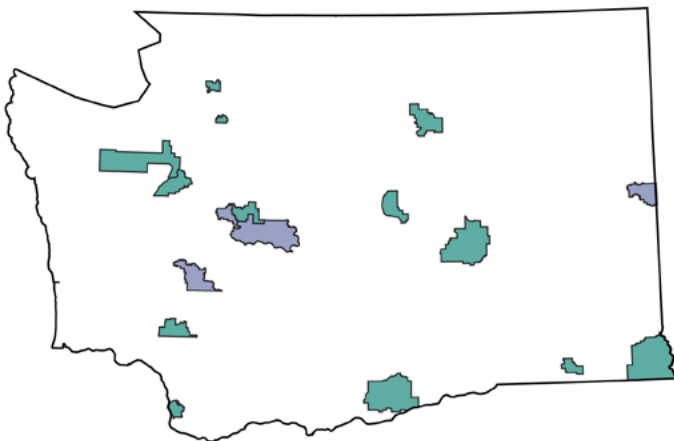
Renton Measure 2 results. Map shows the precinct level results for Renton's initiative to raise the minimum wage.

City, Fairfield, Marysville, Renton, and Spokane – were approved by voters with >57% of the vote in each. Perhaps most consequentially, voters in Renton passed Measure 2 by a 58% to 42% margin, which will raise the minimum wage to levels comparable to other cities in the Puget Sound. Turnout in Renton was far more diverse than in other parts of the state: voters of color cast more than 30% of all ballots, and the median age of people who voted was 48 years old. This is in accordance with other recent minimum wage initiatives throughout the Puget Sound (e.g., Tukwila), highlighting the support for progressive economic initiatives among diverse coalitions of voters.

February Special Election



April Special Election



2024 School Levy results. Maps show the outcomes of school levies in the (top) February and (bottom) April special elections. The majority of levies in both elections were approved by voters.



April Special Election

Washington's 2024 April Special election included levies and bonds for 16 school districts, and levies for 4 municipalities. 718,944 Washingtonian voters were eligible to vote in the April election, and 214,265 voters returned their ballots (29.8% of voters). Turnout in the April election was similar to turnout in the February election: 69% also voted in the 2023 General Election, 90% voted in both the 2020 and 2022 General Elections, 92% were White, and the median age was 63 years old. School levies were relatively less successful than in February, with only 74% approved by voters (14 of 19), though seven levies that had failed in February were passed in April. Municipal initiatives on the April ballot – including a property tax increase in Roslyn and renewals for Emergency Medical Services in Camas, Kittitas County, and Skagit County – were all approved by voters by wide margins.

Presidential Primary

Voter Turnout

1,708,308 Washingtonians voted in the 2024 Presidential Primary election (35.3%), nearly as many voters as the 2023 General Election (1,727,451; 36.6%). Similar to national trends, voter turnout increased with age: turnout of GenZ and Millennial voters was below the statewide average (17.8% and 22.3%, respectively), turnout of GenX voters was similar to the average (32.6%), and turnout of Boomers and SilentGen voters was above the statewide average (56.4% and 65.2%, respectively). Similarly, turnout of White voters was far higher than among voters of color: turnout of White voters was 40.7%, nearly double that of Native American and AAPI voters (24.6% and 22.1%, respectively) and more than double that of Black and Hispanic voters (19.5% and 16.5%, respectively). However, by the time Washington's voters received their ballots, both Donald Trump and Joe Biden had received enough delegates to secure their party's nominations for president, which likely had a negative impact on voter participation.

Interestingly, more than half a million people voted in last year's General Election but not this year's Presidential Primary (570,371 voters), and an almost equal number of people voted in the Presidential Primary but not last year's General Election (580,606 voters). The universe of voters who voted in the 2024 Presidential Primary but not the 2023 General was a bit younger (median age = 51 years old vs 55 years old) and slightly more racially diverse (13.5% voters of color vs 12.1% voters of color) than the universe that voted in the 2023 General but not the 2024 Presidential Primary.

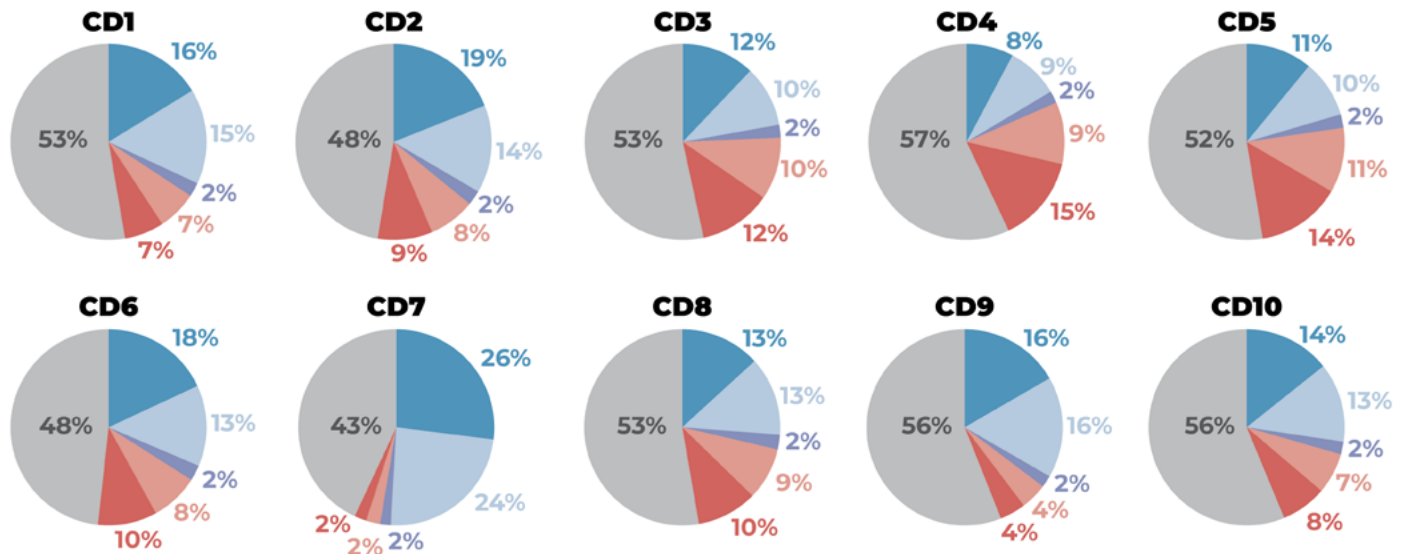
There were also some notable regional differences in the relative size of these voting groups: the Olympic Peninsula had the highest share of voters who voted in both the 2023 General and 2024 Presidential Primary (28.3%), Eastern Washington and Northwest Washington had the highest shares of voters who only voted in the 2023 General (13.4% each), Southwest Washington had the highest share of voters who only voted in the 2024 Presidential Primary (16.9%), and the South Sound had the highest share of voters who did not vote in either (54.6%). In Seattle alone, the 49,639 voters who voted in the Presidential Primary but not the 2023 General was considerably younger and more racially diverse than the 80,244 who voted in the 2023 General but not the 2024 Presidential Primary (median age = 38 years old vs 44 years old; 23.7% voters of color vs 17.4% voters of color), though both of these groups were more diverse than the

138,743 voters who voted in both (median age = 55 years old, 14.6% voters of color).

Ballot Rejection & Curing

Washington's Presidential Primary elections are notably different from other elections in the state for one main reason: voters are required to select which party's primary they want to vote in, by making a selection on the outside of the ballot return envelope. This additional requirement had a clear detrimental effect on ballot acceptance rates in this year's Presidential Primary, as nearly 70,000 ballots were rejected by the Secretary of State's Office (4.1% of all ballots, 3% higher than the 2023 General Election). The most common reasons for ballot rejection were related to the party preference selection on the outside of the envelope: more than 47,000 ballots were rejected due to errors in party selection, including "No Party" (46,496 ballots) and "Both Parties" (1,068 ballots). Other reasons for ballot rejection included ballots arriving too late to be counted (11,946 ballots), ballots with signatures that differed from those on file (7,676 ballots), and unsigned ballots (943 ballots). Notably, nearly 40% (26,408) of voters whose ballots were rejected this year also voted in the 2020 Presidential Primary, so it is unlikely that this year's high rejection rate can be attributed to unfamiliarity with the voting process among Washington's electorate. The largest density of rejected ballots was in King (19,152), Pierce (8,328), Snohomish (6,692), Clark (4,499), Spokane (3,988), Kitsap (2,552), and Thurston (2,338) counties. Across age groups, rejection rates were highest among the youngest and oldest slices of the electorate (GenZ: 6.1%, SilentGen: 4.2%), and lowest among Baby Boomers (3.4%). Across races, rejection rates were highest among voters of color (Black: 6.7%; AAPI: 6.6%; Hispanic: 6.1%) and lowest among White voters (3.6%).

In the days following the Presidential Primary, two of our partners – United Territories of Pacific Islanders Alliance (UTOPIA) Washington and Asian Counseling and Referral Services (ACRS) – teamed up to cure rejected ballots among the AAPI and LGBTQ+ communities in King County and Pierce County. On March 17th, 2024, UTOPIA and ACRS sent texts to 1,475 voters whose ballots needed curing, and 647 of those voters (43.9%) successfully cured their ballots before the deadline – more than double the rate of ballot curing statewide (19%). Ballot curing programs are a relatively low-effort way to engage voters and ensure every vote is counted, particularly in local elections (e.g., school levies and municipal initiatives) that regularly have razor-thin margins.



Party preference in 2020 and 2024 Presidential Primary elections by CD. Voters who sat out both elections make up the largest share in every district and the majority in all districts other than CD2, CD6, and CD7. Charts show the relative proportion of voters in each district based on their Party selection in the 2020 and 2024 Presidential Primaries.



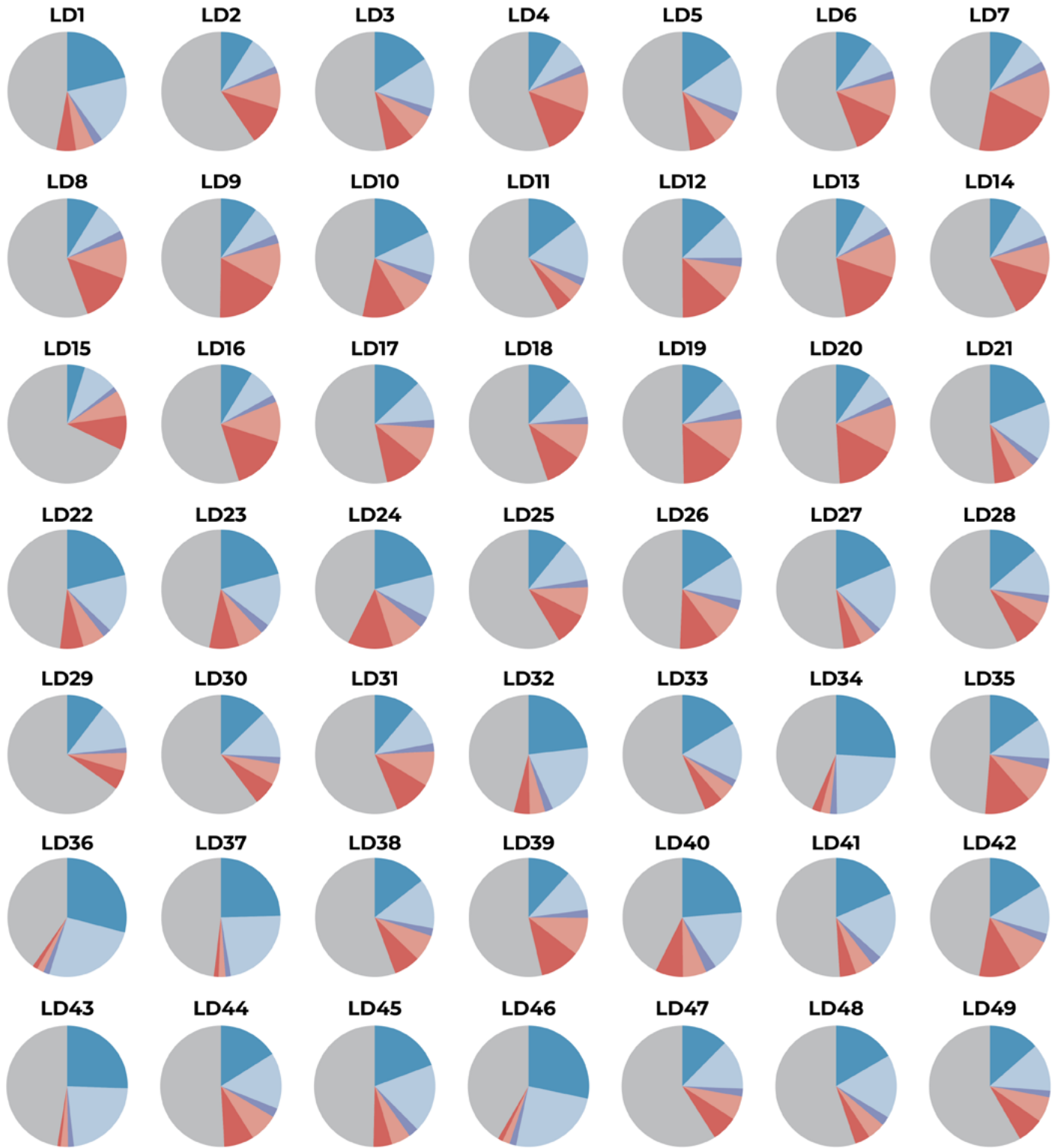
Election Results

For the third cycle in a row, Donald J. Trump won the Republican nomination for president in Washington state, handily winning all 39 counties. Trump received just over 600,000 votes (76%), followed by Nikki Haley with just over 151,000 votes (19%) and Ron DeSantis with 17,000 votes (2%). The majority of Haley’s votes came from historically Democratic parts of the state, winning precincts in the San Juan Islands, Bainbridge Island, Vashon Island, Mercer Island, Seattle, and Bellevue. DeSantis won a single precinct in the state just south of Woodinville with 67% of the vote (2 votes for DeSantis, 1 vote for Haley). With the exception of a handful of rural precincts in the North Cascades and along the Columbia River, Trump won every other precinct in the state. However, Trump received more than 84,000 fewer votes in 2024 than in 2020, suggesting a weakening of support in his third bid for the presidency.

With no serious challengers, President Joe Biden easily won the Democratic Nomination for President in Washington state, winning all 39 counties by wide margins. Biden received more than 760,000 votes (83%), followed distantly by Marianne Williamson and Dean Phillips with 25,000 votes (~3%) each. The largest challenge to Biden came from the Uncommitted Delegates campaign, an effort to publicly challenge the Biden Administration’s funding of war and genocide in Gaza. The Uncommitted campaign received nearly 90,000 votes (10%) – including three precincts on the University of Washington’s campus in Seattle and one precinct on Western Washington University’s campus in Bellingham

– and will receive two delegates from Washington to the Democratic National Convention this summer. Notably, although nearly 600,000 fewer votes were cast in the 2024 Democratic Primary than the 2020 Democratic Primary, Biden received 170,000 more votes in 2024 than in 2020.

The relatively large gap in votes cast in the Democratic and Republican primaries in 2020 vs 2024 leaves a lot of room for speculation on partisan realignment in Washington, with an apparent 15% swing towards Republicans (69% D vs 31% R in 2020, 54% D vs 46% R in 2024). While this could be attributed to Democratic voters opting to vote in the Republican primary this year, perhaps to support a candidate like Nikki Haley, the data shows that this is unlikely. In every congressional district and legislative district in the state, the number of voters who split their votes between the Democratic and Republican parties in the 2020 and 2024 primaries make up <2% of all voters. In nearly every district, the number of voters who voted for the same party in both 2020 and 2024 (either D/D or R/R) is equal to or slightly greater than the number of voters who voted in the party’s contested primary election (2020 for the Democrats, 2024 for the Republicans). For example, in CD3, 11% of voters voted in the Democratic primary both times, 11% voted in the Republican primary both times, 9% voted in the Democratic primary in 2020 but did not vote in 2024, and 9% voted in the Republican primary in 2024 but did not vote in 2020. Notably, in every single district, voters who did not vote in either the 2020 or 2024 presidential primary elections make up the largest segments of the



Party preference in 2020 and 2024 Presidential Primary elections by LD. Voters who sat out both elections make up the largest share in every district and the majority in most districts. Charts show the relative proportion of voters in each district based on their Party selection in the 2020 and 2024 Presidential Primaries.



electorate, exceeding 50% in many districts. Thus, the relative vote share for each party in the 2024 presidential primary is unlikely to be a useful marker of the true

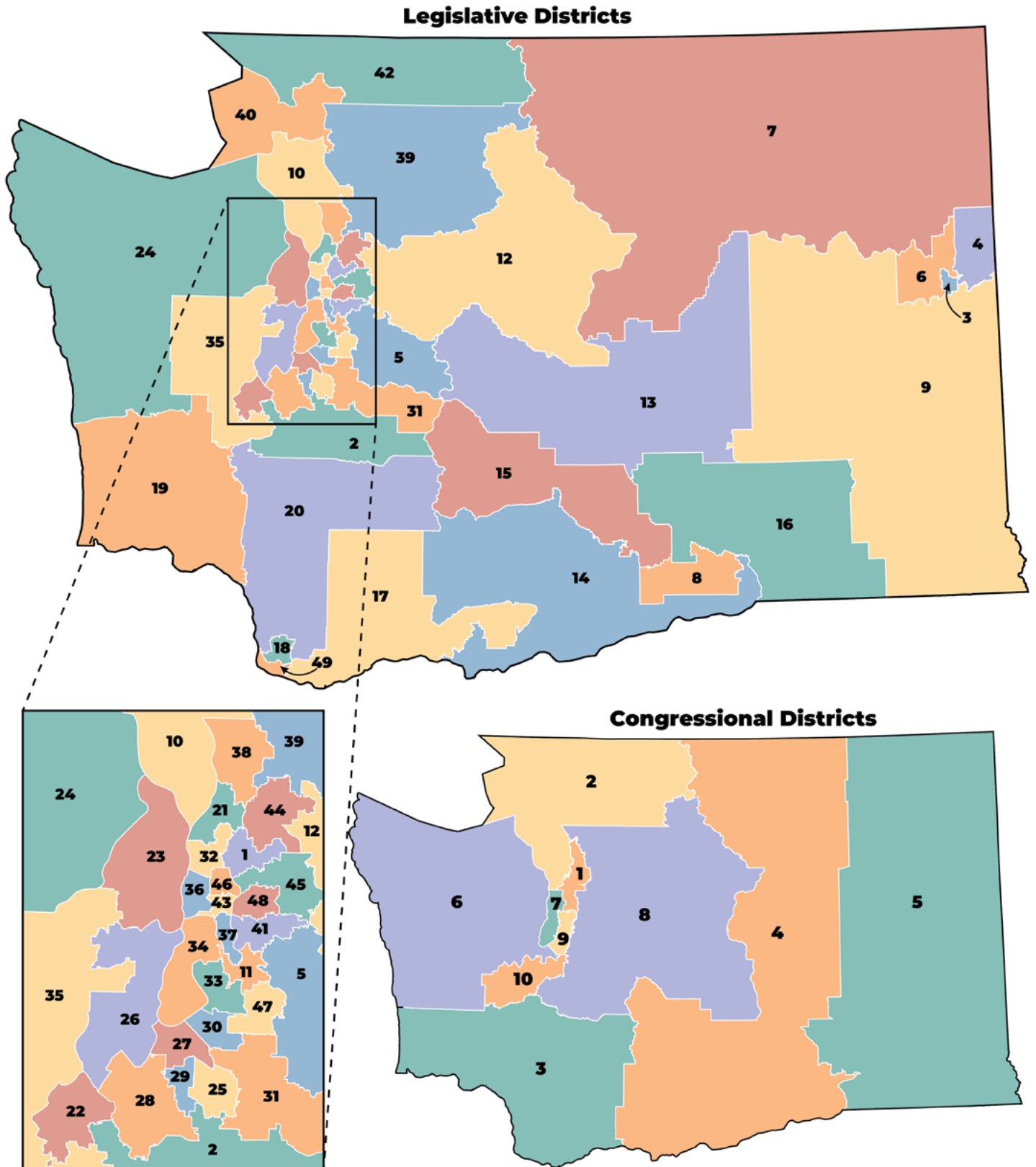
partisan makeup of each district, or as a predictor of how districts will vote in the General Election.

General Election Preview

Redistricting in the Yakima Valley

Following a ruling that the previous state legislative maps violated the Voting Rights Act by diluting the power of

Hispanic voters in the Yakima Valley, new districts will be in place for this year's legislative elections. LD8, LD14, LD15, and LD16 are most heavily changed with these new districts, with additional adjustments to LD7, LD9, LD13, and LD17.



Washington's Legislative and Congressional Districts in 2024. Inset shows legislative districts in the Puget Sound.







Statewide Ballot Initiatives

In Washington state, citizens can collect signatures equal to 8% of the ballots cast in the previous Governor’s race to petition the legislature to enact or repeal specific policies. While this citizen-initiated form of direct democracy has the potential to allow ordinary Washingtonians to have more of a say in advancing legislation, it has recently been used by wealthy, ultra-conservative individuals to push back against progressive taxation. A prime example: California billionaire and hedge fund manager Brian Heywood has spent nearly \$8,000,000 dollars since 2022 collecting signatures to advance conservative priorities in Washington state. In January 2024, Heywood submitted signatures to the legislature related to six initiatives: I-2111, an income tax ban; I-2081, establishing a parental bill of rights; I-2113, rolling back restrictions on police pursuits; I-2117, revising the Climate Commitment Act; I-2124, appending an opt-

out provision to WA Cares; and I-2109, repealing the capital gains tax. In the final days of the legislative session, the legislature split these initiatives: three were passed directly into law (I-2111, I-2081, and I-2113), and the other three were referred to voters (I-2117, I-2124, and I-2109).

This fall, Washington’s voters will weigh in on these three initiatives. The Climate Commitment Act is Washington’s signature climate change policy, requiring major polluters in the state to pay for greenhouse gas emissions by purchasing carbon credits. In its first year, the Climate Commitment Act generated more than \$1.8 billion in revenue for the state, which was directly invested in programs to combat climate change. I-2117 would specifically remove the cap-and-invest requirements, gutting the core revenue generating components of the policy and decreasing funding for carbon emissions reduction and air quality improvement programs. WA Cares was passed by the legislature in 2019, levying a 0.58% payroll tax to provide long-term health services (e.g., home health care, nursing home care, adult day care) to vulnerable individuals. I-2124 would allow individuals to opt-out of contributing to the program, effectively ending investment in long-term care insurance for the public. Washington’s capital gains tax, passed in 2021, imposed a 7% excise tax on the sale and exchange of long-term capital assets over \$250,000. In 2023 alone, the capital gains tax brought in more than \$900 million, which was directly invested in childcare and education. I-2109 would directly repeal the capital gains tax and end investment in these programs.

In early April, Washington State Republican Party Chair Jim Walsh announced efforts to gather signatures for three additional statewide initiatives. These include: a repeal of House Bill 1589, which phases out natural gas production in the state; rolling back Washington’s sanctuary state status, and allowing state and local authorities to question individuals’ about their immigration status; and revising Washington’s Just Cause legislation to ban squatters’ rights and allow no-cause evictions. Supporters of these efforts have until July 5th to collect ~325,000 valid signatures for these initiatives to appear on November’s ballot.

Passed by the legislature	Referred to voters
<p>Initiative 2111</p>  <p>Prohibit state and local governments from creating personal income taxes</p>	<p>Initiative 2117</p>  <p>Eliminate the cap and investment program of the Climate Commitment Act</p>
<p>Initiative 2081</p>  <p>Create a “Parent’s Bill of Rights”</p>	<p>Initiative 2124</p>  <p>Allow individuals to opt-out of the payroll tax for WA Cares’ long-term care program</p>
<p>Initiative 2113</p>  <p>Roll back restrictions on police-initiated pursuits</p>	<p>Initiative 2109</p>  <p>Repeal the capital gains tax</p>

Status of statewide initiatives in Washington State. Three of the six initiatives that received enough signatures were passed by the legislature (I-2111, I-2081, I-2113). The other three initiatives (I-2117, I-2124, I-2109) will be decided by voters in the November General Election.

Local Ballot Initiatives

In addition to the slate of statewide initiatives, voters in some cities around the state will weigh in on local ballot initiatives in November. In Burien, voters will decide on whether to increase the minimum wage to parity with similarly-sized cities in King County (e.g., Tukwila, SeaTac,

and Seattle), the equivalent of \$20.29 this year. Minimum wage campaigns have seen success throughout King County in recent years, including in Renton’s Measure 1 campaign during the 2024 February Special Election, when voters overwhelmingly approved the increase. In Seattle, voters will weigh in on an excess compensation payroll tax (5% surtax on employee compensation greater than \$1M per year) to fund the social housing developer that was approved in a 2023 February Special Election. And in Kent, voters will decide whether to change how they elect their city council, adopting a district model in place of the current at-large model. Districted city council elections are used in many of Washington’s larger cities – including Seattle, Spokane, Tacoma, and Yakima – and are known to support the election of a more diverse, representative council than entirely at-large councils.

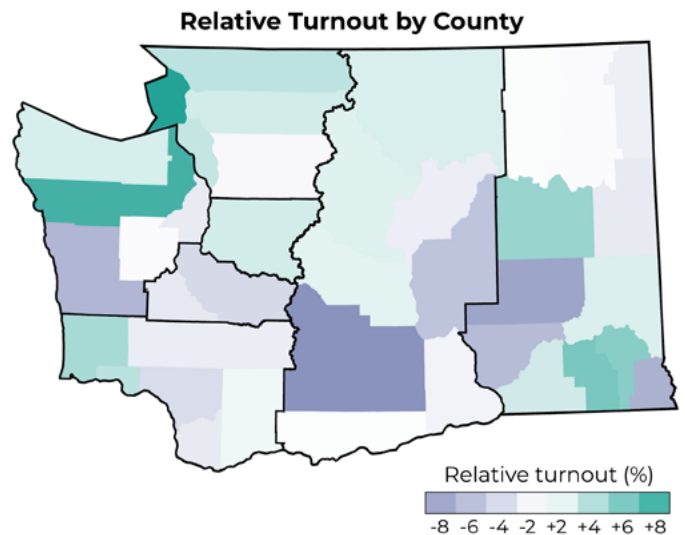
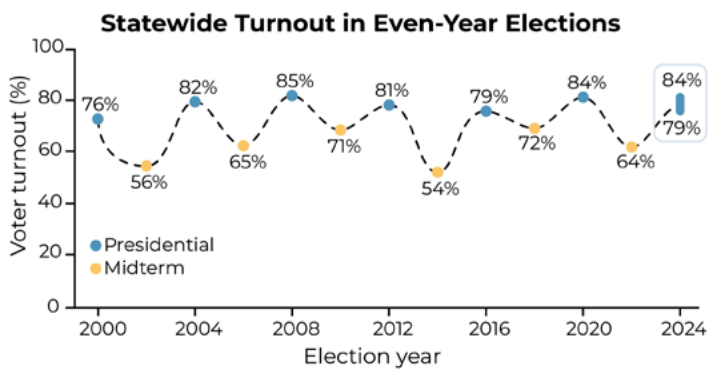
Statewide, Legislative, & Local Races

The 2024 General Election will set the tone for Washington State’s trajectory in the coming years. All statewide executive positions – Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Commissioner of Public Lands, Insurance Commissioner, State Auditor, State Treasurer, and Superintendent of Public Instruction – will be on the ballot, with open races for Governor and Attorney General. Washington has had a Democratic governor since 1985, the longest streak in the nation, but Democrats only gained control of all statewide offices in 2022 with Steve Hobbs’ win over Julie Anderson for Secretary of State. Washington Democrats currently control both chambers of the state legislature (State House: 58D to 40R; State Senate: 29D to 20R), with the largest margin since 2011 (State House: 61D to 37R; State Senate: 31D to 18R). All 98 State House seats are up for election, along with 26 State Senate seats – including 13 currently held by Democrats and 13 currently held by Republicans.

Every county (with the exception of Whatcom) will also decide the makeup of their county government, with one to four Commissioner or Councilor seats up for election. And voters in Seattle will hold a special election to fill the at-large City Council Pos. 8 previously held by Teresa Mosqueda, temporarily filled by former District 2 candidate Tanya Woo. This will be the first time in recent years that Seattle has held a citywide election for a city council race during an even-year, when turnout tends to be more representative of the entire city (with higher turnout of young voters and voters of color).

Voter Turnout

Looking ahead to the General Election, there are at least two possible scenarios for what the electorate could look like. Similar to 2016, both party’s presumptive nominees are deeply unpopular, so turnout could be relatively low (~79%). However, these are the same candidates that were on the ballot in 2020 when turnout was near record levels, so turnout could be relatively high (~84%). Using various approaches to model turnout, we consistently get values that fall within this range of 78.7% (3.80 million votes) to 84.1% (4.05 million votes). While statewide turnout can be a bit tricky to estimate, county-level turnout tends to be more straightforward, since individual counties tend to follow similar patterns across years. For example, San Juan County consistently has turnout ~8% above the statewide average, while Yakima County consistently has turnout ~8% below the statewide average. Since older, White voters quite reliably show up to vote every year, the actual turnout electorate will be dependent on whether young voters and voters of color decide to vote.



Turnout estimates for the 2024 General Election in Washington State. (Top) Statewide turnout in even-year elections from 2000-2022, with high (84%) and low (79%) estimates for 2024. (Bottom) Relative difference in turnout by County, 2000-2022. Purple = below average turnout, green = above average turnout.

Methodology

Electorate Analysis

Data on Washington's population of registered voters ("the voter file") was accessed via America Votes BigQuery database, queried via custom-written SQL scripts. Data processing and visualization was done using custom-written Python scripts (v3.3), executed in a local Jupyter environment. Data on voters' age, sex, and districts (county, city, school district, etc.) were provided from the raw voter file, and data on voters' race was provided by the data vendor Catalist, modeled using proprietary algorithms with census tract-level demographic data in combination with other data sources (e.g., consumer data). Data on voters' birth year was used to create an "age group" variable for certain analyses, based on widely accepted generation cutoffs: GenZ, born 1997-2012; Millennials, born 1981-1996; GenX, born 1965-1980; Boomers, born 1946-1964; Silent/Great, born pre-1945.

Voter Turnout

Ballot status reports ("matchback reports") for the 2024 February Special Election, 2024 Presidential Primary Election, and 2024 April Special Election were downloaded from the Secretary of State's website, and voter IDs were used to add vote history for these elections to the voter file. Given that only a subset of the electorate received

ballots in the special elections, election results were downloaded from the Secretary of State's website, and the jurisdictions (primarily cities, fire districts, and school districts) that held elections were extracted from each result file and matched with the voter file to assess turnout in those elections. Party preference from the 2020 and 2024 Presidential Primary elections was extracted from the corresponding matchback reports and matched to the voter file to analyze voting behavior based on party selection.

Election Results

Results for the 2024 February Special Election, 2024 Presidential Primary Election, and 2024 April Special Election were downloaded from the Secretary of State's website, and processed and visualized using custom-written Python scripts, executed in a local Jupyter environment. For this report, we focused primarily on school board levies and bonds, fire district levies, and municipal initiatives for the February and April elections, and the Democratic and Republican nominating contests for the Presidential Primary. Detailed results for the Presidential Primary (county- and precinct-level) can be found in the Primary Election Dashboard, linked on WCA's website (www.wacommunityalliance.org/datahub).