



Day One 2026 Primary Election Report

The ballots have been cast, and preliminary results are now available for Washington's 2026 Primary Election. While ballots will continue to be counted over the coming days, the initial returns provide a strong indication of how the major legislative and congressional races are shaping up heading into the November General Election.

This year, all 98 seats in the Washington State House of Representatives, 24 seats in the State Senate, and all 10 of Washington's congressional districts are up for election. While the balance of power in Olympia is not expected to shift dramatically, the primary results have already begun to clarify several of the state's most closely watched legislative contests, including competitive swing districts, open-seat races, and a number of high-profile intraparty Democratic primaries. Early returns also indicate that Democratic incumbents generally outperformed expectations in several of the state's most competitive legislative districts, positioning the party well heading into the general election.

Washington conducts elections entirely by mail. Ballots postmarked by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day are valid and will continue to be counted as they are received. As a result, close races may not be decided for several days, and in some cases final certification may take several weeks. Because Washington uses a Top Two primary system, the two candidates receiving the most votes—regardless of party affiliation—advance to the November General Election. In several legislative races, the Top Two system produced same-party matchups and influenced outcomes where multiple candidates from one party split the vote.

As of August 3, 2026, Washington has 5,136,372 registered voters. As of this report, voter turnout stands at approximately 20.35% of registered voters, with additional ballots expected to be counted over the coming days. Election results are updated daily by the Secretary of State as county election officials continue processing ballots. [Click here](#) to view daily updated results. We will continue to send updated results until the results are final.

Below is an overview of the preliminary results from the most notable Washington State legislative races:

***Top two vote getters in each race after night one are bolded**

WA State Senate - Key Races

Half of the Senate (24 seats) are up for election this year. Democrats currently control the chamber with a 30-19 majority. There are two races that are considered to be toss ups at this point, the 42nd and the 35th. In addition, several Senate races will be closely watched this cycle, including a number of open seats created by retirements and members seeking higher office. As in prior cycles, many open Senate seats feature current House members seeking to move to the upper chamber. Open seats and key races included below:

Legislative District 8 (Tri-Cities)- Open Seat

Open seat vacated by Sen. Matt Boehnke (R), who is running for Congress. This Eastern Washington district strongly leans Republican and is expected to remain in Republican control. While this is technically an open seat, Nikki Torres is currently the senator from the 15th LD, but she is running in the open 8th LD Senate race in 2026 after the court-ordered redistricting changes. Sen. Torres has a strong lead after night one.

- **Nikki Torres (R): 53.18%**
- **Gabe Galbraith (R): 44.83%**

Legislative District 26 (Gig Harbor)

The 26th Legislative District is expected to remain one of the top battleground Senate races in Washington state. Freshman Sen. Deborah Krishnadasan is seeking reelection in a district that continues to be highly competitive at both the legislative and federal level. Sen. Krishnadasan had a strong showing after night one.

- **Deborah Krishnadasan (D): 56.65%**
- **Gary Parker (R): 43.29%**

Legislative District 29 (Lakewood) - Open Seat

Open seat vacated by Sen. Steve Conway (D), who announced he will not seek reelection after more than three decades in the Legislature. Rep. Sharlett Mena does not appear to face a significant challenger. The district remains strongly Democratic.

- **Sharlett Mena (D): 67.93%**
- **David Anderson (D): 27.18%**

Legislative District 32 (Shoreline)

The 32nd Legislative District is shaping up to be one of the more notable intraparty Democratic contests this cycle. Rep. Cindy Ryu is challenging incumbent Sen. Jesse Salomon, creating a rare incumbent-versus-incumbent style dynamic between two longtime Democratic lawmakers from the same district. After night one it appears that both Ryu and Salomon will advance to the General. Ryu received more votes after night one.

- **Jesse Salomon (D): 38.67%**
- **Cindy Ryu (D): 40.91%**
- Ira McBee (R): 15.71%

Legislative District 35 (Olympia)

Sen. Drew MacEwen posted a narrower-than-expected lead in this Republican-leaning district. Although the district has historically favored Republican candidates, the primary results indicate this race is likely to be more competitive than anticipated in the general election.

- **Drew MacEwen (R): 51.70%**
- **Carolina Mejia (D): 48.18%**

Legislative District 37 (Seattle) - Open Seat

Open seat vacated by Sen. Rebecca Saldaña (D). Rep. Chipalo Street (D) is running to replace her in this safely Democratic Seattle-based district.

- **Chipalo Street (D): 73.18%**
- **Tatiana Brown (D): 25.69%**

Legislative District 42 (Bellingham) - Open Seat

The open 42nd Legislative District Senate seat is shaping up to be one of the more competitive races in Northwest Washington following Sen. Sharon Shewmake's decision not to seek reelection. Candidates include Eamonn Collins, a teacher at Lummi Nation School and former chair of the Whatcom Democrats; Michael Shepard, a Port of Bellingham Commissioner; Erika Creydt, a Republican; and Ryan Bowman, who filed with no party preference. After night one it appears that Shepard and Creydt will advance to the general.

- **Michael Shepard (D): 27.02%**
- **Erika Creydt (R): 46.02%**
- Eamonn Collins (D): 24.45%
- Ryan Bowman: 2.44%

Legislative District 43 (Seattle)

Pedersen's decisive victory effectively ended one of the cycle's most closely watched progressive primary challenges.

- **Jamie Pedersen (D): 71.06%**
- **Hannah Sabio-Howell (D): 17.86%**
- Heather-Marie Wilson: 10.75%

Legislative District 47 (Kent/Auburn)

While Republicans had hoped to make the 47th Legislative District Senate race competitive, incumbent Sen. Claudia Kauffman posted a strong first-night performance, significantly outperforming her Republican challenger. Although additional ballots remain to be counted, the early results suggest the district is likely to remain in Democratic hands and may reduce the likelihood of significant Republican investment in the race this fall.

- **Claudia Kauffman (D): 58.72%**
- **Kristina Soltys (R): 41.10%**

WA State House of Representatives - Key Races

All 98 House seats are up for election this year. Democrats currently control the chamber with a 59-39 majority. Early results suggest House Democrats are well positioned to expand their majority, potentially gaining between one and five seats depending on the outcome of several competitive general election contests. Open seats and races to watch included below:

Legislative District 3 (Spokane)- State Representative Pos. 2 - Open Seat

The open House seat in Spokane's 3rd Legislative District is shaping up to be a crowded Democratic primary following Rep. Timm Ormsby's retirement announcement. Three candidates remain within a narrow margin, making it too early to determine who will advance.

- **Natalie Poulson (R): 33.68%**
- **Pam Kohlmeier (D): 31.85%**
- Luc Jasmin III (D): 30.260%
- Donovan Arnold DeLeon (D): 4.13%

Legislative District 6 (Spokane)- State Representative Pos. 1 - Open Seat

Open seat vacated by Rep. Jenny Graham, who announced she will not seek reelection. The district strongly leans Republican and is expected to remain under GOP control. So whichever R advances to the primary will likely prevail.

- **Michaela Kelso (D): 29.69%**
- **Alan Nolan (R): 25.95%**
- Isaiah Paine: (R): 19.12%
- Nicolette Ocheltree (D): 12.10%
- Jennifer Morton (R): 7.59%
- Sueann Davis (R): 5.23%

Legislative District 6 (Spokane)- State Representative Pos. 2 - Open Seat

Open seat vacated by Rep. Mike Volz, who announced he will step down from the Legislature at the end of his term to focus full time on his role as Spokane County Treasurer. Candidates include Spokane Valley City Councilmember Jonathan Bingle (R) and independent candidate Aaron Croft. The district strongly leans Republican and is expected to remain under GOP control making Bingle the likely winner in November.

- **Jonathan Bingle (R): 51.23%**
- **Julia Payne (D): 25.63%**
- Aaron Croft (I): 22.91%

Legislative District 15 (Yakima)- State Representative Pos. 2 - Open Seat

Open seat vacated by Rep. Jeremie Dufault, who is running for the open 15th LD Senate seat following Sen. Nikki Torres' decision to run in the neighboring 8th LD. The district remains Republican leaning following the Central Washington redistricting changes and is expected to stay under GOP control.

- **Reedy Berg (R): 48.31%**
- **Liz Hallock (NK): 30.03%**
- Chase Foster (R): 21.25%

Legislative District 17 (Vancouver)- State Representative Pos. 1

Challenger Ben Christy (D) performed well in the General against incumbent Kevin Waters (R). This race will now be one of the most contested in the General and is a potential pick up for the Democrats.

- **Ben Christly (D): 54.47%**
- **Kevin Waters (R): 42.41%**

- Thomas Everett Haynes: 2.99%

Legislative District 17 (Vancouver)- State Representative Pos. 2

Similarly Democratic challenger Diana Perez performed well after night one against incumbent David Stuebe (R). This is a swing district in southwest Washington and will be one of the most competitive races heading into the General. This seat is another possible pick up for the Democrats.

- **Diana H. Perez (D): 55.94%**
- **David Stuebe (R): 43.89%**

Legislative District 18 (Vancouver)- State Representative Pos. 1

The 18th legislative district is also shaping up to be competitive in the General. The democratic challenger currently leads the race making this another potential pick up for the D's.

- **Randi L. Knott (D): 51.61%**
- **Stephanie McClintock (R): 48.23%**

Legislative District 18 (Vancouver)- State Representative Pos. 2

The 18th legislative district is also shaping up to be competitive in the General. The democratic challenger currently leads the race making this another potential pick up for the D's.

- **Deken Letinich (D): 53.15%**
- **John Ley (R): 46.67%**

Legislative District 23 (Bainbridge Island) - State Representative Pos. 1

The 23rd Legislative District is expected to feature a notable Democratic primary this cycle as Rep. Tarra Simmons faces challenger Daria Ilgen. Ilgen, who has been active in local Democratic Party politics and community organizing in Kitsap County, is viewed by many local observers as a credible challenger in the race. Simmons had a strong showing after night one.

- **Tarra Simmons (D): 57.68%**
- **Daria Ilgen (D): 39.20%**

Legislative District 24 (Port Angeles) - State Representative Pos. 2 - Open Seat

Open seat vacated by Rep. Steve Tharinger, who announced his retirement after eight terms in the Legislature. The race is already shaping up to be one of the more crowded

Democratic primaries in the state. Given the district's Democratic lean, the primary election will likely determine the eventual winner.

- **Marcia Kelbon (no party): 39.17%**
- **Kaylee Kuehn (D): 27.71%**
- Patrick DePoe (D): 20.250%
- Mark Hodgson (D): 7.84%
- Bradley Nemo Callaway (D): 4.56%

Legislative District 26 (Gig Harbor) – State Representative Pos. 1

The 26th Legislative District remains one of the top battleground districts in Washington state and is expected to draw significant attention from both parties heading into November. Incumbent Rep. Adison Richards advanced comfortably to the general election after receiving more than one-third of the vote in a three-candidate field. While Republican David Olsen finished first on election night, the combined Democratic vote outpaced the Republican vote, suggesting Democrats remain well positioned heading into November.

- **Adison Richards (D): 35.22%**
- **David Olsen (R): 43.44%**
- Natalie Bornfleth (D): 21.30%

Legislative District 26 (Gig Harbor) - State Representative Pos. 2 - Open Seat

Open seat vacated by Rep. Michelle Valdez (R), who announced she will not seek reelection. The 26th Legislative District remains one of the top swing districts in Washington state and will likely be heavily contested by both parties. Given the district's swing-district dynamics, the race is expected to attract significant outside spending and remain one of the top House races to watch this cycle. After night one it appears that Greenfield (D) and Cornell (R) will advance to the General.

- **Katy Cornell (R): 45.84%**
- **Renee Hernandez Greenfield (D): 38.16%**
- Tedd Wetherbee (D): 14.36%
- Randy Phillips: 1.96%

Legislative District 29 (Lakewood) - State Representative Pos. 1

Rep. Melanie Morgan faces a serious challenge from challenger Krista Perez. This race will be extremely competitive as they both head on to the General election.

- **Krista Perez (D): 47.23%**
- **Melanie Morgan (D): 47.18%**

Legislative District 29 (Lakewood) - State Representative Pos. 2 - Open Seat

Open seat vacated by Rep. Sharlett Mena (D), who is running for the State Senate seat being vacated by Sen. Steve Conway. After night one it is unclear which two candidates will advance to the General election.

- **Joe Bushnell (D): 22.56%**
- **Patrick Stickney (D): 19.82%**
- Darek Blum (R): 18.09%
- Natasha Laitila (D): 17.35%
- Sheri Haynes (R): 12.98%
- Erin Chapman-Smith (D): 8.95%

Legislative District 32 (Shoreline) - State Representative Pos. 1 - Open Seat

Open seat vacated by Rep. Cindy Ryu (D), who is running for State Senate. Candidates include Shoreline City Councilmember Keith Scully and Edmonds community advocate Chris Eck. The district remains strongly Democratic and the primary election will likely determine the eventual winner.

- **Keith Scully (D): 34.11%**
- **Danica Noble (D): 22.75%**
- Lisa Rezac (R): 16.99%
- Chris Bloomquist (D): 10.42%
- Will Chen (D): 8.24%
- Jenna Nand (D): 7.34%

Legislative District 33 (SeaTac) - State Representative Pos. 2 - Open Seat

Rep. Mia Gregerson has drawn a notable Democratic challenger in Burien City Councilmember Alex Andrade. After night one it appears that the Republican candidate will advance to the General election over Andrade.

- **Mia Gregerson (D): 52.17%**
- **Yuri Marinchik (R): 25.50%**
- Alex Andrade (D): 22.13%

Legislative District 37 (Seattle) - State Representative Pos. 2 - Open Seat

Open seat vacated by Rep. Chipalo Street (D), who is running for State Senate. s. The district remains safely Democratic and the primary election will likely determine the eventual winner.

- **Jaelynn Scott (D): 86.49%**

- **Evon McCorkle (D): 12.33%**

Legislative District 42 (Bellingham) - State Representative Pos. 1

The 42nd Legislative District remains one of the top battleground districts in Washington state and is expected to feature a particularly competitive primary election this cycle as one of the few swing districts in Washington state. Rep. Alicia Rule had a strong showing after night one.

- **Alicia Rule (D): 54.70%**
- **Misty Flowers (R): 45.08%**

Legislative District 42 (Bellingham) – State Representative Pos. 2

The 42nd Legislative District remains one of the state's premier battlegrounds, with both House seats expected to be highly competitive in November. After night one, incumbent Rep. Joe Timmons holds a narrow lead over Republican challenger Justin Pike. While Democrats are encouraged by the party's overall performance in the district, this race is expected to remain one of the most closely watched House contests through the general election.

- **Joe Timmons (D): 52.53%**
- **Justin Pike (R): 47.33%**

Legislative District 45 (Kirkland) - State Representative Pos. 2 - Open Seat

Open seat vacated by Rep. Larry Springer (D), who announced he will not seek reelection. The Eastside district has trended increasingly Democratic in recent cycles.

- **Vanessa Kritzer (D): 62.02%**
- **John P. Gibbons (R): 21.22%**
- **Chandler Torbett (D): 16.38%**

Legislative District 48 (Bellevue) - State Representative Pos. 2

The 48th Legislative District is expected to feature a closely watched Democratic primary this cycle. Rep. Amy Walen has drawn a challenger from the left. The race reflects broader tensions within the Democratic caucus between more moderate, business-oriented Democrats and progressive activists. Rep. Walen is ahead after night one.

- **Amy Walen (D): 50.99%**
- **Jessica Forsythe (D): 46.29%**

Legislative District 49 (Vancouver) - State Representative Pos. 1 - Open Seat

Open seat vacated by Rep. Sharon Wylie (D), who is running for Clark County Auditor. While the district leans Democratic, the open seat could attract broader political attention depending on the overall political environment in Southwest Washington.

- **Kim Harless (D): 51.51%**
- **Sarah Mittelman (R): 29.39%**
- Mike Pond (D): 18.91%

WA State Congressional Key Races

At the federal level, all 10 of Washington's congressional districts are up for election in 2026. While several incumbents are expected to comfortably win reelection, a handful of races, particularly the 3rd and 8th Congressional Districts, are expected to remain nationally competitive and could draw significant outside spending.

Congressional District 3

Congresswoman Marie Gluesenkamp Perez is expected to remain one of the top Republican targets in the country. Senate Minority Leader John Braun is challenging Perez in what is expected to become one of the highest-profile congressional races in Washington state. The district continues to be one of the few true swing congressional districts on the West Coast and is expected to draw significant national attention and outside spending from both parties.

- **Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (D): 38.83%**
- **John Braun (R): 38.71%**
- Brent Hennrich (D): 15.40%

Congressional District 4 - Open Seat

Congressman Dan Newhouse's decision to retire has created a crowded and potentially contentious Republican primary in Central Washington. Candidates include state Sen. Matt Boehnke, former gubernatorial candidate Semi Bird, former state Rep. Brad Klippert, Amanda McKinney, and Jerrod Sessler. Given the district's strong Republican lean, the primary election will likely determine the eventual winner.

- **Amanda McKinney (R): 34.94%**
- **John Duresky (D): 30.76%**

- Jerrod Sessler (R): 13.64%
- Matt Boehnke (R): 10.79%
- Favian Valencia: 3.80%

Congressional District 6

Freshman Congresswoman Emily Randall is on the ballot for the first time as an incumbent following her victory in the open-seat race to replace former Congressman Derek Kilmer. Randall has a strong lead after night one.

- **Emily Randall (D): 60.24%**
- **Teresa Fox (R): 25.12%**
- Leon Lawson: 9.32%
- Brian P. O'Gorman: 3.06%
- Macy Jones: 2.20%

Congressional District 8

Congresswoman Kim Schrier is again expected to face a competitive reelection race in one of Washington's most politically balanced congressional districts. Republican challengers include Trinh Ha, Andres Valleza, Spencer Meline, and Bob Hagglund. The district remains a top Republican pickup opportunity nationally and is expected to attract significant outside spending and national political attention heading into the general election.

- **Kim Schrier (D): 54.00%**
- **Spencer Meline (R): 14.75%**
- Trinh Ha (R): 14.74%
- Bob Hagglund (R): 11.76%
- Andres Valleza (R): 2.40%
- Keith Arnold (D): 2.20%