



First Legislative District Democrats

*The Fightin' First – Fighting for **You!***

PCO 101

2023 Edition

First Legislative District Connections!

CONTACT US AND GET ON OUR LD EMAIL LIST!

Email our Chair: chair@1stliddems.org

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

First District Democrats Group: facebook.com/groups/1stliddems

First District Democrats Page: facebook.com/WA1stLDDems

ATTEND OUR MEETINGS!

- Our general membership meetings are open to all PCOs and members, and we welcome guests to almost every meeting. We are currently meeting virtually. Please register in advance for each meeting using the link provided at our Upcoming Meetings calendar on our website: 1stliddems.org
- We also have Executive Board and committee meetings. Join a committee- that's where the real work happens! You are also welcome to observe our LD E-Board meetings and learn how we plan meetings, manage our budgets, and address the day-to-day aspects of running our organization.

2023 Election Timing

2023 King Conservation District Supervisor Position 3, online only: kingcd.org

- Ballots due by 8:00 pm Tuesday Feb 14

February Special Election: No First LD issues (so, no ballots!)

April Special Election:

Ballot measures including the \$1.25 billion King County Crisis Care Center levy

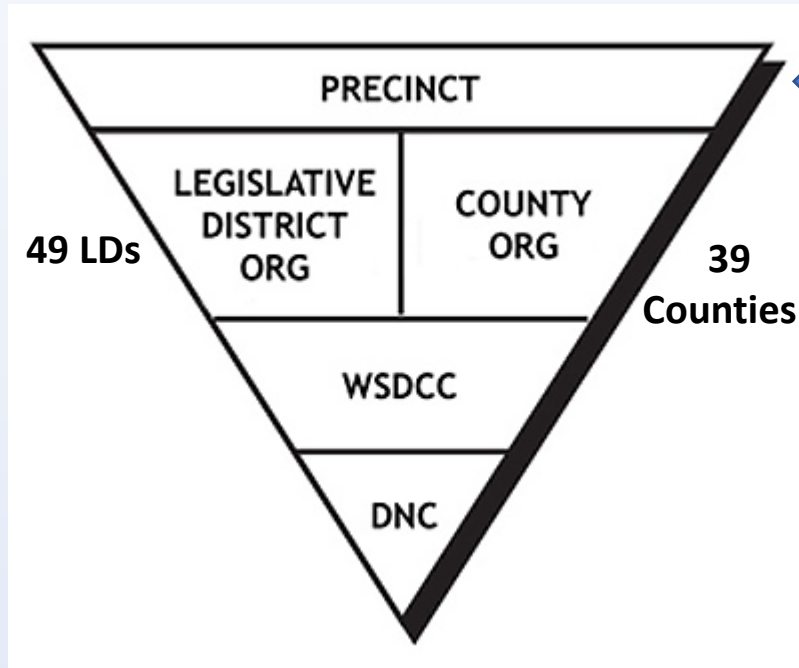
- Wednesday April 5: Drop boxes open & ballots mailed
- Tuesday April 25: April 2023 special election ballots due by 8:00 pm

2023 Primary and General Elections:

Candidates for local office (County offices, Port offices, city councils, judges, school boards, and special purpose districts including hospital, fire, water, sewer, and cemetery districts)

- Monday May 15 – Friday May 19: Candidate filing! (Candidate statements due 1 week later)
- Wednesday July 12: Primary Election ballots mailed
- Tuesday August 1: Primary election ballots due
- Wednesday Oct 18: General election ballots mailed
- Tuesday Nov 7: General election ballots due

Where Are PCOs in the Democratic Party Structure?



YOU ARE HERE!

The Democratic Party is organized democratically. That means you, as a voter and a member of the Democratic Party, are responsible for electing the Democratic Party leadership. As a PCO you elect the leadership of your Legislative District Organization and County Organization, and you also elect the representatives who elect the leadership of the State and National Party organizations.

The Washington State Democratic Central Committee (WSDCC) is made up of representatives elected from each Legislative District and County Organization, plus a few more people. These Democrats approve the rules and platform for our Washington State Democratic Party and elect our State representatives to the Democratic National Committee (DNC).

By serving as a precinct committee officer YOU are the backbone of the Democratic Party in Washington!

Elected Precinct Committee Officers (PCOs)

Our 58 elected PCOs took office on December 1, 2022 and are volunteers who:

- Filed for election during May 2022 *and*
- Were unopposed or successfully won their election during August 2022 *and*
- Remain registered to vote within the precinct to which they were elected

Appointed PCOs

Appointed PCOs are volunteers who:

- Meet the same eligibility criteria as elected PCOs
- Live in a “vacant” precinct (a precinct that does not have an elected or appointed PCO)
- Request appointment
- Are approved by the Chair of their County Democrats organization (in King County, are also approved by the LD general membership and their LD Chair)

Appointed PCOs and have full statutory voting rights as soon as their appointment is approved by the Chair of their County Democrats and will serve until November 30, 2024 unless they resign or register to vote at an address outside of their precinct.

Volunteers can request appointment as a PCO at any time through November 30, 2024. Volunteers can ask our Chair, PCO Chair, or PCO Coordinator for more information, or connect with us through our website: go to “Our People – PCO Info” then select [“Appointed PCO or Precinct Coordinator Application”](#).

Precinct Coordinators

Precinct Coordinators need not be registered voters and need not live in their service precinct (or legislative district).

Precinct Coordinators are volunteers who provide the same service as elected or appointed PCOs but either do not meet the requirements to serve as an appointed PCO or choose to not be appointed. These volunteers do not receive the statutory privileges of elected and appointed PCOs (for example, precinct coordinators cannot vote for offices such as replacement legislators, where the only voters are our elected and duly appointed PCOs). Precinct Coordinators must pay, or request and receive a waiver for, normal membership fees in order to gain ordinary LD membership privileges.

In addition to canvassing their precinct, Precinct Coordinators have an extra, and especially important responsibility: since they serve in precincts that do not have an elected or appointed PCO they work to identify a precinct resident who will volunteer to serve as an appointed PCO.

Precinct Coordinators serve until they resign or until the LD Chair asks that they stop assisting.

Precinct Coordinators are among our most important volunteers!

Volunteers can request appointment as a Precinct Coordinator at any time through November 30, 2024. Potential volunteers can ask our Chair, PCO Chair, or PCO Coordinator for more information, or connect with us through our website: go to “Our People – PCO Info” then select “[Appointed PCO or Precinct Coordinator Application](#)”.

PCO Basics (the “Rules” Part)

Our elected and appointed PCOs will hold their office through November 30, 2024, or until they resign, or until they are no longer registered to vote in their precinct. As an elected or duly appointed Precinct Committee Officer (PCO) you are:

- **A Democratic Party official** with certain voting rights (per the Washington State Democratic Party Charter and Bylaws, the RCW, and your County and LD organization Bylaws!)
- **A member of your County Democrats Central Committee** who is invited to observe all meetings, volunteer, and participate in County-wide conversations and actions.
- **A voting member of the First District Democrats** who attends meetings, adds your voice, votes to endorse candidates for elected office, and brings forward the voices of your community.
- **The ONLY credentialled voters** to for selecting replacement candidates that will be used to fill vacancies for any legislative office or partisan County office.
- **Elected PCOs** are the only credentialled voters who can vote to remove an LD or County organization Chair.

Not every member of the First District Democrats is a PCO or precinct coordinator but a lot of us are, and we’d love for you to join us!

PCO Basics (the Fun Part!)

As a Precinct Committee Officer or Precinct Coordinator you are:

- **The primary neighborhood connection:** You are the person in the neighborhood who connects your neighbors with the Democratic party- and it's a two-way connection!
- **A community organizer:** You are the neighbor who keeps your neighborhood informed about local political happenings from school board meetings to elections!
- **Your LD's resource for endorsed candidates:** You are the person who will inform voters in your precinct about candidates endorsed by your LD and County and why those candidates deserve our support.
- **A potential candidate or candidate-in-training** for elected office! Great elected representatives start as candidates, and the skill set needed to win an election and the skill set needed to represent constituents in government differ- a lot. MANY of our most effective elected representatives were first elected to the office of PCO!

What Exactly Does a PCO Do?

PCOS:

- **Learn** about candidates and issues (by attending LD meetings, candidate events, etc)
- **Endorse candidates** through the process established in their LD
- **Support LD-endorsed candidates** through the process established in their LD (this often involves distributing an LD endorsement flyer, or “slate card”, to voters in their precinct)
- **Register new voters** in their precincts (especially important in high-turnover precincts!)
- **Canvass** (meet and talk with) voters in advance of elections to:
 - Learn about local issues
 - Determine whether these are voters who we want to encourage to vote during the primary and general elections
- **Canvass** voters in support of LD-endorsed candidates and help Get Out the Vote!

After completing their own precinct PCOs can also help canvass vacant precincts in their LD or support candidates in their LD or elsewhere.

PCOs Perform Community Outreach

Listening,
Voter ID,
& Voter
Registration

GOTV!

Until Ballots Drop PCOs *Listen and Identify*:

- Meet and listen to voters!
- Identify voters who will consider voting for candidates we support.
- Confirm that eligible voters are properly registered at their current address.
- **Build your precinct committee!**

After Ballots Drop PCOs *Get Out the Vote*:

- **Coordinate with your precinct committee!**
- Deliver literature to selected voters!
- Confirm that eligible voters are properly registered at their current address!
- Remind voters to **VOTE!**

Does Every PCO Really do *ALL THAT*?!

Of course not! And none of us work all by ourselves either.

Some of our teammates prefer helping us organize events, some prefer canvassing door to door, some prefer phoning or sending text messages, and some prefer writing postcards. We're a team and we appreciate your help, whenever and however offered! If you'd like to be a PCO or precinct coordinator but don't want to take on one or more specific tasks please contact us- let's discuss what you'd like to do and see how we can work together.

Registering Voters- Some Details

PCOs (and any trained volunteers) can help register voters! Ask our PCO team for training!

To register as a Washington voter, the registrant must be:

- A citizen of the United States
- A legal resident of Washington state
- At least 18 years old by the election day (note: this will change thanks to new legislation that was passed last year but is not yet in effect- stay tuned!)
- Not disqualified from voting due to a court order
- Not currently serving a Department of Corrections sentence for a Washington felony conviction in total confinement (note: the voting rights of former felons are restored immediately upon release from prison, at which time former felons can immediately register to vote).

To register as a Washington voter, the registrant must have a:

- Residential address (the intersection nearest where they pitch their tent is fine) **AND**
- Mailing address (General Delivery is fine) **AND**
- Identification consisting of a:
 - Social Security number **OR**
 - Current Washington State driver license **OR**
 - Current Washington State ID card

How Does a Voter Register?

There are two preferred registration options:

Online:

- Go to www.sos.wa.gov and click the blue button labeled “register to vote” (in the upper right corner of the screen)! *OR*
- Go to voter.votewa.gov (Pro tip: Make this a Favorite Place on your smart phone!)
Note: A voter must have a current Washington State driver license **OR** Washington State ID card to register on-line

By mail:

- Download and print a form (many languages available!) from the Secretary of State website: <https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/print-voter-registration-forms.aspx>
- Mail your completed voter registration form to either:

King County Elections	Snohomish County Elections
919 SW Grady Way	3000 Rockefeller Ave (M/S 505)
Renton, WA 98057	Everett, WA 98201

Critical 2023 Voter Registration Dates!

Online and mailed voter registration applications must be received no later than 8 days before Election Day. In-person voter registration and address updates will still be permitted at local voting centers before 8 p.m. on Election Day.

FEBRUARY 2023 ELECTIONS:

- Monday February 6, 2023: Deadline for online or mail-in voter registration, address change, or other updates
- Tuesday February 14, 2023: Deadline for in-person registration or address change at a local voting center (Voting Centers close at 8:00 pm)

APRIL 2023 ELECTIONS:

- Monday April 17, 2023: Deadline for online or mail-in voter registration, address change, or other updates
- Tuesday April 25, 2023: Deadline for in-person registration or address change at a local voting center (Voting Centers close at 8:00 pm)

2023 STATE PRIMARY ELECTION

- Monday July 24, 2023: Deadline for online or mail-in voter registration, address change, or other updates
- Tuesday August 1, 2023: Deadline for in-person registration or address change at a local voting center (Voting Centers close at 8:00 pm)

2023 GENERAL ELECTION

- Monday October 30, 2023: Deadline for online or mail-in voter registration, address change, or other updates
- Tuesday November 2, 2023: Deadline for in-person registration or address change at a local voting center (Voting Centers close at 8:00 pm)

Candidate Training Opportunities for PCOs

Being a PCO or Precinct Coordinator is an excellent opportunity to learn the ropes, learn from experienced campaigners and office holders, build your campaign team, run for office, win your election, and swear your oath of office with confidence!

As a PCO or Precinct Coordinator you can:

- Learn to meet with, listen to, and learn from voters in your precinct and other precincts in your legislative district (learning to listen to and discuss challenging issues with your constituents- including those with whom you disagree- is a critical skill for our elected representatives).
- Meet and learn from the insights and experience of other PCOs (some of whom hold elected office and would be your coworkers should you also be elected to serve).
- Work with local activists to evaluate, endorse, and elect candidates- and learn what it takes to earn endorsements and win elections.
- Learn the “nuts and bolts” of running for office, including how to access and use campaign and candidate development tools available through the Democratic Party and allies.
- Meet advisors who can help you evaluate your opportunities and develop your campaign.
- Learn how meetings are held under rules (such as Roberts Rules of Order) that will be similar to the rules used by any electoral office.

Resources and Next Steps

The [PCO Committee](#) is a Standing Committee of the First District Democrats. The PCO Committee is responsible for recruiting, training, and empowering our First Legislative District PCOs and volunteers. You don't have to be a PCO to be a member of the PCO Committee! You just have to want to organize toward the goal of bringing progressive values to our neighbors.

PCO Committee meetings are currently held virtually on the first Wednesday of the month; however, we do not meet every month.

To learn more please [email our PCO Committee Chair](#) or attend a general meeting of our First District Democrats organization.