



# First Legislative District Democrats

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

## PCO 101

2024 Edition

# First Legislative District Connections!

**CONTACT US AND GET ON OUR LD EMAIL LIST!**

Email our LD Chair: [chair@1stliddems.org](mailto:chair@1stliddems.org)

Our website is: [1stliddems.org](http://1stliddems.org)

**FIND US ON FACEBOOK!**

First District Democrats Group: [facebook.com/groups/1stliddems](https://facebook.com/groups/1stliddems)

First District Democrats Page: [facebook.com/WA1stLDDems](https://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](http://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.



# Connecting with the First District Democrats

## JOIN OUR FIRST DISTRICT DEMOCRATS EMAIL LIST!

- Go to our website: [1stliddems.org/contact-us/](https://1stliddems.org/contact-us/) and subscribe to our email list!

## JOIN OUR FIRST DISTRICT DEMOCRATS ORGANIZATION!

- Go to our website: [1stliddems.org/get-involved/](https://1stliddems.org/get-involved/) and subscribe to our email list!

## FIND AND SHARE OUR SOCIAL MEDIA!

- Join us on Facebook: [WA1stLDDems](https://www.facebook.com/WA1stLDDems)

## ATTEND OUR LD MEETINGS

- We hold monthly general membership meetings that are open to all PCOs, members, and guests. We hold our business meetings online and also meet in person every few months to socialize, meet candidates, and celebrate democracy together:
  - Join us online by registering at: [1stliddems.org](https://1stliddems.org)
  - Join us from noon – 3pm on July 20, 2024 at Cedar Grove Park for our primary election kick-off event!
- Join a committee- that's where the real work happens! Our general meetings are where we make decisions, but the proposals we'll be hearing about are developed in our committees: that's where we discuss current issues, support our members, work to make our organization more welcoming to volunteers from a wide variety of backgrounds, manage our day-to-day operations, and support our Get Out the Vote efforts!
- Volunteer to serve on our Executive Board: the Executive Board (Eboard) is our management team and consists of our elected Chairs and Vice Chairs, our Secretary and Treasurer, our Committee Chairs, our delegates to other democratic organizations, and two at-large members. The Eboard is responsible for overall management of our organization and enacting the will of the members.



# 2024 Election Timing

**2024 King Conservation District Supervisor Position 1, online only:** [kingcd.org](http://kingcd.org)

- Ballots due by 8:00 pm Tuesday Feb 13

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

**March Presidential Primary Election:** Ballots due by 8pm March 12

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

## **2024 Primary and General Elections:**

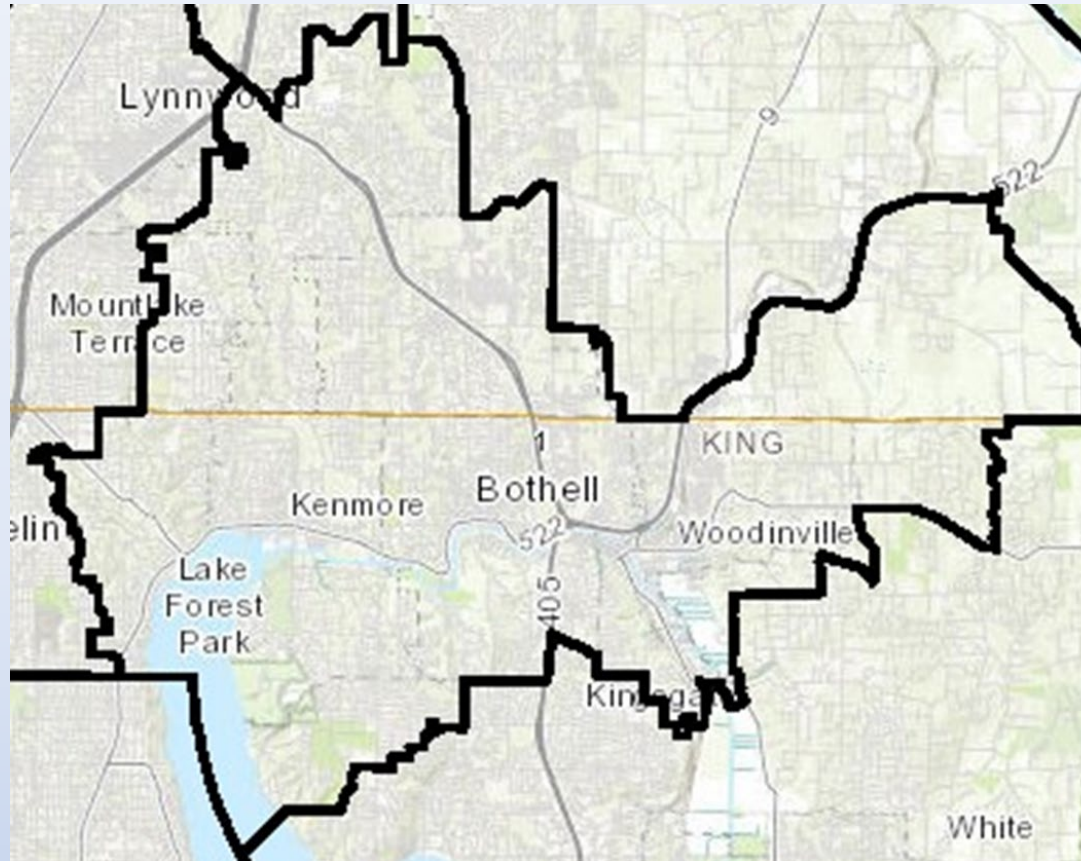
Candidates for local office (County offices, Port offices, city councils, judges, school boards, and special purpose districts including hospital, fire, water, sewer, and cemetery districts)

- Monday May 6 – Friday May 10: Candidate filing! (Candidate statements due 1 week later)
- Wednesday July 17: Primary Election ballots and voter's pamphlets mailed
- Tuesday August 6: Primary election ballots due by 8pm
- Wednesday Oct 16: General election ballots mailed
- Tuesday Nov 5: General election ballots due by 6pm



# What is a Legislative District?

Legislative Districts consist of a collection of contiguous precincts and are revised every decade (after the census) or more frequently. All LDs contain about the same numbers of active voters. Legislative districts can, and commonly do, extend across congressional district, county, and city boundaries.



# First Legislative District Characteristics

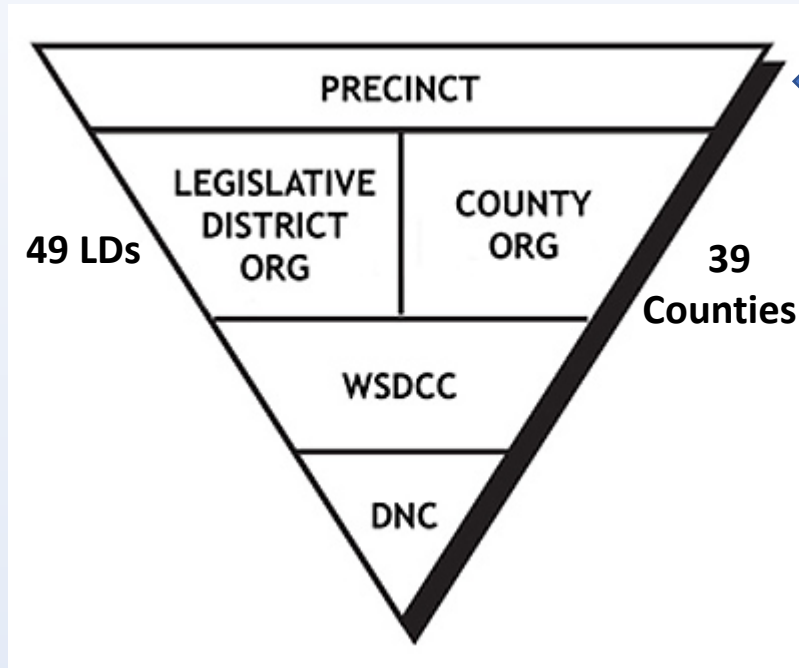
The First Legislative District consists of about 98,150 active voters, with about 40% living in Snohomish County and the balance living in King County. In addition to statewide elections, our voters elect representatives in:

- All County-wide offices in King and Snohomish County, County Councilmembers in King County Districts 1 and 3, and County Councilmembers in Snohomish County Districts 3, 4, and 5
- Portions of the 1st, 7th, and 8th Congressional Districts
- The cities of Bothell, Brier, Kenmore, Lake Forest Park, and Woodinville and a portion of Kirkland
- The Port of Seattle
- King and Snohomish Conservation Districts
- 4 District Courts (Northeast and Shoreline District Courts in King County and Evergreen and South District Courts in Snohomish County)
- 4 Fire Districts (King County Fire District 16, Woodinville Fire & Rescue, Snohomish County Fire District 10 and Snohomish County Regional Fire Authority District 1)
- 3 Public Hospital Districts (King County Public Hospital District No. 2 and Snohomish County Hospital Districts 1 and 2)
- 6 School Districts (Edmonds, Everett, Monroe, Northshore, and Lake Washington, and Shoreline)
- 6 Utility, Water, and Wastewater Districts (Alderwood Water and Wastewater, Cross Valley Water, Lake Forest Park Water, North City Water, Woodinville Water, Northshore Utility District, Snohomish County Public Utility District No. 1)

Our communities also vote on ballot measures and levies in each of these jurisdictions, including in levies that support our municipalities, the King County library system, Sound Transit, and Snohomish County Community Transit.



# 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](#)”.



# What is a PCO (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!



# What is a “PCO” (the fun part)?

“PCO” stands for “Precinct Committee Officer”- but you’re really a *local organizer*. As a PCO, you:

- **The frontline connection:** You are the neighbor who connects your neighbors with the Democratic party- and it’s a two-way connection! You can ask members of your Legislative District (LD) and County organizations about solutions to neighborhood, city, County, State and Federal issues and bring those solutions forward- as ordinances, resolutions, legislation, or candidates. You bring the voices of your community into the conversation.
- **A community organizer:** You are the neighbor who keeps your neighborhood informed about local elections (and more)! You start by talking with your neighbors (canvassing): in person, using mail, email, phone calls, even chats at block parties and conversations while out walking... what you do and how you do it is up to you.
- **Your LD’s frontline candidate support:** You are the person informing voters in your precinct about candidates endorsed by your LD and County organizations, and why those candidates deserve their “seat at the table” making decisions about our futures.



# A PCO is also a Potential Candidate!

The first elected office held by MANY of our most effective elected representatives was that of PCO.

As a PCO you meet with and learn from voters in your precinct- and you also meet with and learn from other PCOs (many of whom also hold elected office). You'll work with these activists to evaluate, endorse, and elect candidates- and learn what it takes to earn these endorsements. You'll learn the "nuts and bolts" of running for office, including how to use campaign and candidate development tools available through the Democratic Party. You'll also meet advisors who can help you evaluate your opportunities and develop your campaign.

If you decide to become a candidate you'll be asking your fellow PCOs for their endorsement, their help with your campaign, and their help in getting out the vote.

Being a PCO is an excellent opportunity to learn the ropes, learn from experience campaigners, build your campaign team, and plan and execute your campaign.



# 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 for at least 30 days prior to election day
- At least 18 years old by the election day (if you are 16 or 17 you can sign up as a [Future Voter](#) and be automatically registered when you qualify)
- 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](http://www.sos.wa.gov), select “elections”, and click the green button labeled “register to vote” (in the upper right corner of the screen)! *OR*
- Go to [voter.votewa.gov](http://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/voters/voter-registration/print-voter-registration-form>
- Mail your completed voter registration form to either:

King County Elections  
919 SW Grady Way  
Renton, WA 98057

Snohomish County Elections  
3000 Rockefeller Ave (M/S 505)  
Everett, WA 98201



# Critical 2024 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 are permitted at local voting centers before 8 p.m. on Election Day.

## **FEBRUARY 2023 ELECTIONS:**

- Monday January 29, 2024: Deadline for online or mail-in voter registration, address change, or other updates
- Tuesday February 6, 2024: Deadline for in-person registration or address change at a local voting center (Voting Centers close at 8:00 pm)

## **2024 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION**

- Monday March 4, 2024: Deadline for online or mail-in voter registration, address change, or other updates
- Tuesday March 12, 2024: Deadline for in-person registration or address change at a local voting center (Voting Centers close at 8:00 pm)

## **APRIL 2024 ELECTIONS:**

- Monday April 15, 2024: Deadline for online or mail-in voter registration, address change, or other updates
- Tuesday April 23, 2024: Deadline for in-person registration or address change at a local voting center (Voting Centers close at 8:00 pm)

## **2024 STATE PRIMARY ELECTION**

- Monday July 29, 2024: Deadline for online or mail-in voter registration, address change, or other updates
- Tuesday August 6, 2024: 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 28, 2024: Deadline for online or mail-in voter registration, address change, or other updates
- Tuesday November 5, 2024: 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.



# Confirming and Recording Your Role!

1. Our PCO Coordinator will meet with you to discuss your goals and expectations, and how you can best support our 1<sup>st</sup> LD candidate support and “Get Out the Vote” efforts.
2. Your PCO Coordinator will determine whether you live in a precinct that does not yet have a PCO (a “vacant” precinct).
  - a) If your precinct is vacant you may be able to serve an Appointed PCO for your precinct! You can also run for office as the elected PCO by filing as a candidate during May 6-10, 2024 (we’ll help you with this)!
  - b) If your precinct already has a PCO you may join their precinct committee and/or serve as a Precinct Coordinator for a nearby vacant precinct. As a Precinct Coordinator you’d be filling all the roles of a PCO while meeting community members and working to identify a precinct resident who can be appointed as the PCO.
3. After your LD determines where you can serve your LD will send your application will be sent to the Chair of the appropriate County Democrats organization for final approval (it’s not actually recorded, or legally valid, until the County Chair approves).

**THANK YOU! AND WELCOME TO THE TEAM!**



# 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 and neighborhoods.

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.

