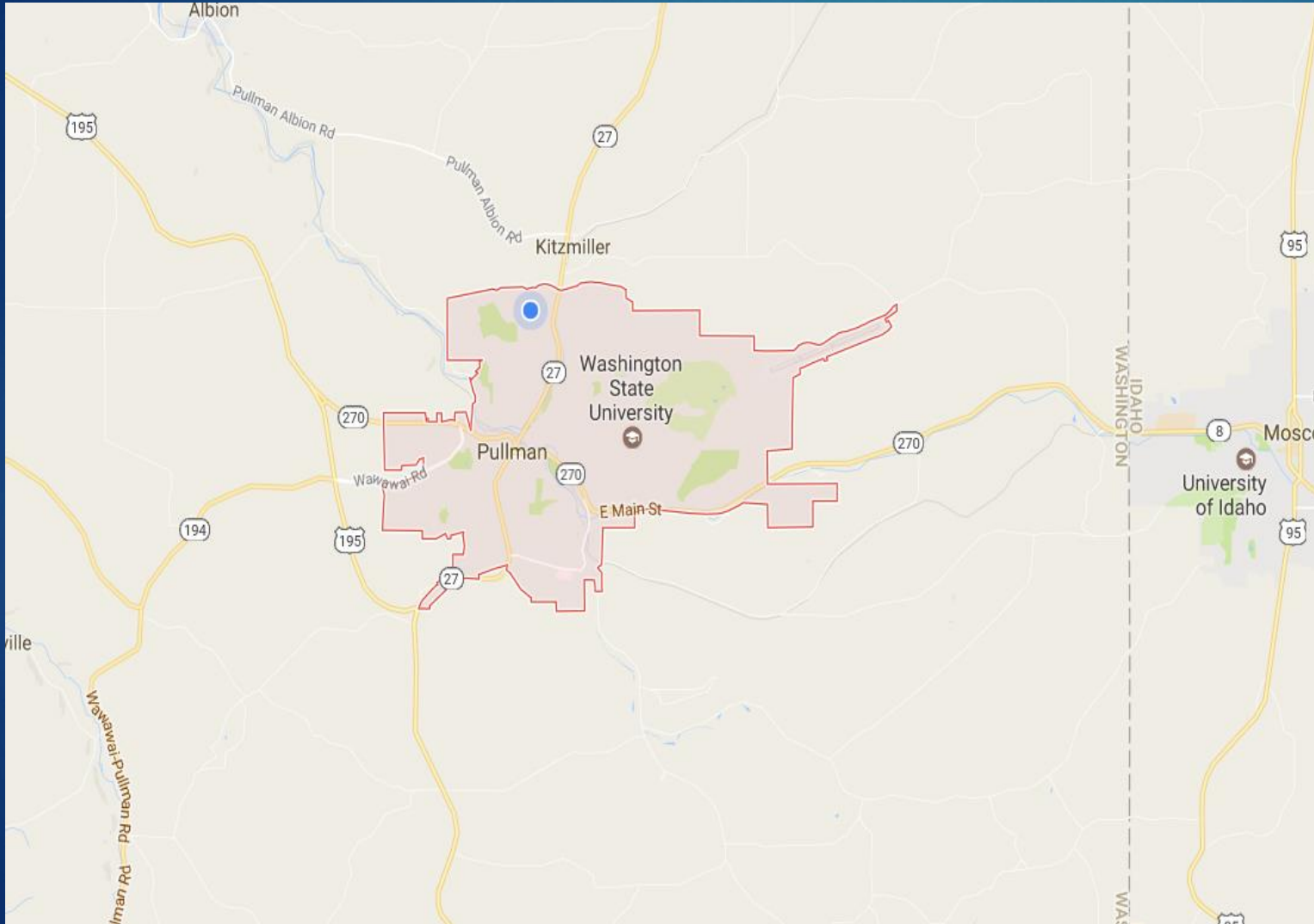




Civics 101

PRESENTED BY THE YOUNG DEMOCRATS OF WSU, GREEN PARTY OF THE
PALOUSE, WHITMAN COUNTY DEMOCRATS, PALOUSE PROACTIVE

Where are You?



Pullman

- Largest City in Whitman County
- Governed by a mayor and an elected seven member city council
- Mayor is the Chief Administrator while the Council sets policy for the city

Where are You?

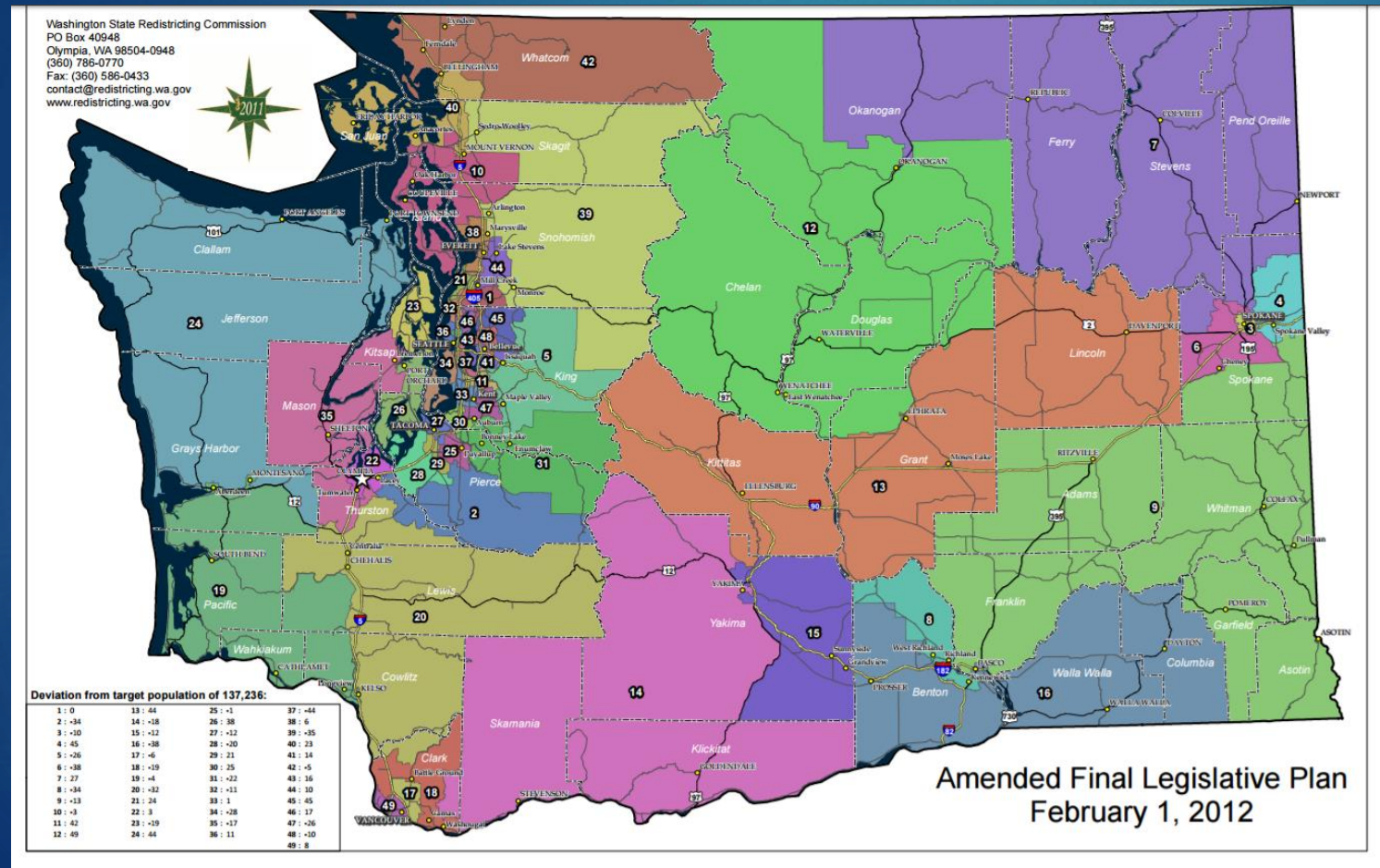
Whitman County



- Population 44,00 (2010)
- Governed primarily by the Board of Commissioners and various committees
- Whitman County Municipal Code - 1978

Where are You?

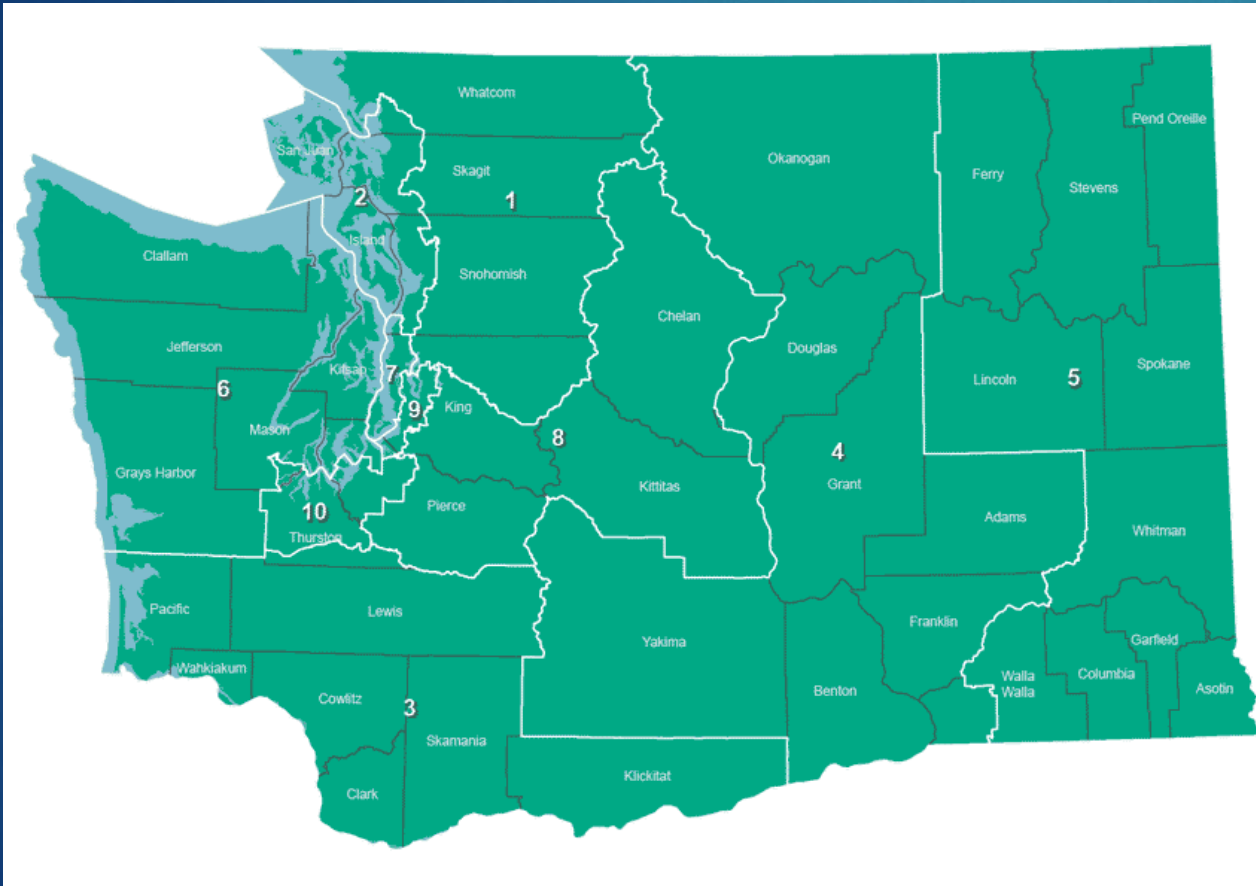
9th Legislative District



- One of 49 Legislative Districts in Washington
- Consists of Adams, Asotin, Franklin, Garfield, Whitman and parts of Franklin and Spokane Counties
- One Senator and two Representatives to the State Legislature

Where are You?

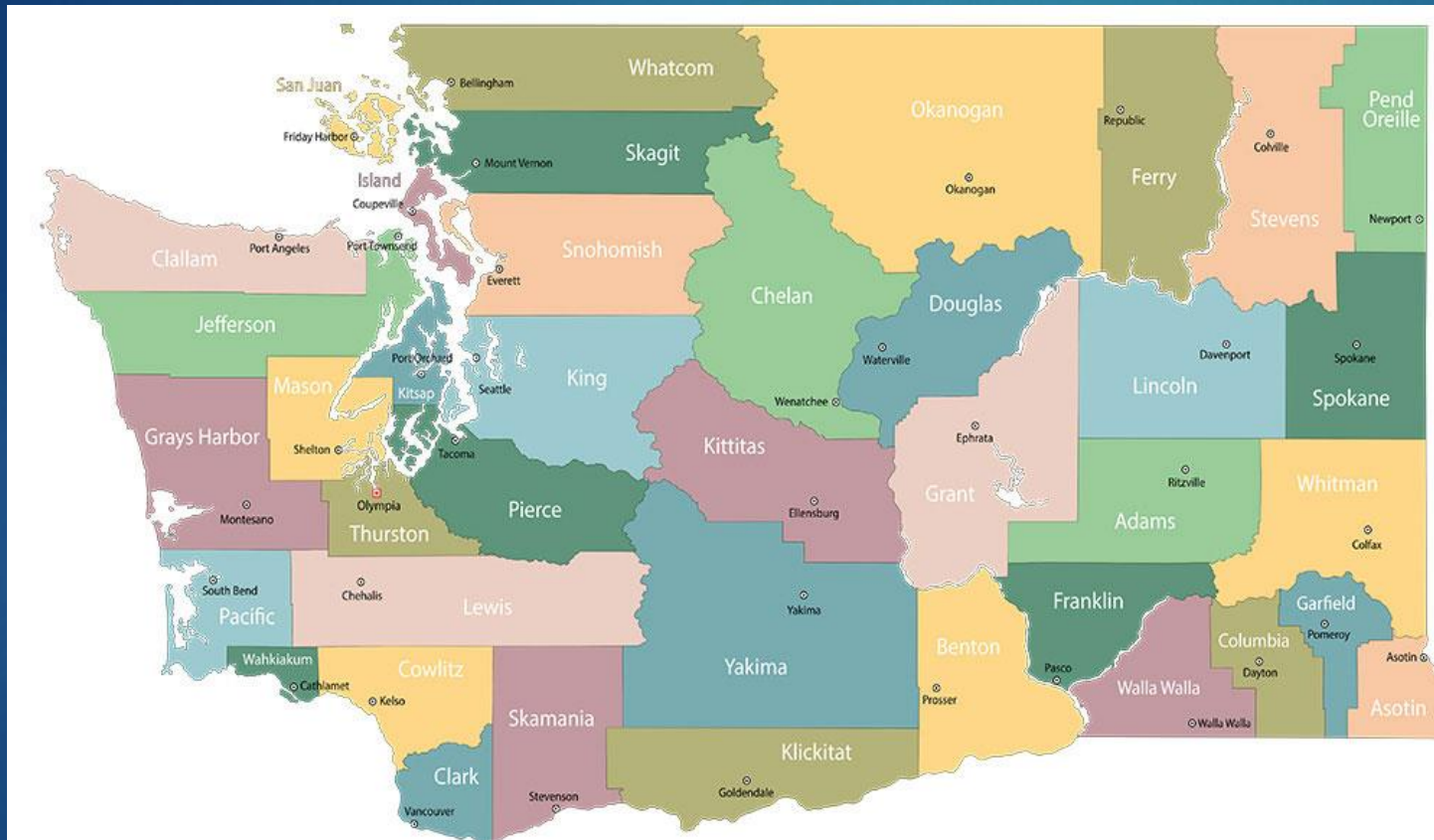
5th Congressional District



- One of 10 Congressional Districts in the state
- Largest City: Spokane
- One Congressional Representative to the House of Representatives
- Cathy McMorris Rodgers (Republican)

Where are You?

Washington State



- Established by the Washington State Constitution
- State Governance: Legislative, Executive and Judicial Branches
- Two Senators + Ten House Members = 12 Electoral College Votes

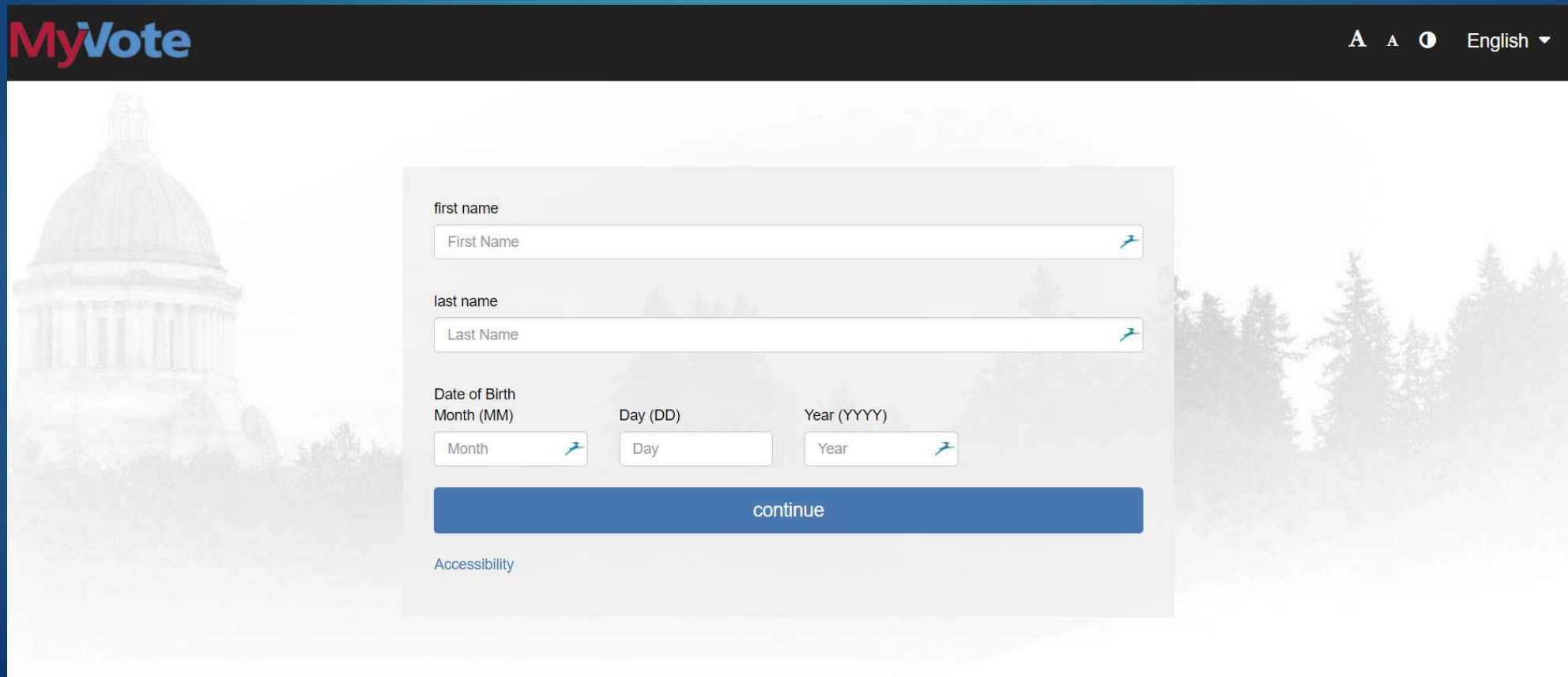
<http://www.commerce.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/business-services-economic-partnerships1.jpg>

Voter Registration

- ▶ Are you registered?
- ▶ Is your registration current?
 - ▶ Voted within last 2 years
 - ▶ Your current mailing address is your registered address
- ▶ Buy local, vote local

How to Check Registration Status

<https://weiapplets.sos.wa.gov/myvote>



The screenshot shows the MyVote website interface. At the top left is the "MyVote" logo. At the top right are accessibility icons (a large 'A', a smaller 'A', and a circle with a dot) and a language dropdown menu set to "English". The main content area features a light gray background with a faint image of the Washington State Capitol building on the left and a forest on the right. A white registration form is centered on the page. The form includes the following fields:

- first name**: A text input field with the placeholder "First Name" and a blue arrow icon on the right.
- last name**: A text input field with the placeholder "Last Name" and a blue arrow icon on the right.
- Date of Birth**: Three separate input fields labeled "Month (MM)", "Day (DD)", and "Year (YYYY)". The "Month" and "Year" fields have blue arrow icons on their right sides.

Below the date of birth fields is a prominent blue button with the text "continue". At the bottom left of the form area, there is a link labeled "Accessibility".

How to Register

- ▶ Register online!

<https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/myvote/olvr.html>

- ▶ Washington State ID
- ▶ Washington State Driver's License

- ▶ Idaho Information

http://www.idahovotes.gov/voter_info.shtml

- ▶ Can only register my mail

How do you get involved?

- ▶ VOTE! Obvs.
- ▶ Contact your representatives to make sure they know where you stand.
- ▶ Develop a means to communicate with your representatives that has shown to be most effective and most likely to encourage a response.
- ▶ Calling and Writing Letters



Things to Consider (Calls)

- ▶ **Know what message you wish to convey**
- ▶ Influence outcome on legislation:
 - ▶ Identify the BILL NUMBER (you want movement on specific legislation, so be specific about that legislation)
 - ▶ Have a brief outline of your opinion on that legislation READY (if it takes longer than 8-10 seconds, you have too much outline)
 - ▶ Allow a response (staffer might have something already lined out)
 - ▶ Provide a personal example if appropriate
- ▶ Find out how your representative voted:
 - ▶ Identify the name and number of the bill in question
 - ▶ Communicate your opinion on that vote
- ▶ **Be patient and kind**

Format (Letters)

The Honorable (full name)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative (last name):

1st Paragraph

- ▶ **The legislation addressing** (describe issue concisely, or use exact name of bill before legislature)
- ▶ **Your interest in the topic, and why it's of interest to you** (your profession, family, position, etc.)
- ▶ **What you see as the impact of issue** (generally tied to your interest)

2nd Paragraph

- ▶ **SPECIFIC concern** (describe major specific concern within the larger issue) **because** (state reasons or examples briefly, with only as many relevant details as necessary to make your point clearly.)
- ▶ **Although I have read reports of your position in the newspapers, I realize this may not fully represent your viewpoint. Therefore, I will look forward to your reply expressing your opinions, and your current stance on the issue.**
- ▶ **Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the legislation** (pass, fail, or be amended) **to ensure effective educational services for those involved.**
- ▶ **Sincerely,**
- ▶ *Your name,
Address
Phone Number
Email Address*

What you want to accomplish:

- ▶ Politeness
- ▶ Brevity
- ▶ Directness (letters and calls should make it clear from the get go why the communication is happening and what action you expect the legislator to do)
- ▶ Personalization is good but should not be ornate.
- ▶ Globalization is good and modification of online talking points.
- ▶ Point out that the issue is a "voting issue."
- ▶ **Ask for a follow up from the legislator to explain his/her vote in relation to your position.**

Other Ways to Get Involved: Ballot Initiatives

Ballot Paper MAN

I believe

please read the leaflet enclosed with this ballot paper which provides details of the Greater Manchester Transport Innovation Fund proposals. These involve both major investment in public transport improvements in Greater Manchester and weekday, peak time only, congestion charging scheme. Congestion charging will only be introduced after 80% of the public transport improvements are in place and not before the summer of 2013.

Do you agree with the Transport Innovation Fund Proposals?

Place your cross **X** in one box only

YES, I vote for the proposals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NO, I vote against the proposals	<input type="checkbox"/>

Your vote is personal - complete it yourself

What Are Initiatives?

- ▶ The **ballot initiative** is a means by which a petition signed by a certain minimum number of registered voters can bring about a public vote on a proposed statute or constitutional amendment (ballotpedia.org).
- ▶ Also referred to as popular initiative, voter initiative, citizen initiative.
- ▶ Marijuana legalization, administrative authority, healthcare restructuring, and more have been passed at the state level using this method.



Two Basic Initiative Types

Initiatives to the People

- ▶ Measure is submitted for a vote of the people in the next state general election.
- ▶ Advocates must collect a required number of signatures from legal registered voters for submission.
- ▶ Signature requirements:
 - ▶ Washington: 8% of votes cast for the office of governor in the last election.
 - ▶ Idaho: 6% of all legal registered voters in 18 of 35 legislative districts as of the state's last general election.

Initiatives to the Legislature

- ▶ Measure is submitted to the state legislature for deliberation at their January assembly.
- ▶ Legislature can take one of three courses of action:
 - ▶ Adopt the measure.
 - ▶ Reject the measure and place it on the ballot in the next general election.
 - ▶ Propose a different measure on the same topic to be placed on the ballot in the next general election.
- ▶ Idaho does not have this option.

Upcoming Initiatives

- ▶ Ranked-Choice Voting

Begin voting below ↓

Office of Mayor Mark your first, second and third choice candidates in the columns below. **One to be elected.**

1 First Choice	Fill in one oval completely.	2 Second Choice	Mark your second choice here.	3 Third Choice	Mark your third choice here.
<input type="radio"/>	Susan Harris	<input type="radio"/>	Susan Harris	<input type="radio"/>	Susan Harris
<input type="radio"/>	David Grey	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	David Grey	<input type="radio"/>	David Grey
<input type="radio"/>	Juan Flores	<input type="radio"/>	Juan Flores	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Juan Flores
<input type="radio"/>	Bill Brown	<input type="radio"/>	Bill Brown	<input type="radio"/>	Bill Brown
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Anna Nath	<input type="radio"/>	Anna Nath	<input type="radio"/>	Anna Nath

- ▶ Automatic Voter Registration



Ranked-Choice Voting

First Past The Post (current system)

One round of voting. Candidate with highest percentage wins.

- ▶ Candidate A – 40% **WIN**
- ▶ Candidate B – 30% **LOSS**
- ▶ Candidate C – 20% **LOSS**

Ranked-Choice

Multiple rounds of voting until there are two candidates. Second round of voting, Candidate C's supporters' second choices go to Candidate B:

- ▶ Candidate A – 40% **LOSS**
- ▶ Candidate B – 50% **WIN**