

## [Voter Turnout Expected to be High For Washington Primary](#)

### Local News

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OLYMPIA, Wash. - Secretary of State Sam Reed is predicting a better-than-usual turnout for the Top 2 Primary that gets underway next week. Reed, the state's chief elections officer, on Thursday forecast a 46 percent turnout — better than the 43 percent average for comparable presidential/gubernatorial years in recent decades. The people of Washington are pretty revved up by the campaigns and issues this year and that should result in a darned good turnout, starting with our primary election, we have an extremely competitive presidential race nationally and the media, campaigns, parties and special interest groups have been flooding us with campaign coverage and voter information. - Secretary of State Sam Reed

Reed added "likewise, in this state, we have one of the nation's hottest races for governor and we have an unusually high number of open statewide elective offices, including governor, secretary of state, attorney general and auditor. Washington voters also will be electing three brand new members of Congress, following our redistricting and retirements of incumbents. A U.S. Senate seat is on the ballot and people are already buzzing about our ballot measures that are on tap for November. Our Legislature, the courts and other important state and local offices also offer lots of excitement. Some judges, including the Supreme Court, essentially can be elected in the primary by taking more than 50 percent of the vote.

"As always, I hold out hope that turnout will be even better than I am predicting. After watching democracy on the march around the world, and people's enthusiasm for casting their ballots, I am struck more than ever with just how significant a privilege it is to vote. This is the first presidential election year where all counties have moved to vote-by-mail and we offer assistance to voters with handicaps, and we're doing significant voter outreach." Military and overseas ballots already have gone out and other voters will begin getting their ballots late next week. Ballots must be postmarked by Primary Day, Aug. 7, or placed in a dropbox by then.

Since 1988, turnout for state primaries averages 43%. You'll see that 1992 was another high turnout year, at 45.8 percent. 1992 was also a politically revved up year that included a new Congressional District; we gained the 9th Congressional District following the 1990 Census.

### **State Primaries in Presidential Election Years**

Election Year
Turnout

1988
41.61%

1992
45.80%

1996
42.06%

2000  
40.80%

2004  
45.14%

2008  
42.60%

Average  
43%