

So you want to be an elected official...

Tips for the 2019 election cycle

Once you decide to run for office, go to the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) and review your filing requirements.

pdc.wa.gov

Use the Secretary of State's (SOS) website to see if your county has candidate workshops where you can learn how to run for office. A list of County Auditors can also be found there.

vote.wa.gov

For further information, the Candidate Filing FAQ on the SOS website is a terrific place for research.

sos.wa.gov/elections/candidates

Where to file

Visit Washington's SOS website to find contact information for all county elections departments in the state. While many counties accept filings online or in-person, some counties do not offer an online filing option. Contact your county elections department to determine what options are available to you.

What you'll need

- Filing fee (if applicable)
- Photograph, statement, and biography to include in voters' pamphlet

Important dates

April 29 – First day mail-in candidate filings accepted (Filings received before 4/29 are not accepted)

May 13 – First day of official Candidate Filing Week (Online and in-person candidate filing begins)

May 17 – Last day to file for office

May 20 – Last day to withdraw candidacy

May 21 – Last day for Secretary of State to certify candidates to county auditors

May 24 – Last day to submit necessary materials for voters' pamphlet

August 6 – Primary election

November 5 – General election

Save the date!

AWC's Elected Officials Essentials

December 7 | 12 locations

This training is available at 12 locations throughout Washington for newly elected mayors, councilmembers, and those currently in office. The content covers important information about roles and responsibilities, and basic legal obligations and liabilities. Check with your city/town clerk for more information or visit the AWC website. wacities.org



About the Association of Washington Cities (AWC)

AWC is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan corporation that represents Washington's cities and towns before the state legislature, the state executive branch, and with regulatory agencies. Our mission is to serve our members through advocacy, education, and services. Membership is voluntary. However, AWC consistently maintains 100% participation from Washington's 281 cities and towns. A 25-member Board of Directors oversees the association's activities.

