

Press Release

February 22, 2024

Newport – Just as the Special Election is ending, voters in Pend Oreille County will be receiving ballots for the 2024 Presidential Primary.

Ballots will be mailed this week to all Washington voters for an election that happens no more than once every four years and, according to Pend Oreille County Auditor Marianne Nichols, is actually two elections in one.

“The Presidential Primary is a nominating exercise for the major parties. If you want to have a say in who one of the parties picks as its presidential nominee, you pick one of the parties and mark your ballot for someone in that party.” Nichols said.

Unlike other elections, to vote in the Presidential Primary in Washington a voter must choose a party preference, then on the ballot select a candidate from that party. When ballots are returned, the ballots are separated by party preference, and then processed as two separate elections.

“We understand that the way this election is unique in Washington presents a tough choice of whether or not to vote,” Nichols said. “The declaration you would be marking says you prefer a party, not that you are a member of that party, but we know that for some independent voters that still offers a choice they’d rather not make.”

Pend Oreille County Elections recommends using ballot drop boxes to return ballots, but voters can also do so by mail without postage. Voters returning their ballots by mail must make sure their ballots are post marked by Election Day, Tuesday, March 12, 2024.

Online and mail registrations and address changes must be received by March 4th. Residents can register to vote in person at the Pend Oreille County Auditor’s Office at 625 West 4th Street, Newport from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. On Election Day, March 12, the Election Office will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Ballots must be returned to one of the county’s drop boxes by 8:00 p.m. on March 12th, or postmarked by that day.

For all election information, please call 509-447-6472 or go to pendoreilleco.org/auditor/page/elections