



County Up Close

Winter 2020: Volume 3, Issue 1

A Message from Auditor Mary Hall *February Special Election and Primary*



By Mary Hall, Thurston County Auditor

This February election, you will vote on ballot measures for your school district. The decision you make will directly impact your local schools and community. If you have any questions about the measures on the ballot, please contact the school district.

If you have election questions or need a replacement ballot, we are ready to help. All 28 ballot drop boxes will be open around the clock beginning January 24. You can vote and return your ballot as early as the day you receive it.

The Thurston County Auditor's Office needs your help to make sure your vote is counted. During every election we receive ballots that we can't count for one reason or another. Here are some common reasons that prevent us from counting your vote:

Returning the security envelope only. If we don't have a signed declaration, we can't count your ballot. When you return the security envelope alone, we have no way to contact you. These ballots can't be counted.

No signature on the return envelope voter declaration. State law requires you sign the declaration for your vote to be counted.

Signature doesn't match the one we have on file. Copying someone's signature is nearly impossible and our signature checkers are trained by the Washington State Patrol. Don't sign a voter declaration for anyone else, even for

your spouse or child. If we challenge your signature, we send you a letter the same day to ask you to update your signature. If the update matches the signature on the ballot, we can count it.

Using power of attorney to sign a ballot. Power of attorney cannot be used to sign someone else's ballot.

Late postmark. We can't count ballots that have postmarks after election day. If you turn in your ballot near Election Day, use one of our drop boxes instead of the mail.

For this February election, all ballots must be postmarked by Election Day, February 11, or deposited into a ballot drop box by 8:00 p.m. on election night.

March Presidential Primary

This year's Presidential Primary is the first in state history your ballot will have a direct impact on who each party's nominee will be. Please take this historic opportunity to vote for the candidate you wish to appear on the ballot next November.

There will also be some important differences between the Presidential Primary and other elections.

We don't declare a party when registering to vote in our state. But you must mark and sign a political party declaration on the ballot return envelope to participate in the Presidential Primary. The declaration must also match your voted candidate's political party. Your choice of party will not affect how you vote in future elections.

Both the Democratic and Republican ballots will appear on a single ballot. Unlike other elections, you may only vote for one printed candidate on the entire ballot page.

The parties will use the results to allocate delegates to their national conventions, which will then choose the eventual nominees. For more information about how the parties allocate delegates, please contact that political party:

Washington State Democratic Party: 206-583-0664

Washington State Republican Party: 425-460-0570

Commissioners to Hold Evening Board Meeting in Lacey

The Board of County Commissioners have determined it is in the public's best interest of supporting greater citizen engagement in local government to have their regularly scheduled Board of County Commissioners meeting for Tuesday, January 28, at the Washington Farm Bureau at 5:30 p.m.

What: Board of County Commissioners Meeting

When: Tuesday, January 28, 2020, at 5:30 p.m.

Where: Washington Farm Bureau Harvest Room, 975 Carpenter Rd. NE #301, Lacey, WA 98516

Have Comments for Your Community?
Join us for a Commissioner Meeting in Lacey!

 Board of County Commissioners
Off-Site Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2020

At 5:30 PM

Washington Farm Bureau Harvest Room
975 Carpenter Rd. NE #301, Lacey, WA 98516

OUR VISION

Thurston County is a vibrant community ensuring the health, safety, and wellbeing of generations to live, work, and play.

OUR MISSION

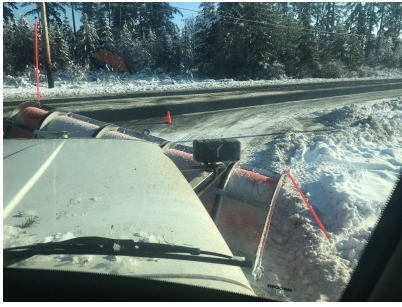
To create a community that promotes health, commerce, and environmental protection with transparency and accountability.

Disability Accommodations

Contact Amy Davis at amy.davis@co.thurston.wa.us or 360-788-5440 at least five days prior to the meeting. Persons with visual or hearing disabilities may call via Washington Relay: 719 or 800-833-6386.

Learn more at www.thurstoncountywa.gov





As Winter Storm Season Begins, Consider Signing up for TC Alert

Winter storm season is here. This year, be better prepared for major weather events and other emergencies that may effect your community by subscribing to Thurston Community Alert at www.thurstoncountywa.gov. Thurston Community Alert uses several types of alerts - including text, email, and phone - to warn the public of potential hazards within the county.

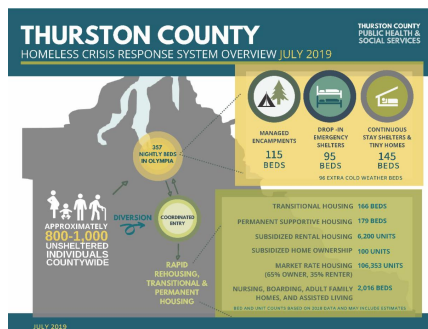
If you have any trouble signing up, or would like more information on Thurston Community Alert, please call (360) 867-2800.

Census 2020: You Count. Be Counted.

The 2020 Census will count every person living in the 50 states, District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories. The data can help inform where your community needs a new fire department, more funding for school lunches, new roads, and much more.



Billions of dollars in federal funding go to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, and other resources every year based on census data. Every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census by April 1, 2020. Please respond for your home online, by phone, or by mail. Learn more about the 2020 Census at <https://2020census.gov/>.



Thurston County's Homeless Crisis Response Plan

In June 2018, the Thurston County Board of Health declared homelessness a public health crisis, pledging action to help alleviate the impact of the growing crisis. On October 29, 2019, The Board of County Commissioners adopted an updated [Thurston County 5-year Homeless Crisis Response Plan for 2019 – 2024](#) that reflects new guidelines from the Washington State Department of Commerce and the changing landscape of homelessness in Thurston County.

The Homeless Crisis Response plan is dynamic and can be adjusted as we learn more, and as new strategies are implemented. It will guide the actions of the region—and with more organizations getting involved than ever before—it is a

way to move forward with strong positive changes, both for the homeless as well as for the community-at-large. You can view the Homeless Crisis Response Plan at <https://bit.ly/30aTCuk>.

Career Spotlight!



DISTRICT COURT

SERVING JUSTICE THROUGH SERVING PEOPLE

Curious how court cases play out behind the scenes? Want to watch justice in action – and be a part of it? Then consider a career with Thurston County District Court! District Court is seeking a court assistant to join their team and help members of the public navigate the criminal justice system, ensure defendants comply with conditions of release, and learn the ins and outs of how the court works. District Court's motto is "Serving Justice Through Serving People." If that describes your outlook, visit governmentjobs.com/careers/thurstonwa and apply today!

