

# ROOTED IN DEMOCRACY



## COWLITZ COUNTY ELECTIONS

ISSUE 3 - JANUARY 2026

### HEADING INTO 2026

2026 brings with it another partisan year including your senators, representatives, county elected officials, and judges up for election. Your elections team is ready to make sure you are well informed as a voter by providing candidate information, important dates and deadlines, and return options in the upcoming editions.

In this issue, we provide information on the upcoming February Special Election, security sleeve myths, and opportunities to work with us. Cowlitz County is rooted in Democracy!

### ELECT-PUN CORNER

May the vote be with you!

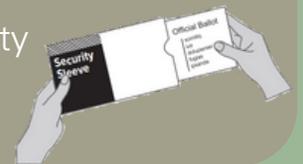


### YOUR ELECTIONS TEAM

Serving the galaxy and Cowlitz County last Halloween during the 2025 November General voting period.

### MYTH BUSTED - THE SECURITY SLEEVE IS REQUIRED TO COUNT YOUR BALLOT.

The security sleeve is an **optional** sleeve provided in a ballot packet each election. This sleeve acts as an extra barrier to protect the privacy of a voter's marked ballot. If you forget to put your ballot in the security sleeve, we will still count your ballot. **The security sleeve is not required.**



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## FEB. 10, 2026 SPECIAL

### WHEN ARE BALLOTS MAILED?

Ballots for the February 10 Special will be mailed January 23. Voters should see their ballot reach their homes by January 28.

### WHO GETS A BALLOT?

Participating Jurisdictions:  
Longview School District No. 122;  
Kalama School District No. 402

### WHEN ARE BALLOTS DUE?

Drop Box: 8 PM  
February 10, 2026  
In person: 8 PM  
February 10, 2026  
Mail: Postmark of  
February 10 or sooner



### WHAT'S ON MY BALLOT?

You can view races and measures on your ballot a few different ways beginning in January:

- Online at [VoteWA.gov](https://VoteWA.gov)
  - Login with your first name, last name, and date of birth
  - Select "Your Ballot & Voting Materials"
- Online at [co.cowlitz.wa.us/elections](https://co.cowlitz.wa.us/elections)
  - [PDF of the Kalama School District Local Voters' Pamphlet](#)
  - [PDF of the Longview School District Local Voters' Pamphlet](#)
  - [Online Local Voters' Guide](#)
- Mail
  - Local Voters' Pamphlets are combined with instructions in each mailed ballot packet within participating jurisdictions.
- In person
  - Visit our office at [207 N 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, Rm 205, in Kelso, WA 98626](#)

### INTERESTED IN WORKING WITH ELECTIONS?

We employ trained members of both the local democratic and republican parties to work with opening ballots on our [Opening Board](#). They are also employed as [Ballot Box Buddies](#) who observe elections staff lawfully pick up and transport ballots from our 8 ballot boxes throughout the county to the elections office. If you are interested in learning more about these employment opportunities, please reach out to our office.