

Money In Politics and Elections Outlook for 2022

And how you can participate

Cindy Madigan

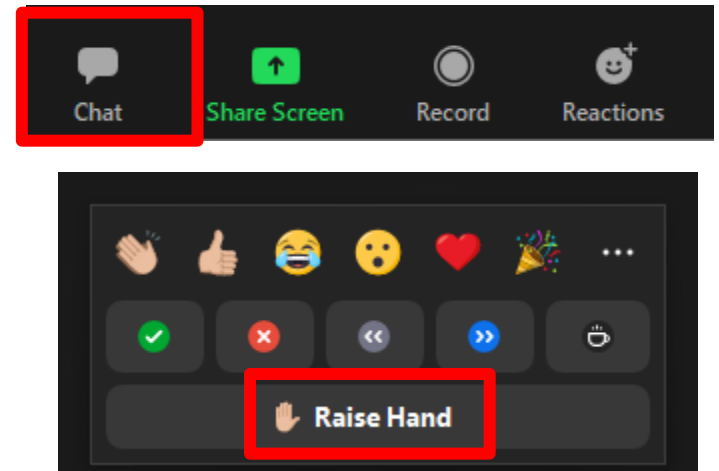
Issue Chair, Money in Politics



LWVWA Money in Politics & Elections

- Introduce presenters
- Brief outlook of legislation for 2022
- Opportunities for action
- This will be a high-level overview.

Type questions in the Chat or
raise your hand during Q&A at end



Presenters and Topics

- Cindy Madigan, Issue Chair - Money in Politics
 - PDC request legislation
 - Removing Advisory Votes from Ballot
- Carol Sullivan, Advocate
 - Local Options Bill
 - RCV for Presidential Primaries
- Cindy Black, Fix Democracy First
 - Back End Voter Registration
 - Voting Rights Act Enhancements
 - Democracy Vouchers



Public Disclosure Commission



- Mission & History
 - 1972 initiative 276 – public right to know about financing of political activity in this state
 - 1992 I-134 – contribution limits and campaign restrictions
- Legislation
 - PDC Request
 - Update reporting to align with voting period (when ballots arrive through election day)
 - Grassroots lobbying sponsor identification
 - Disclaimers on misleading political ads
 - PDC Transparency Account



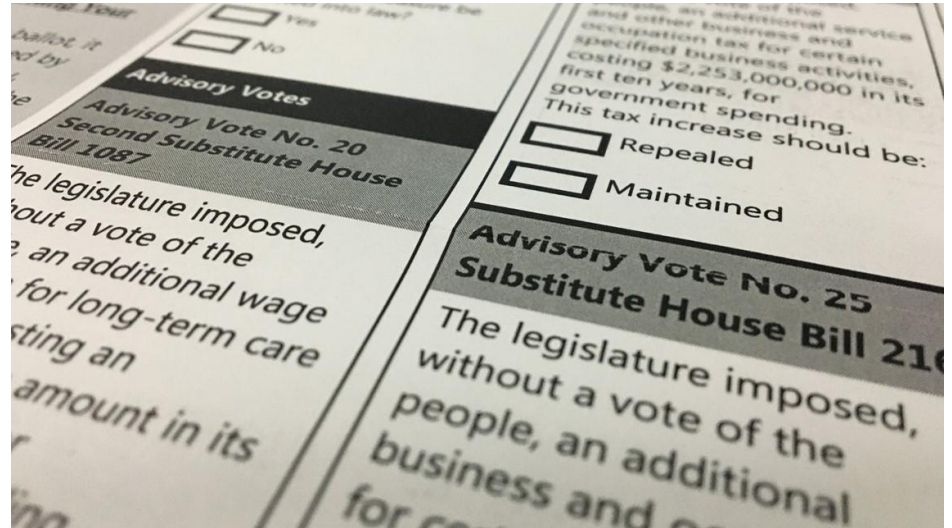
Advisory Votes on Ballot

- History

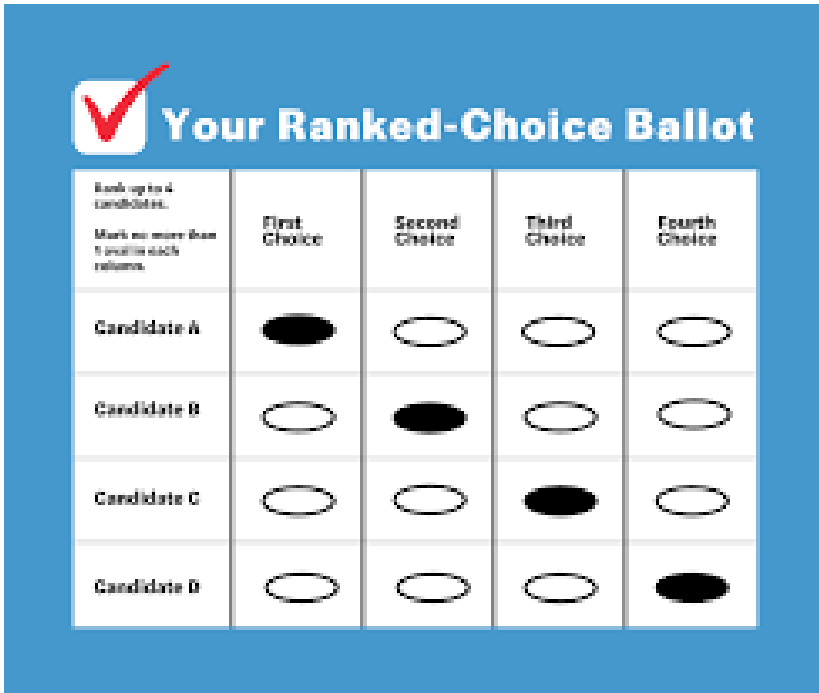
- 2008 initiative 960, on ballots in 2012
- Results of vote do not change law

- Legislation

- **SB 5182 - 2021-22**
- Easier for new voters and voters with English as a second language to complete ballot
- Voters save time wasted on research that has no impact on our laws
- Saves time, money, and administrative resources



Local Options Bill - SHB 1156



✓ Your Ranked-Choice Ballot

Rank up to 4 candidates.
Mark no more than 1 oval in each column.

| | First Choice | Second Choice | Third Choice | Fourth Choice |
|-------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Candidate A | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Candidate B | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Candidate C | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Candidate D | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |

- Has bi-partisan support in WA Legislature
- Ready for House Vote!
- Gives options to local jurisdictions up to County level
- Does not mandate change



Local Options Bill - SHB 1156

- Directs WA SOS to adopt uniform implementation
- RCV Workshop for County election administrators
- RCV is easy to learn!
- 95% of NYC voters satisfied with RCV in mayoral race

LOCAL OPTIONS FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS

Other things the bill does to strengthen local control over elections:

- Gives local governments the option to shift odd year elections to even years, allowing them to save money.
- Allows the state to help local governments implement options and cures to Washington Voting Rights Act Violations.
- The greatest effect of this bill is to allow local governments to adopt more accurate voting methods that also save money.

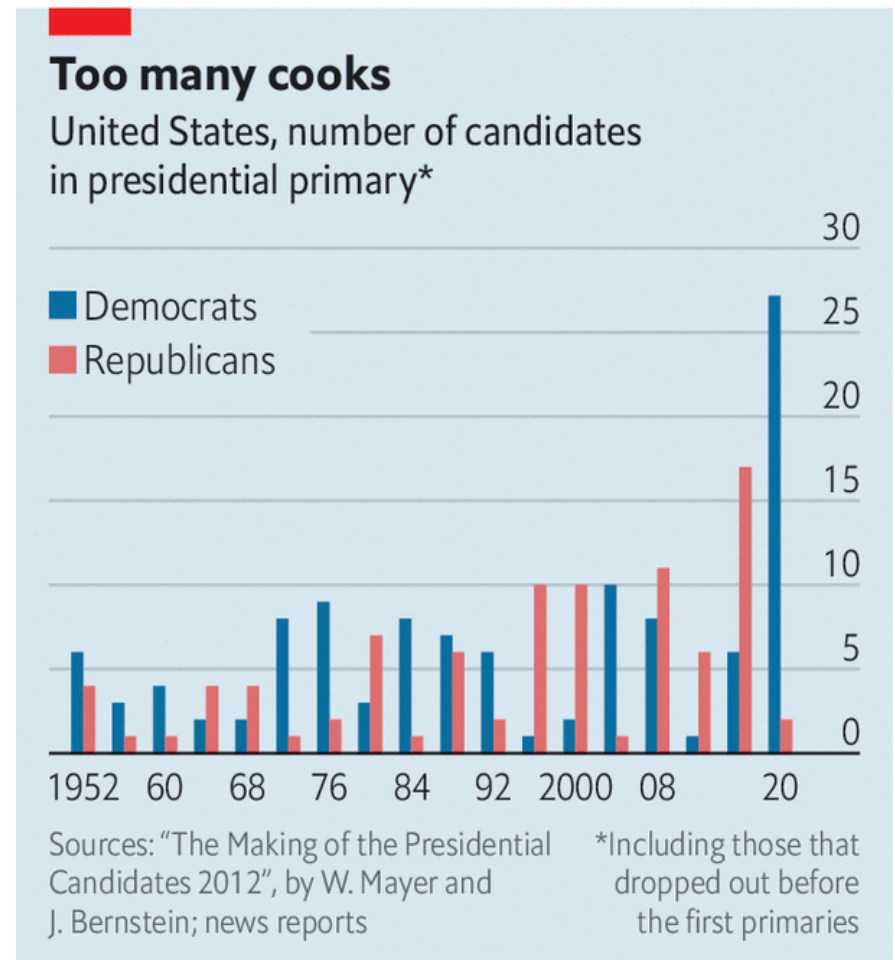
Local Support

-  **BELLINGHAM**
-  **OLYMPIA**
-  **VANCOUVER**



Ranked Choice Voting for Presidential Primaries

- Counties run elections, parties allocate delegates
- Nearly 400,000 votes - over 25% of Dem. primary votes “wasted” in 2020
- AK, KS, WY, HI, NV used RCV for ‘20 Pres. Primary
- Chosen candidate has broad support



The Economist



Upgrade to Back-End Automatic Voter Registration

BACK END

*An eligible citizen visits a designated AVR agency and completes a transaction without being offered the opportunity to decline registration. There is no conversation - it happens **automatically**.*

After the agency transaction is complete, the state election authority contacts the individual and offers the chance to opt out of registration and to register with a political party.

MORE EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE AND SECURE.

#VOTESAct

FRONT END

*An eligible citizen visits an AVR agency, completes a transaction and has the chance to opt out of registration during the transaction. This requires a conversation and registration is **not automatic**.*

Eligible citizen decides whether or not to register during the state agency transaction for other, unrelated business.

Requires state employee to be an expert on the voter registration processes if citizen has questions and presents a possible language barrier.

If a voter does not opt out in that moment, meets the eligibility criteria and clears any other relevant reviews, they will be registered to vote or their record will be updated.



Benefits of Back-End Automatic Voter Registration

- Increased Registrations
- Streamlines Updates
- More Accessible
- Protects Non-Citizens
- Time & Cost Savings



Enhancements to the



- Closes a loophole
- Courts can't pay undue deference
- Allocates attorney fees for notice letters
- Expands violations
- Establishes court remedies
- Mandates pre-clearance
- Allows expansion of number of seats



Public Funding of Elections - Democracy Vouchers

- Seattle's Democracy Voucher Program
- Expanding the program
- Statewide course of action coalition forming
- Evaluating best ways to run and support



Volunteer Opportunities

- **Survey the legislative session:** search in **Leg.WA.gov** for bills of significance to money in politics and elections concerns and perform a preliminary evaluation for bills of interest.
- **Legislative bill evaluation** – read bill text and related documentation and summarize in terms of LWVWA and LWVUS policy positions; recommend for or against position. Monitor progress through the legislative process. **This is a fast-paced activity.**
- **Fact checking** – positions of some other organizations can seem extreme and may use dubious facts. Determine what is true and what is false.
- **What would you like to do?**





- Questions • Clarifications • Discussion
- What do you need from the Lobby Team?

