



Independent Insurance Agents  
& Brokers of Washington

## 2024 Primary Report

By Bill Stauffacher, IABW's Lobbyist

Washington's historically royal blue voters once again spoke during the August 6 primary election by giving Democratic Attorney General Bob Ferguson a solid lead in the Governor's race and placing state legislative Democrats in a position to maintain and possibly increase their majorities headed into the November elections. These results are based on the votes counted by the WA Secretary of State as of 8/12.

In the Governor's race, Ferguson's performance strengthens his position as the frontrunner. In the general election he will face Republican Dave Reichert, a former Congressman and King County Sheriff. The winner replaces outgoing three-term Democratic Governor Jay Inslee.

Outcomes for legislative races have a noticeable trend with more conservative Republican candidates advancing to the general in three key races, two in the House and one in the Senate. As a result, these red-leaning districts become straight swing races for the general election. Additionally, a federal court-mandated redistricting ruling turned a reliably Republican district into a swing district, impacting one Senate seat and two House seats. With these dynamics and long-standing Democratic trends, legislative Republicans are on defense as Democrats look to add to their majorities (and possibly a supermajority in the Senate).

Senate Democrats have a 29-20 majority. There are four Republican-held swing districts. Republicans are winning all four of these races either by one GOP candidate's votes or by combining two Republican candidates' votes. They will be highly competitive and well-funded general election battles.

House Democrats have a 58-40 majority. There are eight swing contests - five Republican-held open seats and three held by Democratic incumbents. These are the House battleground races.

## Other Statewide Races

- **Attorney General:** Democratic candidate Nick Brown advances to the general election and will face GOP candidate Pete Serrano. Brown has an impressive resume – he previously served as U.S. Attorney for Western Washington, chief counsel to Gov. Inslee and as an Army JAG. Brown was also a contestant on the TV-reality show Survivor. Brown and Serrano outpaced Democratic state Sen. Manka Dhingra, one of the upper chamber’s most influential members who will remain in the Senate.
- **Commissioner of Public Lands:** Surprisingly for Washington, it is possible that two Republicans will advance to the general election. Former Republican U.S. Congresswoman Jaime Herrera Beutler is in the lead and Democrat Dave Upthegrove has only 1,802 votes more than GOP candidate Sue Kuehl Pederson.
- **Insurance Commissioner:** Democratic state Sen. Patty Kuderer is in the driver’s seat to win in the general election. She has a significant lead over the second-highest vote getter, GOP state Sen. Phil Fortunato.

## Federal Races

In federal races, the state is seeing the most exciting contests in years. That’s due to the retirement of two popular incumbents – Republican Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers and Democratic Rep. Derek Kilmer; one of the most watched purple Congressional races nationwide; and a Republican seat held by one of the nine GOP House of Representatives members who voted to impeach former President Donald Trump.

- **CO – 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Democratic Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (46%) will face GOP candidate Joe Kent (39%) in a rematch of the 2022 race. This is a crucial race for both parties that’s considered among the most competitive races in Congress.
- **CO – 4<sup>th</sup>:** Republican Rep. Dan Newhouse is finishing in second place (24%) and will likely move to the general election to face Trump-endorsed GOP candidate Jerrod Sessler (33%). A late entry into the race, Republican Tiffany Smiley, finished in third (19%). For Newhouse to keep his seat, he’ll need support from independent and Democratic voters to win his re-election effort.

- **CO- 5<sup>th</sup>**: Former GOP state senator and Spokane County Assessor-Treasurer Michael Baumgartner (28%) emerged with a solid win in an 11-person primary. He will win the seat.
- **CO – 6<sup>th</sup>**: Democratic state Sen. Emily Randall (34%) will advance to the general after defeating Democratic state Lands Commissioner Hilary Franz (25%) and Republican state Sen. Drew MacEwen (30%). Randall will win the seat.

In the U.S Senate race, Democratic Sen. Maria Cantwell is cruising toward re-election with 57%.

## **Key State Elections**

### **Governor**

- Bob Ferguson (D) - 45%
- Dave Reichert (R) - 28%
- Mark Mullet (D) - 6%
- Semi Bird (R) - 11%

### **Attorney General**

- Pete Serrano (R) – 42%
- Manka Dhingra (D) – 23%
- Nick Brown (D) – 35%

### **Commissioner of Public Lands**

- Kevin Van De Wege (D) - 8%
- Sue Kuehl Pedersen (R) – 20.72%

- Jaime Herrera Beutler (R) – 22.01%
- Dave Upthegrove (D) – 20.82% (1820 votes more than Pedersen)
- Patrick Depoe (D) - 14%
- Allen Lebovitz (D) - 10%
- Jeralee Anderson (D) - 4%

### **Insurance Commissioner**

- Patty Kuderer (D) - 45 %
- Phil Fortunato (R) - 28%
- Justin Murta (R) - 10%
- Bill Boyd (D) -3%
- John Pestinger (D) - 6%
- Jonathan Hendrix - 4%
- Chris Chung (D) – 3%

### **House Results (incumbent \*)**

#### **House 10<sup>th</sup> District Democratic Held Seat**

- Carrie Kennedy (R): 27%
- Yvonne Gallardo-Van Ornam (R): 21%
- Rep. Clyde Shavers (D)\*: 52%

#### **10<sup>th</sup> District – Democratic Held Seat**

- Rep. Dave Paul (D)\*: 55%
- Gary Wray (R): 45%

**14<sup>th</sup> District - Republican Held Seat (court-determined redistricting)**

- Andy Kallinen (R): 30%
- Chelsea Dimas (D): 37%
- Gloria Mendoza (R): 33%

**14<sup>th</sup> District - Republican Held Seat (court-determined redistricting)**

- Eddie Perez (No Party): 6%
- Ana Ruiz Kennedy (D): 40%
- Deb Manjarrez (R): 54%

**17<sup>th</sup> District – Republican Held Open Seat**

- Hannah Joy (R): 25%
- Dave Stuebe (R): 28%
- Terri Niles (D): 48%

**18<sup>th</sup> District – Republican Held Seat**

- Rep. Stephanie McClintock (R)\*: 55%
- Deken Letinich (D): 45%

**18<sup>th</sup> District – Republican Held Open Seat:**

- John Ley (R): 38%
- Phillip Johnson (R): 14%
- John Zingale (D): 48%

**House – 26<sup>th</sup> District Republican Held Open Seat:**

- Jim Henderson (R): 16%
- Jesse Young (R): 34%
- Adison Richards (D): 50%

**House – 42<sup>nd</sup> District Democratic Held Seat**

- Raymond Pelletti (R): 46%
- Janet Melman (D): 8%
- Rep. Alicia Rule (D)\*: 47%

**House – 42<sup>nd</sup> District Democratic Held Seat**

- Rep. Joe Timmons (D)\*: 53%
- Kamal Bhachu (R): 47%

**Senate Results (Incumbent \*)**

**Senate – 10<sup>th</sup> District Republican Held Seat**

- Denny Sandberg (D): 6%
- Janet St Clair (D): 44%
- Sen. Ron Muzzall (R)\*: 49%

**Senate – 14<sup>th</sup> District Republican Held Open Seat (court-determined redistricting)**

- Sen. Curtis King (R)\*: 58%
- Maria Beltran (D): 42%

**Senate – 17<sup>th</sup> District Republican Held Open Seat**

- Rep. Paul Harris (R): 51%
- Marla Keethler (D): 49%

**Senate – 18<sup>th</sup> District Republican Held Open Seat**

- Rep. Greg Cheney (R): 22%
- Brad Benton (R): 32%
- Adrian Cortes (D): 46%