Puyallup Tribe 2026 General Election Voters Guide

General Election · Tuesday, November 3, 2026

How and when to vote

Return your ballot by 8 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3, 2026. Pierce County mailed ballots on October 13, and drop boxes are open now. Because of Postal Service cuts, the County strongly recommends a drop box over the mail (Pierce County Auditor).

Date	What happens
October 13	Ballots mailed; 50+ drop boxes open 24/7
October 26	Last day to register or update your address online (VoteWA.gov) or by mail
October 31	Voting centers open with Saturday hours, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
November 3	Election Day: drop box or voting center by 8 p.m.; in-person registration available until 8 p.m.

No stamp is needed. Sign the outside envelope, or your ballot will not count. If you mail it on Election Day, have the post office clerk hand-stamp the postmark.

Voting centers (register, replace a lost ballot, or vote in person):

- **Pierce County Election Center**, 2501 S. 35th St., Suite C, Tacoma. Weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Nov. 2 until 6 p.m.; Nov. 3 until 8 p.m.
- **Sprinker Recreation Center** (Parkland/Spanaway), 521 Military Rd. S. Oct. 31, Nov. 2, and Nov. 3.
- **Pierce College Puyallup**, Arts & Allied Health Building, 1601 39th Ave. SE. Oct. 31, Nov. 2, and Nov. 3.

Questions or a missing ballot: Pierce County Elections, (253) 798-VOTE (8683), PierceCountyWA.gov/Elections. Hours and locations from the County's Election at a Glance.

Statewide ballot measures

Initiative 001 · Parents' rights in schools	
What it does	Restores the 2024 Parents' Bill of Rights (I-2081) exactly as first passed, and repeals the Legislature's 2025 rewrite (ESHB 1296). **2025 law removed** parents' rights to: prior notice before a school offers non-emergency medical services; notice when medical services or medications could affect the family's insurance or copays; and notice when a school arranges treatment that needs follow-up care after school hours. **2025 law narrowed** other rights: records access went from 10 business days to 45 days; immediate notice when a child is taken off campus became a right not to have the child removed without permission; notice of crimes was limited to school-related incidents or staff misconduct; and opt-outs were limited to surveys covered by federal law. **2025 law added** rights to a discrimination-free school, to file bullying complaints, and to language-access services, and barred lawsuits to enforce the rights.
A YES vote	Brings back the full 2024 law: prior notice before non-emergency medical services; notice of medications or treatment that affect insurance or need follow-up care; school records within 10 business days. Restores immediate notice if a child is removed from campus, questioned by police, or involved in a crime as victim or suspect. Restores the right to opt out of any survey, assignment, or activity asking about sexual experiences, family religion, morals or politics, or mental health. Removes from this law the rights added in 2025, such as bullying complaints and language access. Some of those protections exist in other laws.
A NO vote	Keeps the 2025 version. Schools are not required to notify parents before offering non-emergency medical services. Records are due within 45 days. Notice and opt-out rights stay narrower, and the 2025 additions stay in place.
Tribe's position	**Vote your conscience**

Initiative 638 · Girls' school sports	
What it does	Requires K-12 school and nonprofit sports intended for girls to bar students the initiative defines as biologically male. A student's sex would be confirmed by documentation from a health care provider.
A YES vote	Girls' teams and divisions would be limited to students who are female at birth. The WIAA has said it will change its rules to follow state law if the measure passes.
A NO vote	Keeps current policy, in place since 2007: students may play on the team that matches their gender identity. That means a no vote keeps allowing transgender girls (students the measure calls biologically male) to play on girls' teams, with no sex verification required.
Tribe's position	**Vote your conscience**

Initiative 645 · Income tax	
What it does	Repeals the 9.9% tax on household income over $1 million (SB 6346, set to start in 2028) and bars state and local income taxes generally.
A YES vote	Repeals the new tax before it takes effect and adds a broad income-tax ban to state law.
A NO vote	Keeps the tax on income over $1 million in place for 2028.
Tribe's position	**Vote your conscience**

Each measure passes with a simple majority and takes effect 30 days after the election.

Pierce County and local measures

All Pierce County voters will see seven County Charter amendments; most members on and near the Reservation will also see Pierce Transit Proposition 1. The Charter is the County's constitution, reviewed by an elected commission every 10 years (Pierce County).

Amendment	Current law	How it would change	Tribe's position
No. 52 County Council meetings	The County Council must meet at least once in each of 50 weeks of the year. There is no Charter requirement to offer remote participation.	The Council would have to hold at least 45 meetings a year, on whatever schedule it sets, with no weekly rule. Every meeting that takes public comment would have to offer remote attendance and remote public comment.	**Vote your conscience**

Amendment	Current law	How it would change	Tribe's position
No. 53 Appointed Sheriff	The Sheriff is a nonpartisan office elected by voters every four years. Pierce County appointed its Sheriff from 1981 until voters made the office elected in 2006.	The Sheriff would be appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by a majority of the Council. The current elected Sheriff's term would end early, on January 1, 2027.	**Vote your conscience**
No. 54 Public Safety Ombuds	There is no county office that independently oversees the Sheriff. Complaints go to the Sheriff's own Internal Affairs unit, independent teams review deadly-force cases, and state agencies can investigate misconduct.	Creates a permanent Public Safety Ombuds department to monitor the Sheriff's Office and its employees, investigate complaints, publish findings and recommendations, and refer cases to legal authorities. The Council would appoint the Ombuds from a panel's list, and a Community Advisory Committee would advise the office.	**Vote your conscience**
No. 55 Initiative deadline	Sponsors of a county initiative have 120 days to gather signatures equal to 10% of the votes in the last County Executive race (about 41,000). Supporters say no county initiative has ever qualified under this deadline.	Sponsors would have 180 days to gather the same number of signatures. The signature requirement itself would not change.	**Vote your conscience**
No. 56 Four-year budget outlook	The County adopts a two-year (biennial) budget. The Charter has no requirement that future years balance. Opponents note the County already prepares a six-year forecast and an annual audit.	The Chief Financial Officer would have to prepare a four-year outlook with each biennial budget for the County's general fund, showing that projected spending does not exceed projected available money. This would mirror the four-year balanced budget requirement the State Legislature has followed since 2012.	**Vote your conscience**
No. 57 Nondiscrimination	The Charter's nondiscrimination section, unchanged since 1980, bars discrimination based on race, creed, color, sex, age, and handicap.	Updates the list to match state and federal law: sex; race; color; national origin or ancestry; creed; disability; sexual orientation; gender identity or expression; age; genetic test results; family caregiver status; pregnancy, childbirth, or lactation; and military or veteran status. It may not limit any right under the U.S. or Washington constitutions.	**Vote your conscience**

Amendment	Current law	How it would change	Tribe's position
No. 58 Juvenile detention oversight	Juvenile Detention operates under the Superior Court with no independent oversight office in the Charter and no required outside audit.	Creates a Juvenile Detention Advocate Office that youth and families can bring complaints to, and that monitors conditions. The Court would publish yearly data on use of force, room confinement, staff training, and population, and the facility would face an independent audit or accreditation review at least every five years.	**Vote your conscience**

Pierce Transit Proposition 1 adds a 0.3% sales tax (3 cents on a $10 purchase) starting April 1, 2027, the first local transit increase since 2002. It funds more routes and evening and weekend service, better access to light rail, expanded disability service, and fare-free rides for seniors and youth (sample ballot).

Other measures depend on where you live. **Tacoma** voters decide the Safe Homes for All initiative (Initiative No. 1), which would add landlord licensing and fees, a public landlord database, tenants' right to organize and bargain, and City and private enforcement. **Milton** voters decide a 0.1% sales tax for police and public safety. Smaller measures appear in Riverside Fire & Rescue, Auburn and Yelm school districts, and South Prairie. Check your sample ballot for your address.

Congressional races

Pierce County voters are in the 6th, 8th, or 10th Congressional District; members living in Federal Way and south King County vote in the 9th. Your ballot shows your district. Pierce County matchups are from the County's official sample ballot.

District	Candidates (party preference)	Tribe supports
6th	Emily Randall (D, incumbent) · Teresa Fox (R)	**Randall**
8th	Kim Schrier (D, incumbent) · Spencer Meline (R)	**Schrier**
9th	Adam Smith (D, incumbent) · Doug Basler (R)	**Smith**
10th	Marilyn Strickland (D, incumbent) · Chris D. Chung (R)	**Strickland**

Pierce County legislative races

Seven legislative districts cover Pierce County, with 14 House seats and 3 Senate seats on the ballot. You vote only in the district where you live; your ballot shows which one. Matchups and party preferences are from the County's official sample ballot. The Tribe does not make recommendations based on party affiliation. We have a long history of supporting elected officials who demonstrate support for the Tribe, its members, and our issues.

District	Seat	Candidates (party preference)	Tribe supports
2nd	House Pos. 1	Andrew Barkis (R, incumbent) · William Dehnel (Labor Democrat)	**Barkis**
2nd	House Pos. 2	Matt Marshall (R, incumbent) · Angela Taylor (D)	**Marshall**
25th	House Pos. 1	Michael Keaton (R, incumbent) · David Berg (D)	**Keaton**
25th	House Pos. 2	Cyndy Jacobsen (R, incumbent) · Jenn Marie Strickling (D)	**Jacobsen**
26th	Senate	Deborah Krishnadasan (D, incumbent) · Gary Parker (R)	**Krishnadasan**
26th	House Pos. 1	David Olson (R) · Adison Richards (D, incumbent)	**Richards**
26th	House Pos. 2	Katy Cornell (R) · Renee Hernandez Greenfield (D)	**Greenfield**
27th	House Pos. 1	Laurie Jinkins (D, incumbent) · Carole Sue Braaten (R)	**Jinkins**
27th	House Pos. 2	Jake Fey (D, incumbent), unopposed	**Fey**
28th	House Pos. 1	Mari Leavitt (D, incumbent) · Kathy Richardson (R)	**Leavitt**
28th	House Pos. 2	Dan Bronoske (D, incumbent) · Kerry Hills (Nonpartisan)	**Bronoske**
29th	Senate	Sharlett Mena (D) · David Anderson (D)	**Mena**
29th	House Pos. 1	Krista Perez (D) · Melanie Morgan (D, incumbent)	**Vote your conscience**
29th	House Pos. 2	Joe Bushnell (D) · Patrick Stickney (D)	**Bushnell**
31st	Senate	Phil Fortunato (R, incumbent) · Tamara Stramel (D)	**Fortunato**

District	Seat	Candidates (party preference)	Tribe supports
31st	House Pos. 1	Drew Stokesbary (R, incumbent) · Stephen Szczurko-Walton (D)	**Stokesbary**
31st	House Pos. 2	Joshua Penner (R, incumbent) · John Bielka (D)	**Penner**

Pierce County Council races

Three of the seven County Council seats are on the ballot this year. You vote only if you live in one of these districts. Candidates are from the County's voters' pamphlet.

District	Areas	Candidates (party preference)	Tribe supports
No. 1	Bonney Lake, Buckley, Graham, Lake Tapps, Orting, South Hill, and East Pierce County	Kelsey Barrans (D) · Jerome O'Leary (R)	**Vote your conscience**
No. 5	Fife, Fife Heights, Tacoma's Eastside, Northeast Tacoma, Browns Point, Dash Point, Port of Tacoma, and parts of Parkland and Spanaway	Bryan Yambe (D, incumbent) · Bettina Gese (R)	**Gese**
No. 7	Gig Harbor, Key Peninsula, Ruston, and parts of North and West Tacoma	Brenda Lykins (D) · Mike Solan (R)	**Lykins**

Pierce County countywide offices

Every Pierce County voter will see these two nonpartisan races. Prosecutor Mary Robnett is retiring, so that seat is open, and Auditor Linda Farmer is running for re-election. Candidates are from the County's voters' pamphlet.

Office	Candidates	Tribe supports
Prosecuting Attorney Open seat	Coreen Schnepf · Bryan Chushcoff	**Schnepf**
Auditor	Linda Farmer (incumbent) · Damon Townsend	**Farmer**

Washington State Supreme Court

Every Washington voter will see five of the nine Supreme Court seats this year, a rare chance to elect a majority of the court. Judicial races are nonpartisan. Justices Melody and Angelis were appointed by

Governor Ferguson in 2026 and are running for the two years left in those terms. Matchups are from the County's official sample ballot.

Position	Candidates	Tribe supports
Position 1 Two-year unexpired term	Colleen Melody (incumbent) · Scott Edwards	**Melody**
Position 3 Open seat	Jaime Michelle Hawk · David Stevens	**Hawk**
Position 4 Open seat	Ian Birk · Sean O'Donnell	**Birk**
Position 5 Two-year unexpired term	Theo Angelis (incumbent) · Dave Larson	**Angelis**
Position 7	Debra L. Stephens (incumbent) · Todd A. Bloom	**Stephens**

Before you return your ballot

- Vote both sides of the ballot, including the measures at the top
- Sign the outside of the return envelope
- Drop it in a county drop box by 8 p.m. on November 3
- Check that your ballot was accepted at VoteWA.gov
- Remind family members to vote, and offer a ride to a drop box

Other races on your ballot, including county offices, and judges, are listed in the Pierce County voters' pamphlet.

Sources

- Pierce County official sample ballot, Nov. 3, 2026
- Pierce County Election at a Glance
- Pierce County 2026 Charter Review
- Ballotpedia: Washington's three 2026 ballot measures
- Legislature: Summary of Initiative 26-001