

The Role of a PCO

PCOs have the following basic responsibilities:

- Know the voters in your precinct. Figure out which are Democrats and which are Republicans. Find out what issues motivate your neighbors—and make sure all that information is available to local parties and campaigns.
- Coordinate with campaigns in educating voters and generating interest in the election on behalf of candidates and ballot measures.
- Attend legislative district and county organization meetings. Make sure the voices of voters in your precinct are heard in local party decisions.
- Nominate candidates for office in partisan races. The State Party's Rules for Nominations give local PCOs the power to choose the party's nominees.
- Participate in the appointment process when vacancies occur in partisan offices. When a vacancy occurs, PCOs choose which candidates are submitted to the county council for appointment.
- Chair your precinct caucus during presidential election years under the direction of your local party chair.
- Stay in touch with your local chair or PCO coordinator.

Resources

We want you to be the best PCO you can be. We know that this may be a new experience for many of you. If you have any questions, here are places you can go for help.

Your Local Party Organization

If you aren't connected with your local party organization already, find it online at www.wa-democrats.org/local.

The State Party

You can find information about the State Party on our website (www.wa-democrats.org) or by calling us at (206) 583-0664x123.

The Secretary of State

Washington's Secretary of State manages our elections. You can find valuable information on the Secretary of State's webpage (www.vote.wa.gov), and can call the office at (360) 902-4180 with questions about voter registration, deadlines, and election law.

The State Party is always working on improving the level of training provided to our PCOs. If you have any questions about being a PCO, or suggestions on how we can improve, contact State Party Affairs Manager Greg Haffner at greg@wa-democrats.org.



Washington State
Democratic Party

Congratulations on your election or appointment as a Precinct Committee Officer.

As a PCO, you are the primary conduit between voters in your neighborhood and the Democratic Party. In order to carry out this important duty, you will need to get to know both the voters in your precinct, and the Democratic Party in your area.

This brochure has been designed to give you enough information to start acting on both of these responsibilities, and to point you in the proper direction to find more information.

Meeting Your Neighbors

The most important day-to-day job of a PCO is talking to your neighbors. Your conversations with voters in your neighborhood help you represent them effectively at local party meetings, and give us important information for identifying the key voters in your area and reaching out to them effectively during campaigns.

Your local party organization should be able to provide you with access to VoteBuilder, an online database of all registered voters. This is where we house information so that we know what our voters are most concerned and enthusiastic about. This tool is what allows us to run the smartest, most efficient campaigns, with your important work leading the way.

When you talk to your neighbors, you'll have conversations about the issues that motivate them to vote for Democrats. And when you find a neighbor who is not registered to vote, you get to talk about what motivates you as a Democrat, and sign them up as a registered voter.

For more information about using VoteBuilder to reach out to your neighbors, talk to your PCO coordinator, or contact the State Party at (206) 583-0664.



Turning Out Voters

The purpose of the Democratic Party is to advance our shared values by electing good, Democratic candidates up-and-down the ballot. PCOs play an important role in our campaign plan.

As you work your way through your neighborhood, you should get an idea of who the Democratic voters are, and which ones might need a reminder to send in their ballots. Make sure these voters vote every election—the more they vote, the more likely they are to vote in the future.

You may also run into progressive-minded people in your neighborhood who haven't even registered to vote. Get some voter registration forms—from your PCO coordinator, from your County Elections Department, or from the Secretary of State's website (www.sos.wa.gov)—and carry them with you as you walk your precinct. You never know when you'll find a new Democratic voter.

Participating in Your Local Party Organization

As a PCO, you are automatically a member of two organizations—your County and Legislative District (LD) Democratic Parties.

Although most organizational decisions are open to all members, certain key decisions—including election of Chair, nomination of candidates, and elections to fill vacancies—are restricted to PCOs only.

It is important that you connect with your local party organization, attend meetings when possible, and make sure that the voters in your precinct are represented in party matters.

If you aren't sure how to contact your local party, visit <http://www.wa-democrats.org/local> to get started.

