



Creating Your Message

Step 1: Prepare

Know what is important to you

- 1) Understand what is important to you and why
- 2) Create an outline that can capture your voice in a way that allows for others to have the full picture.

Here are some prompts to get you thinking about how you can share your story...

- How has community inclusion impacted your life or the lives of those you know?
- What specific challenges have you faced in accessing your community?
- Can you share a success story where your community inclusion service made a difference?
- What barriers do you still encounter in the community despite supported employment efforts?
- Have you noticed any changes in community attitudes toward disability?
- What advice would you give to other individuals with disabilities seeking to be involved in their community?
- In your opinion, what role should local government play in promoting inclusive communities?
- What resources or supports do you believe are essential for individuals with disabilities to access the community?
- What impact has access to supportive services had on your ability to pursue your goals?
- How can local schools better prepare students with disabilities for life after high school?
- How important is ongoing support and accommodation in maintaining community inclusion for people with disabilities?
- What changes would you like to see in how disability-related issues are discussed and addressed by the council/legislature?
- Finally, what message would you like to leave with the city council regarding the importance of supporting individuals with disabilities?

People Empowered and Communities Enhanced

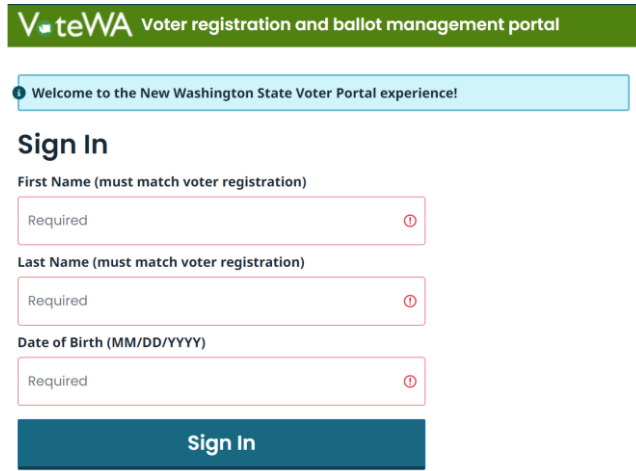
Enhancing Communities for Individuals of All Abilities

PO Box 820681 – Vancouver, WA 98682 Office (360) 823-2247 Email: info@peacenw.org

Step 2: Know your leaders

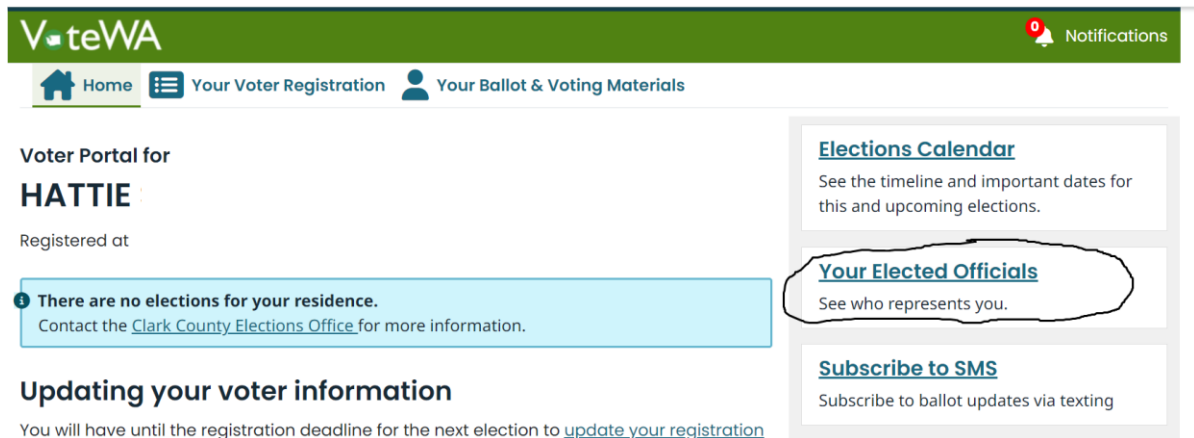
Knowing your leaders is important because you can say “I am a constituent” in your district

- 1) Find your information here myvote.wa.gov



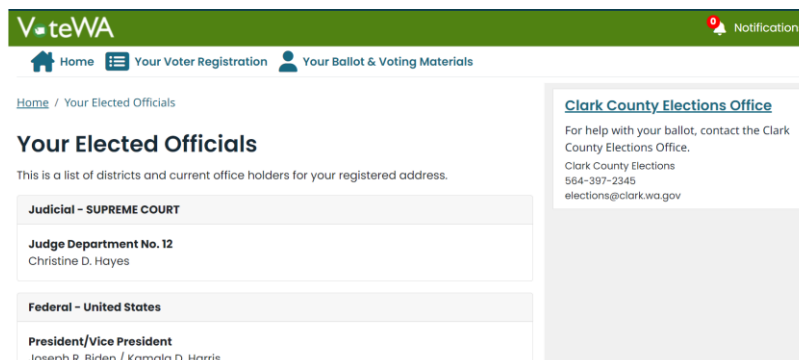
The screenshot shows the top of the myvote.wa.gov website. It features a green header with the 'VoteWA' logo and the text 'Voter registration and ballot management portal'. Below the header is a light blue notification bar that says 'Welcome to the New Washington State Voter Portal experience!'. The main heading is 'Sign In'. There are three input fields: 'First Name (must match voter registration)', 'Last Name (must match voter registration)', and 'Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)'. Each field has a 'Required' label and a red circle with an exclamation mark icon. At the bottom of the form is a dark blue 'Sign In' button.

- 2) Go to “Your Elected Officials” on the left side of the page



The screenshot shows the home page of myvote.wa.gov. The green header includes the 'VoteWA' logo, a 'Notifications' bell icon, and navigation links for 'Home', 'Your Voter Registration', and 'Your Ballot & Voting Materials'. The main content area is titled 'Voter Portal for HATTIE' and shows 'Registered at'. A light blue notification box states: 'There are no elections for your residence. Contact the Clark County Elections Office for more information.' Below this is a section for 'Updating your voter information' with a link to 'update your registration'. On the right side, there are three promotional boxes: 'Elections Calendar', 'Your Elected Officials' (circled in black), and 'Subscribe to SMS'.

- 3) Here you will find all your elected officials



The screenshot shows the 'Your Elected Officials' page on myvote.wa.gov. The green header includes the 'VoteWA' logo, navigation links, and a 'Notifications' icon. The breadcrumb trail is 'Home / Your Elected Officials'. The main heading is 'Your Elected Officials' with a sub-heading: 'This is a list of districts and current office holders for your registered address.' The page lists three categories of officials: 'Judicial - SUPREME COURT' (Judge Department No. 12, Christine D. Hayes), 'Federal - United States' (President/Vice President, Joseph R. Biden / Kamala D. Harris), and 'Clark County Elections Office' (with contact information: 564-397-2345, elections@clark.wa.gov).

Step 3: Showing up

Know what to do when you arrive

- 1) Arrive early
 - a. It is best to arrive at least 15 minutes early to insure you have time to sign in for comment
- 2) Find the sign in sheet and sign up for public comment
 - a. Most of the time public comments are limited to 45 seconds – 2 minutes max (This is why step one is so important!)
- 3) Find a seat and wait for the public comment portion of the meeting

** If you require ADA accommodations try and contact the meeting coordinators beforehand (this varies for each jurisdiction)

- 4) Attending virtually
 - a. Some meetings are offered virtually
 - b. Often you are required to sign up for virtual public comment up to 24 hours in advance

Step 4: Be Consistent

Stay involved in the process. Continue engaging with your leaders