

Washington



General Information

Population: 6,131,445
Size: 66,544 sq/mi
04 Presidential Results:
Bush: 54.6%
Kerry: 52.8%
Electoral Votes: 11

State Elections

Lower House: 63D/35R
Next Election: 2008
Upper House: 32D/17R
Next Election: 2008
Constitutional Offices:
Governor: D
Lt. Governor: D
Secretary of State: R
Attorney General: R
Next Election: 2008

Federal Elections

House of Rep: 9
Party Makeup: 6(D) 3(R)
Sen. Patty Murray (D)
Next Election: 2010
Sen. Maria Cantwell (D)
Next Election: 2012

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State Overview

The Washington State Democratic Party exceeded all expectations in 2006. While their primary goal was to re-elect Maria Cantwell to the U.S. Senate, they also managed to gain one seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, six seats in the State Senate, and seven seats in the State House.

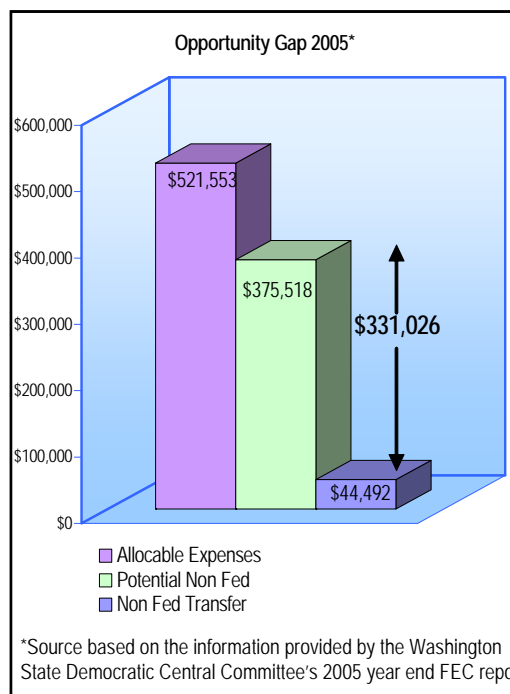
Washington will face a new challenge in 2008, or the first time, the state will have an all vote-by-mail election. The two top priorities for the State Party in 2008 will be to maintain Washington as a blue state for the Presidential elections and re-elect Christine Gregoire as Governor. Washington has voted Democratic for President since choosing Dukakis in 1988. Gore and Kerry each beat Bush with 53% of the vote.

In 2004, Governor Gregoire was elected by 129 votes in the closest Governor's race in the history of the nation. The Washington Democratic Party spent \$5 million on her recount in 2004 and her legal effort in 2005. While her polling numbers improved through 2005 and 2006, her race has tightened considerably in recent months. Also, Democrats hold impressive majorities in both houses of the State Legislature. Washington has a sound bi-partisan system for redistricting, which does not give an advantage to the party in power.

Going Forward

The Washington State Democratic Central Committee has set the following goals for the 2007/2008 cycle:

- Augment finance plan to include grassroots efforts
- Coordinate communication and online strategy to amplify message
- Invest in new hardware to meet needs of expanding state party
- Develop a stronger field operation to focus on voter registration and activist efforts



Redistricting Information

The five-member commission is chosen by the majority and minority leaders of both houses in the legislature. The fifth member is chosen by the Commission and serves as the chair. Once a plan is created it is presented to the Legislature for passage. There is no gubernatorial veto power over redistricting plans.

The Washington Democratic Party is working to maintain a strong fundraising presence during the off-year by attracting new donor and field activists to the process. A successful fundraising program will help the state keep current staff and fund trainings.

Grassroots Democrats has worked extensively with the Party to develop their online strategy. Based on a fully integrated online campaign that incorporates a strong communications plan, the Party is working with grassroots activists to meet their field, finance and communication goals. Over the next two years, Grassroots Democrats will continue to work with the Party one-on-one to spearhead this effort. Staff will be working in the state and via email and phone to meet evolving goals and to manage an expanding activist base. Strategic help will also be provided in the areas of Finance planning and IT management.