

WA-03 District Primer

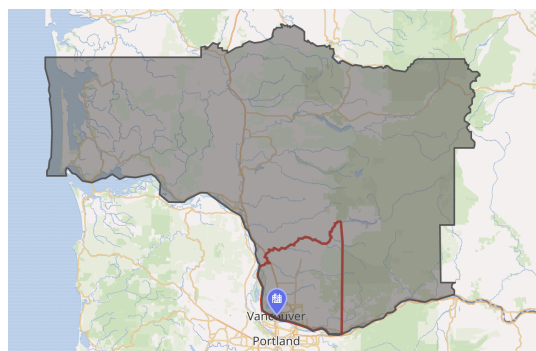
In 2024, Democrat Marie Gluesenkamp-Perez won this seat by 16,123 votes. *That's close!* With a winning margin of just 3 votes per precinct, we can't afford to lose a single vote. With your help, we're going to **HOLD** this key seat and secure a Democratic House majority in 2026.

Key dates
Filing Deadline: May 8
Primary: August 4
Midterms: November 3

Recent Election Results

2024 Presidential Election	2024 House Election	2022 House Election
Harris: 197,986 (46.95%) Trump: 211,907 (50.25%)	Marie Gluesenkamp-Perez (D): 215,177 (51.7%) Joe Kent (R): 199,054 (47.9%)	Marie Gluesenkamp-Perez (D): 160,314 (50.1%) Joe Kent (R): 157,685 (49.3%)

District Facts & Stats



Largest Cities

- Vancouver, pop. 198,992
- Longview, 38,294

Geography

WA-03 encompasses the southwest corner of Washington state, from Centralia in the north to Vancouver in the south, Long Beach in the west and Gifford Pinchot National Forest in the east. It borders Oregon to the south and the largest city, Vancouver (WA) is considered part of the Portland (OR) metro area, while much of the rest of WA-03 is rural. The district includes Mt. St. Helens.

Citizenry

With median household income of \$92,354, the district has only 8% of all families living below the federal poverty level. Nearly 70% of residents live in owner-occupied units; 30% are in rentals. The unemployment rate is 5.1%. For those 25 and over, 91.8% are high school graduates or higher, and 30.3% have a bachelor's degree or higher. Many people in Vancouver commute to jobs in Portland but there are also important fishing and farming communities in the district.

The Local Vibe

WA-03 is a moderate district which votes entirely by mail. In 2022 the Republican incumbent, who voted to impeach Trump, was eliminated in the multi-party primary by MAGA candidate Joe Kent and moderate Democrat Marie Gluesenkamp-Perez (MGP), who then beat Kent in the general election.

Medicaid cuts have imperiled rural hospitals in southwest Washington. While Trump ultimately sustained budgeted federal funds for Columbia River salmon recovery and watershed protection, he has made many threats to cancel them.

In October 2024 an arsonist set a ballot drop box on fire in MGP's district. Thousands turned out for No Kings protests in Vancouver in October 2025 and March 2026.

Sign up for another event: mobilize.us/swingleft

Updated March 2026 • Researched and edited by Swing Left's all-volunteer research team

Key Issues

- **Farming, fishing and working in the trades:** The economics of making a living in rural communities is increasingly difficult, and respect and support for those who work with their hands is dwindling.
 - **Health care:** Obtaining medical care in rural districts is under threat, especially for reproductive health.
-

About the Candidates

We'll know more after Washington's multi-party primary on August 4. This year, several candidates in addition to the incumbent are vying for the top two slots. Here are the front-runners:

Marie Gluesenkamp Perez | Democratic Incumbent

Marie Gluesenkamp-Perez (MGP) is a working-class, fifth-generation Washingtonian and daughter of a Mexican immigrant. She owns an independent auto shop in Portland OR, and seeks to elevate rural and working class values. She has a young son and lives in rural Skamania County. She has a bachelor's degree in economics from Reed College and is a member of the Blue Dog Caucus. She does not accept money from corporate PACs. She serves on the House Committee on Appropriations.

Her signature issue is the "right to repair," which breaks manufacturers' monopolies on service and maintenance of products by prioritizing durable products rather than cheap disposable consumer goods. Also personal for her is defending the right to choose and protecting funding for Planned Parenthood, which was the only clinic that would provide her a life-saving abortion when she miscarried at 16 weeks. She would also like to expand shop classes for students and get more small business-friendly policies. The other issues that are important for her are the fentanyl crisis, farm consolidation and job losses. MGP is passionate about the desire of working class people to be respected for their abilities and talents.

Other Democrats are **Brent Hennrich**, who enjoys name recognition from his 2022 primary bid as well as a sizable war chest, and **Suzanna Tanner**, a former presidential candidate.

John Braun | Republican Challenger

John Braun is considered the top challenger. A Navy veteran and business owner, Braun has served in the WA Senate since 2013 and was elected the minority leader in 2020. Braun is focused on immigration, national security, and defense. An experienced local politician, he has raised more than \$500,000 for his campaign. Braun supports Trump's Big Ugly Bill and has received donations from corporations and Big Pharma. Braun is not well known in Clark County (Vancouver), which has the overwhelming share of the District's electorate. He lives in Centralia.

Other Republicans are oyster farmer **Antony Barran**, who has raised a significant amount of money, and **Lawrence Kellogg**. The Independent is **Eric Vaughan**.

The contrast: MGP is sometimes criticized for her willingness to cross party lines in her votes; some see this as a great strength. She truly represents her district, which has demonstrated that it does not favor MAGA party-liners and corporate defenders like her opponent. She is dedicated to constituent services for the residents of WA-03 and in touch with their needs.