An hour-by-hour guide to the hottest elections in the country

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Turnout could top state midterm record

By MATT DAY

Washington state’s vote count could top the previous midterm record of 63.5 percent set in 1966. Opponents are predicting a “blue wave’’ that will sweep Democrats into the majority in Congress. An election forecast by the University of Washington said Tuesday that if the pre-election models hold, the 2018 midterm turnout rate could reach 66.9 percent. The state’s 2014 midterm turnout was 57.6 percent.

In Washington state, the largest pool of potential voters is registered Democrats. There are 3.3 million registered Democrats in the state, compared with 2.7 million Republicans.

To see if that forecast holds true, voters will know the results Tuesday night. King, Pierce and Snohomish counties have set up election results viewing centers.

Online at seattletimes.com/electionlive

Local voter interest in line with national trend

In the Washington state counties with the highest voter interest — King, Pierce and Snohomish — more than 11 percent of registered voters had cast a ballot before Election Day. That’s twice as many voters as voted before Election Day in counties with lower voter interest.

Local voter interest will be on display Tuesday as King, Pierce and Snohomish counties host election day events.

In King County, the largest county in Washington state, an election day watch party will be held at 8:30 p.m. at the Seattle Opera, 440 University St.

In Snohomish County, a watch party will be held at 8 p.m. at the Snohomish County Administration Building.

In Pierce County, a watch party will be held at 7 p.m. at the Tacoma Museum of Glass.

In Snohomish County, voters can check election results online at seattletimes.com/electionlive

The numbers

In King County, nearly half of registered voters had returned ballots by Monday morning. In Snohomish County, a Seattle Times reporter spoke with a dozen voters who had returned their ballots. They said they were concerned about the integrity of in-person voting.

The numbers tell the story of how Washington state compares with other states.

In King County, 70 percent of registered voters had returned ballots by Monday morning. In Snohomish County, 61 percent had returned ballots. In Pierce County, 55 percent had returned ballots.

In Washington state, 57.6 percent of registered voters turned out in the 2014 midterm election.

In King County, 62.5 percent of registered voters turned out in the 2014 midterm election.

In Snohomish County, 51.1 percent of registered voters turned out in the 2014 midterm election.

In Pierce County, 50.8 percent of registered voters turned out in the 2014 midterm election.

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