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# Wahkiakum County, Washington

41 languages

Contents hide

(Top)

- Geography
  - Geographic features
  - State highways
  - Adjacent counties
  - National protected area
- Demographics
  - 2010 census
  - 2000 census
- Politics
- Communities
  - Town
  - Census-designated places
  - Unincorporated communities
- Notable residents
- See also
- References
- External links

Article Talk

Read Edit View history Tools

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Coordinates: 46°29′N 123°43′W﻿ / ﻿46.29°N 123.43°W﻿ / 46.29; -123.43

**Wahkiakum County** (/wɑːˈkaɪ.əkʌm/) is a county located in the U.S. state of Washington. As of the 2020 census, the population was 4,422,<sup>[1]</sup> making it one of least populous counties in Washington. The county seat and only incorporated town is Cathlamet.<sup>[2]</sup> The county was formed out of Cowlitz County in April 1854<sup>[3]</sup> and is named for Chief Wahkiakum ("Tall Timber") of the Chinook, who is buried in the Pioneer Cemetery in Cathlamet.<sup>[4]</sup>

The county operates the Wahkiakum County Ferry, which connects Cathlamet to Westport, Oregon, across the Columbia River.

## Geography [edit]

According to the United States Census Bureau, the county has a total area of 287 square miles (740 km<sup>2</sup>), of which 263 square miles (680 km<sup>2</sup>) is land and 24 square miles (62 km<sup>2</sup>) (8.3%) is water.<sup>[5]</sup> It is the smallest county of Washington by total area and the third-smallest by land area, after San Juan County and Island County, which are mostly water by area.

### Geographic features [edit]

- Columbia River
- Elochoman River
- Grays River
- Puget Island

### State highways [edit]

- 4 State Route 4
- 409 State Route 409

### Adjacent counties [edit]

- Pacific County – northwest
- Lewis County – north/northeast
- Cowlitz County – east/southeast
- Columbia County, Oregon – south/southeast
- Clatsop County, Oregon – south/southwest

### National protected area [edit]

- Julia Butler Hansen National Wildlife Refuge (part)

## Demographics [edit]

Wahkiakum County has one of the lowest population of any county in Washington state. Its population of 4,422 is 0.2% the size of the population of Washington's largest county, King.

The county has the second highest divorce rate of any Washington county, behind Lincoln County.<sup>[11]</sup>

### 2010 census [edit]

As of the 2010 census, there were 3,978 people, 1,737 households, and 1,187 families living in the county.<sup>[12]</sup> The population density was 15.1 people per square mile (5.8 people/km<sup>2</sup>). There were 2,067 housing units at an average density of 7.8 units per square mile (3.0 units/km<sup>2</sup>).<sup>[13]</sup> The racial makeup of the county was 94.0% white, 1.3% American Indian, 0.6% Asian, 0.3% black or African American, 0.2% Pacific Islander, 0.7% from other races, and 3.1% from two or more races. Those of Hispanic or Latino origin made up 2.7% of the population.<sup>[12]</sup> In terms of ancestry, 19.8% were Norwegian, 19.3% were German, 13.3% were English, 9.6% were American, 8.5% were Swedish, and 6.8% were Irish.<sup>[14]</sup>

Of the 1,737 households, 21.9% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 57.2% were married couples living together, 6.2% had a female householder with no husband present, 31.7% were non-families, and 26.8% of all households were made up of individuals. The average household size was 2.26 and the average family size was 2.69. The median age was 52.3 years.<sup>[12]</sup>

The median income for a household in the county was \$40,372 and the median income for a family was \$47,266. Males had a median income of \$44,779 versus \$36,111 for females. The per capita income for the county was \$23,115. About 7.1% of families and 12.2% of the population were below the poverty line, including 14.5% of those under age 18 and 10.7% of those age 65 or over.<sup>[15]</sup>

### 2000 census [edit]

As of the 2000 census, there were 3,824 people, 1,553 households, and 1,108 families living in the county. The population density was 14 people per square mile (5.4 people/km<sup>2</sup>). There were 1,792 housing units at an average density of 7 units per square mile (2.7 units/km<sup>2</sup>). The racial makeup of the county was 93.46% White, 0.26% Black or African American, 1.57% Native American, 0.47% Asian, 0.08% Pacific Islander, 1.65% from other races, and 2.51% from two or more races. 2.56% of the population were Hispanic or Latino of any race. 18.7% were of German, 13.1% Norwegian, 10.6% United States or American, 9.1% English, 7.7% Irish, 6.5% Swedish, and 5.9% Finnish ancestry. 96.7% spoke English and 2.5% Spanish as a first language.

There were 1,553 households, out of which 26.90% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 61.40% were married couples living together, 6.30% had a female householder with no husband present, and 28.60% were non-families. 24.40% of all households were made up of individuals, and 10.60% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.42 and the average family size was 2.83.

In the county, the population was spread out, with 23.40% under the age of 18, 5.30% from 18 to 24, 22.20% from 25 to 44, 30.60% from 45 to 64, and 18.50% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 44 years. For every 100 females there were 100.10 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 98.10 males.

The median income for a household in the county was \$39,444, and the median income for a family was \$47,604. Males had a median income of \$37,123 versus \$27,938 for females. The per capita income for the county was \$19,063. About 5.90% of families and 8.10% of the population were below the poverty line, including 11.00% of those under age 18 and 2.70% of those age 65 or over.

## Politics [edit]

In the 2016 Presidential election, Donald Trump won the county over Hillary Clinton by a decisive margin – 55.3% to 34.3%.<sup>[17]</sup> It is generally a swing county in presidential elections. Between 1932 and 1996, it voted Democratic all but twice, but since 2000 it has voted Republican all but once.

### United States presidential election results for Wahkiakum County, Washington<sup>[6]</sup> [hide]

Year	Republican		Democratic		Third party	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
2020	1,741	58.40%	1,165	39.08%	75	2.52%
2016	1,344	55.33%	832	34.25%	253	10.42%
2012	1,119	48.38%	1,094	47.30%	100	4.32%
2008	1,105	47.92%	1,121	48.61%	80	3.47%
2004	1,171	52.39%	1,021	45.68%	43	1.92%
2000	1,033	52.36%	803	40.70%	137	6.94%
1996	619	33.71%	924	50.33%	293	15.96%
1992	488	27.17%	696	38.76%	612	34.08%
1988	629	38.68%	961	59.10%	36	2.21%
1984	776	44.62%	930	53.48%	33	1.90%
1980	828	46.57%	751	42.24%	199	11.19%
1976	704	41.17%	942	55.09%	64	3.74%
1972	818	47.39%	796	46.12%	112	6.49%
1968	641	38.27%	899	53.67%	135	8.06%
1964	446	27.46%	1,175	72.35%	3	0.18%
1960	796	46.23%	923	53.60%	3	0.17%
1956	808	45.73%	953	53.93%	6	0.34%
1952	815	46.31%	928	52.73%	17	0.97%
1948	622	38.95%	877	54.92%	98	6.14%
1944	532	34.43%	1,003	64.92%	10	0.65%
1940	642	35.18%	1,164	63.78%	19	1.04%
1936	419	26.47%	1,098	69.36%	66	4.17%

## Communities [edit]

### Town [edit]

- Cathlamet (county seat)

### Census-designated places [edit]

- Altoona
- Deep River
- East Cathlamet
- Grays River
- Lower Elochoman
- Puget Island
- Rosburg
- Skamokawa Valley
- Upper Elochoman

### Unincorporated communities [edit]

- Brookfield
- Eagle Cliff
- Flandersville
- Skamokawa
- Waterford

**Wahkiakum County**

County



Wahkiakum County Courthouse in Cathlamet



Location within the U.S. state of Washington



Washington's location within the U.S.  
Coordinates: 46°17′N 123°26′W﻿ / ﻿46.28°N 123.43°W﻿ / 46.28; -123.43

Country	<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> United States
State	<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> Washington
Founded	April 24, 1854
Named for	Chief Wahkiakum
Seat	Cathlamet
Largest town	Puget Island
Area	
<span> </span> • <span> </span> Total	287 <span> </span> sq <span> </span> mi (740 <span> </span> km <sup>2</sup> )
<span> </span> • <span> </span> Land	263 <span> </span> sq <span> </span> mi (680 <span> </span> km <sup>2</sup> )
<span> </span> • <span> </span> Water	24 <span> </span> sq <span> </span> mi (60 <span> </span> km <sup>2</sup> ) 8.3%
Population (2020)	
<span> </span> • <span> </span> Total	4,422
<span> </span> • <span> </span> Estimate (2022)	4,688 <span><span>▲</span></span>
<span> </span> • <span> </span> Density	15/sq <span> </span> mi (6/km <sup>2</sup> )
Time zone	UTC−8 (Pacific)
<span> </span> • <span> </span> Summer (DST)	UTC−7 (PDT)
Congressional district	3rd
Website	<span>www.co.wahkiakum.wa.us</span> <span><span>?</span></span>

Historical population		
Census	Pop.	%±
1860	42	—
1870	270	542.9%
1880	1,598	491.9%
1890	2,526	58.1%
1900	2,819	11.6%
1910	3,285	16.5%
1920	3,472	5.7%
1930	3,862	11.2%
1940	4,286	11.0%
1950	3,835	−10.5%
1960	3,426	−10.7%
1970	3,592	4.8%
1980	3,832	6.7%
1990	3,327	−13.2%
2000	3,824	14.9%
2010	3,978	4.0%
2020	4,422	11.2%
2022 (est.)	4,688 <sup>[6]</sup>	6.0%
U.S. Decennial Census <sup>[1]</sup>		
1790–1960 <sup>[8]</sup>	1900–1990 <sup>[9]</sup>	1990–2000 <sup>[10]</sup> 2010–2020 <sup>[11]</sup>

**Notable residents**  [ edit ]

- Krist Novoselic**, former bass player of the Seattle grunge band Nirvana
  - Robert Michael Pyle**, lepidopterist and author
- **Hadley Caliman**, jazz musician

<b>1932</b>	442	<b>32.40%</b>	730	<b>53.52%</b>	192	14.08%
<b>1928</b>	578	<b>59.28%</b>	382	39.18%	15	1.54%
<b>1924</b>	496	<b>60.49%</b>	89	10.85%	235	28.66%
<b>1920</b>	494	<b>57.64%</b>	164	19.14%	199	23.22%
<b>1916</b>	490	<b>52.07%</b>	340	36.13%	111	11.80%
<b>1912</b>	282	31.90%	185	20.93%	417	<b>47.17%</b>
<b>1908</b>	485	<b>70.80%</b>	150	21.90%	50	7.30%
<b>1904</b>	473	<b>72.88%</b>	101	15.56%	75	11.56%
<b>1900</b>	396	<b>61.78%</b>	207	32.29%	38	5.93%
<b>1896</b>	290	42.09%	396	<b>57.47%</b>	3	0.44%
<b>1892</b>	239	<b>46.23%</b>	225	43.52%	53	10.25%

**See also**  [ edit ]

- National Register of Historic Places listings in Wahkiakum County, Washington

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**External links**  [ edit ]

- Wahkiakum County, official county site [ edit ]
- Media related to Wahkiakum County, Washington at Wikimedia Commons

<span></span>	<b>Places adjacent to Wahkiakum County, Washington</b>	<span>[</span> <span> </span> <span>show</span> <span> </span> <span>]</span>
V <span> </span> • <span> </span> T <span> </span> • <span> </span> E	<b>Municipalities and communities of Wahkiakum County, Washington, United States</b>	<span>[</span> <span> </span> <span>show</span> <span> </span> <span>]</span>
V <span> </span> • <span> </span> T <span> </span> • <span> </span> E	<b>State of Washington</b>	<span>[</span> <span> </span> <span>show</span> <span> </span> <span>]</span>
<span></span>	<b>Authority control databases</b> <span><span></span></span> <span><span></span></span> <span><span></span></span> <span><span></span></span>	<span>[</span> <span> </span> <span>show</span> <span> </span> <span>]</span>

Categories: Washington (state) counties | Wahkiakum County, Washington | 1854 establishments in Washington Territory | Populated places established in 1854 | Western Washington | Washington placenames of Native American origin

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