Walla Walla County, Washington

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Coordinates: 46.23°N 118.48°W

Walla Walla County (/ˌwɒlə ˈwɒlə/ WAH-lə WAH-lə)[1] is a county located in the southeast corner of the U.S. state of Washington. As of the 2020 census, its population was 62,584.[2] The county seat and largest city is Walla Walla.[3] The county was formed on April 25, 1854[4] and is named after the Walla Walla tribe of Native Americans.

Walla Walla County is included in the Walla Walla, WA Metropolitan Statistical Area. As of 2020, the Walla Walla MSA is the second smallest metropolitan area in the United States, after the Carson City, Nevada MSA.

Geography [edit]

According to the United States Census Bureau, the county has a total area of 1,299 square miles (3,360 km^2), of which 1,270 square miles (3,300 km^2) is land and 29 square miles (75 km^2) (2.2%) is water.[5]

Geographic features [edit]

- Columbia River
- Snake River
- Blue Mountains
- Touchet River
- Ponderosa Pines
- Banana Belt
- Walla Walla River

Major highways [edit]

- U.S. Route 12

Adjacent counties [edit]

- Columbia County - east
- Umatilla County, Oregon - south
- Benton County - west
- Franklin County - northwest

National protected areas [edit]

- McNary National Wildlife Refuge
- Umatilla National Forest (part)
- Whitman Mission National Historic Site

Demographics [edit]

2000 census [edit]

As of the 2000 census, there were 55,180 people, 19,647 households, and 13,242 families living in the county. The population density was 43 people per square mile (17 people/km^2). There were 21,147 housing units at an average density of 17 per square mile (6.6/km^2). The racial makeup of the county was 85.3% White, 1.7% Black or African American, 0.8% Native American, 1.1% Asian, 0.2% Pacific Islander, 8.2% from other races, and 2.6% from two or more races. 15.7% of the population were Hispanic or Latino of any race. 20.1% were of German, 10.7% English, 7.7% United States or American and 7.3% Irish ancestry.

There were 19,647 households, out of which 32.10% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 54.00% were married couples living together, 9.50% had a female householder with no husband present, and 32.60% were non-families. 27.10% of all households were made up of individuals, and 12.40% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.54 and the average family size was 3.08.

In the county, the population was spread out, with 24.60% under the age of 18, 13.40% from 18 to 24, 26.50% from 25 to 44, 20.80% from 45 to 64, and 14.80% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 35 years. For every 100 females there were 103.80 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 102.90 males.

The median income for a household in the county was $35,900, and the median income for a family was $44,962. Males had a median income of $34,691 versus $24,736 for females. The per capita income for the county was $16,509. About 10.20% of families and 15.10% of the population were below the poverty line, including 19.80% of those under age 18 and 8.80% of those age 65 or over.

2010 census [edit]

As of the 2010 census, there were 58,781 people, 21,719 households, and 14,132 families living in the county.[11] The population density was 46.3 inhabitants per square mile (17.9/km^2). There were 23,451 housing units at an average density of 18.5 per square mile (7.1/km^2).[12] The racial makeup of the county was 84.5% white, 1.8% black or African American, 1.3% Asian, 1.0% American Indian, 0.3% Pacific islander, 8.0% from other races, and 3.1% from two or more races. Those of Hispanic or Latino origin made up 19.7% of the population.[11] In terms of ancestry, 23.5% were German, 13.3% were English, 12.7% were Irish, and 6.6% were American.[13]

Of the 21,719 households, 30.8% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 50.1% were married couples living together, 10.5% had a female householder with no husband present, 34.9% were non-families, and 28.2% of all households were made up of individuals. The average household size was 2.50 and the average family size was 3.05. The median age was 36.7 years.[11]

The median income for a household in the county was $45,575 and the median income for a family was $55,773. Males had a median income of $42,704 versus $35,586 for females. The per capita income for the county was $23,027. About 12.4% of families and 17.5% of the population were below the poverty line, including 24.6% of those under age 18 and 9.2% of those age 65 or over.[14]

Communities [edit]

Cities [edit]

- College Place
- Prescott
- Waitsburg
- Walla Walla (county seat)

Census-designated places [edit]

- Burbank
- Dixie
- Garrett
- Touchet
- Walla Walla East
- Wallula

Unincorporated communities [edit]

- Ayer
- Burbank Heights
- Lowden
- Calhounville

Politics [edit]

Walla Walla County is generally Republican; it has voted for that party in all but one presidential election since 1940, and has voted Democratic just five times since Washington's statehood in 1889. Like the state as a whole, third-party candidates often receive a larger share of the vote than they do nationally. The county is part of Washington's 5th congressional district, which is represented by Republican Cathy McMorris Rodgers.

United States presidential election results for Walla Walla County, Washington[15] [hide]

Year	Republican		Democratic		Third party	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
2020	16,400	**52.46%**	13,690	43.79%	1,171	3.75%
2016	13,651	**52.05%**	9,694	36.96%	2,883	10.99%
2012	14,648	**57.90%**	9,768	38.61%	882	3.49%
2008	14,182	**57.01%**	10,081	40.52%	614	2.47%
2004	14,323	**62.48%**	8,257	36.02%	345	1.50%
2000	13,304	**62.27%**	7,188	33.64%	873	4.09%
1996	9,085	**46.62%**	8,038	41.25%	2,363	12.13%
1992	7,894	**39.71%**	7,325	36.84%	4,662	23.45%
1988	9,683	**55.64%**	7,448	42.80%	272	1.56%
1984	12,361	**63.72%**	6,804	35.08%	233	1.20%
1980	11,223	**59.14%**	5,825	30.70%	1,929	10.16%
1976	10,883	**59.15%**	7,012	38.11%	505	2.74%
1972	12,579	**67.87%**	5,364	28.94%	590	3.18%
1968	10,042	**59.34%**	5,841	34.52%	1,040	6.15%
1964	8,102	46.05%	9,481	**53.89%**	11	0.06%
1960	11,786	**63.64%**	6,721	36.29%	12	0.06%
1956	11,827	**66.04%**	6,076	33.93%	7	0.04%
1952	11,987	**67.28%**	5,738	32.21%	92	0.52%
1948	7,993	**51.98%**	7,102	46.18%	283	1.84%
1944	7,364	**55.64%**	5,793	43.77%	78	0.59%
1940	7,883	**57.04%**	5,875	42.51%	63	0.46%
1936	4,584	39.28%	6,562	**56.23%**	524	4.49%
1932	4,653	44.00%	5,578	**52.75%**	344	3.25%
1928	6,774	**70.08%**	2,859	29.58%	33	0.34%
1924	5,465	**58.83%**	1,662	17.89%	2,163	23.28%
1920	5,957	**67.60%**	2,338	26.53%	517	5.87%
1916	4,429	48.00%	4,456	**48.29%**	342	3.71%
1912	1,937	25.28%	2,507	32.72%	3,219	**42.01%**
1908	2,843	**60.73%**	1,660	35.46%	178	3.80%
1904	2,824	**71.99%**	956	24.37%	143	3.65%
1900	2,119	**57.44%**	1,480	40.12%	90	2.44%
1896	1,596	47.63%	1,716	**51.21%**	39	1.16%
1892	1,362	**47.14%**	1,313	45.45%	214	7.41%

See also [edit]

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

Footnotes [edit]

1. ^ "Walla Walla". *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*. Retrieved March 24, 2024.
2. ^ a b "State & County QuickFacts". United States Census Bureau. Retrieved August 19, 2023.
3. ^ "Find a County". National Association of Counties. Retrieved June 7, 2011.
4. ^ "Milestones for Washington State History — Part 2: 1851 to 1900". HistoryLink.org. March 6, 2003.
5. ^ "2010 Census Gazetteer Files". United States Census Bureau. August 22, 2012. Retrieved July 16, 2015.
6. ^ "Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Counties: April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2022". United States Census Bureau. Retrieved August 19, 2023.
7. ^ "U.S. Decennial Census". United States Census Bureau. Retrieved February 26, 2015. Retrieved January 8, 2014.
8. ^ a b c "Historical Census Browser". University of Virginia Library. Retrieved January 8, 2014.
9. ^ "Population of Counties by Decennial Census: 1900 to 1990". United States Census Bureau. Retrieved January 8, 2014.
10. ^ "Census 2000 PHC-T-4. Ranking Tables for Counties: 1990 and 2000" (PDF). United States Census Bureau. Archived from the original (PDF) on February 26, 2015. Retrieved January 8, 2014.
11. ^ a b c d "DP-1 Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics: 2010 Demographic Profile Data". United States Census Bureau. Archived from the original on February 13, 2020. Retrieved March 6, 2016.
12. ^ "Population, Housing Units, Area, and Density: 2010 - County". United States Census Bureau. Archived from the original on February 13, 2020. Retrieved March 6, 2016.
13. ^ "DP02 SELECTED SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS IN THE UNITED STATES – 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates". United States Census Bureau. Archived from the original on February 13, 2020. Retrieved March 6, 2016.
14. ^ "DP03 SELECTED ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS – 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates". United States Census Bureau. Archived from the original on February 13, 2020. Retrieved March 6, 2016.
15. ^ Leip, David. "Dave Leip's Atlas of U.S. Presidential Elections". *uselectionatlas.org*. Retrieved April 10, 2018.
16. ^ U.S. Census Bureau Geography Division (December 21, 2020). *2020 Census – School District Reference Map: Walla Walla County, WA* (PDF) (Map). 1:117,896. U.S. Census Bureau. Archived (PDF) from the original on October 9, 2022. Retrieved August 4, 2022.

Further reading [edit]

- Frank T. Gilbert, *Historic Sketches: Walla Walla, Columbia and Garfield Counties, Washington Territory*.(Portland, OR: A.G. Walling Printing House, 1882.
- W.D. Lyman, Lyman's *History of Old Walla Walla County, Embracing Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield and Asotin Counties*. In Two Volumes. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1918. Volume 1 | Volume 2
- Frederic Ambrose Shaver, *An Illustrated History of Southeastern Washington, including Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield and Asotin Counties, Washington*. Spokane, WA: Western Historical Publishing Co., 1906.

External links [edit]

- Walla Walla Washington at HistoryLink.org
- Walla Walla photographs collection at the Whitman College and Northwest Archives, Whitman College

Walla Walla County
County

Postcard featuring the Walla Walla Court House in 1906

Seal

Location within the U.S. state of Washington

Washington's location within the U.S.
Coordinates: 46°14′N 118°29′W

Country	United States
State	Washington
Founded	April 25, 1854
Named for	Walla Walla people
Seat	Walla Walla
Largest city	Walla Walla
Area	
• Total	1,299 sq mi (3,360 km^2)
• Land	1,270 sq mi (3,300 km^2)
• Water	29 sq mi (80 km^2) 2.2%
Population (2020)	
• Total	62,584
• Estimate (2022)	61,890 ▼
• Density	46/sq mi (17.8/km^2)
Time zone	UTC−8 (Pacific)
• Summer (DST)	UTC−7 (PDT)
Congressional district	5th
Website	www.co.walla-walla.wa.us

Historical population

Census	Pop.	%±
1860	1,318	—
1870	5,300	302.1%
1880	8,716	64.5%
1890	12,224	40.2%
1900	18,680	52.8%
1910	31,931	70.9%
1920	27,539	−13.8%
1930	28,441	3.3%
1940	30,547	7.4%
1950	40,135	31.4%
1960	42,195	5.1%
1970	42,176	0.0%
1980	47,435	12.5%
1990	48,439	2.1%
2000	55,180	13.9%
2010	58,781	6.5%
2020	62,584	6.5%
2022 (est.)	61,890[6]	−1.1%

U.S. Decennial Census[7]
1790–1960[8] 1900–1990[9]
1990–2000[10] 2010–2020[2]

Places adjacent to Walla Walla County, Washington [show]
Municipalities and communities of Walla Walla County, Washington, United States [show]
State of Washington [show]
Authority control databases [show]

Categories: Washington (state) counties | Walla Walla County, Washington | 1854 establishments in Washington Territory | Eastern Washington | Washington placenames of Native American origin

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