
HOUSE BILL 2089

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Anderson, Bowman, Pruitt, Grant, R. Fisher, Ferguson, R. Johnson and Franklin.

Read first time February 22, 1991. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to the date of the presidential preference primary;
2 and amending RCW 29.19.020, 29.13.010, and 29.13.020.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29.19.020 and 1989 c 4 s 2 (Initiative Measure No. 99)
5 are each amended to read as follows:

6 On the fourth Tuesday in ((May)) March of each year when a
7 president of the United States is to be nominated and elected, ((or
8 such other date as may be selected by the secretary of state to advance
9 the concept of a regional primary,)) a presidential preference primary
10 shall be held at which voters may express their preferences as to who
11 should be the nominee of a major political party for the office of
12 president.

13 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29.13.010 and 1989 c 4 s 9 (Initiative Measure No. 99)
14 are each amended to read as follows:

1 All state, county, city, town, and district general elections for
2 the election of federal, state, legislative, judicial, county, city,
3 town, district, and precinct officers, and for the submission to the
4 voters of the state, county, city, town, or district of any measure for
5 their adoption and approval or rejection, shall be held on the first
6 Tuesday after the first Monday of November, in the year in which they
7 may be called. A state-wide general election shall be held on the
8 first Tuesday after the first Monday of November of each year:
9 PROVIDED, That the state-wide general election held in odd-numbered
10 years shall be limited to (1) city, town, and district general
11 elections as provided for in RCW 29.13.020 as now or hereafter amended,
12 or as otherwise provided by law; (2) the election of federal officers
13 for the remainder of any unexpired terms in the membership of either
14 branch of the congress of the United States; (3) the election of state
15 and county officers for the remainder of any unexpired terms of offices
16 created by or whose duties are described in Article II, section 15,
17 Article III, sections 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23, and Article IV,
18 sections 3 and 5 of the state Constitution and RCW 2.06.080; (4) the
19 election of county officers in any county governed by a charter
20 containing provisions calling for general county elections at this
21 time; and (5) the approval or rejection of state measures, including
22 proposed constitutional amendments, matters pertaining to any proposed
23 constitutional convention, initiative measures and referendum measures
24 proposed by the electorate, referendum bills, and any other matter
25 provided by the legislature for submission to the electorate: PROVIDED
26 FURTHER, That this section shall not be construed as fixing the time
27 for holding primary elections, or elections for the recall of any
28 elective public officer: PROVIDED HOWEVER, That the county legislative
29 authority may, if they deem an emergency to exist, call a special
30 county election by presenting a resolution to the county auditor at

1 least forty-five days prior to the proposed election date. A special
2 election called by the county legislative authority shall be held on
3 one of the following dates as decided by such governing body:

4 (a) The first Tuesday after the first Monday in February;

5 (b) The second Tuesday in March;

6 (c) In a presidential election year, the fourth Tuesday in March,
7 or in any other year, the first Tuesday after the first Monday in
8 April;

9 (d) The fourth Tuesday in May;

10 (e) The day of the primary as specified by RCW 29.13.070; or

11 (f) The first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

12 In addition to the dates set forth in (a) through (f) above, a
13 special election to validate an excess levy or bond issue may be called
14 at any time to meet the needs resulting from failure of a county to
15 pass a special levy for the first time or from fire, flood, earthquake,
16 or other act of God. Such county special election shall be noticed and
17 conducted in the manner provided by law.

18 This section shall supersede the provisions of any and all other
19 statutes, whether general or special in nature, having different dates
20 for such city, town, and district elections, the purpose of this
21 section being to establish mandatory dates for holding elections except
22 for those elections held pursuant to a home-rule charter adopted under
23 Article XI, section 4 of the state Constitution.

24 **Sec. 3.** RCW 29.13.020 and 1990 c 33 s 562 are each amended to read
25 as follows:

26 (1) All city, town, and district general elections shall be held
27 throughout the state of Washington on the first Tuesday following the
28 first Monday in November in the odd-numbered years.

29 This section shall not apply to:

1 (a) Elections for the recall of any elective public officer;

2 (b) Public utility districts or district elections at which the
3 ownership of property within those districts is a prerequisite to
4 voting, all of which elections shall be held at the times prescribed in
5 the laws specifically applicable thereto;

6 (c) Consolidation proposals as provided for in RCW 28A.315.280 and
7 nonhigh capital fund aid proposals as provided for in chapter 28A.540
8 RCW.

9 (2) The county auditor, as ex officio supervisor of elections, upon
10 request in the form of a resolution of the governing body of a city,
11 town, or district, presented to him at least forty-five days prior to
12 the proposed election date, may, if he deems an emergency to exist,
13 call a special election in such city, town, or district, and for the
14 purpose of such special election he may combine, unite, or divide
15 precincts. A special election called by such governing body shall be
16 held on one of the following dates as decided by the governing body:

17 (a) The first Tuesday after the first Monday in February;

18 (b) The second Tuesday in March;

19 (c) In a presidential election year, the first Tuesday in March, or
20 in any other year, the first Tuesday after the first Monday in April;

21 (d) The fourth Tuesday in May;

22 (e) The day of the primary election as specified by RCW 29.13.070;

23 or

24 (f) The first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

25 In addition to (a) through (f) above, a special election to
26 validate an excess levy or bond issue may be called at any time to meet
27 the needs resulting from failure of a school or junior taxing district
28 to pass a special levy or bond issue for the first time or from fire,
29 flood, earthquake, or other act of God, except that no special election
30 may be held between the first day for candidates to file for public

1 office and the last day to certify the returns of the general election
2 other than as provided in (e) and (f) of this subsection. Such special
3 election shall be conducted and notice thereof given in the manner
4 provided by law.

5 This section shall supersede the provisions of any and all other
6 statutes, whether general or special in nature, having different dates
7 for such city, town, and district elections, the purpose of this
8 section being to establish mandatory dates for holding elections.