
SENATE BILL 5433

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Senators Nelson, Madsen and Matson.

Read first time January 31, 1991. Referred to Committee on
Governmental Operations.

1 AN ACT Relating to voter registration verification procedures; and
2 amending RCW 29.10.180.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29.10.180 and 1989 c 261 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) The county auditor may contract with the Unites States postal
7 service, or its licensee, for use of change-of-address information. If
8 a voter is found to have changed his or her residence address, the
9 auditor shall send a notification to the voter.

10 (2) Whenever any vote-by-mail ballot, notification to voters
11 following reprecincting of the county, notification to voters of
12 selection to serve on jury duty, notification under subsection (1) of
13 this section, or initial voter identification card is returned by the
14 postal service as undeliverable, the county auditor shall, in every
15 instance, inquire into the validity of the registration of that voter.

1 ~~((2))~~ (3) The county auditor shall initiate his or her inquiry by
2 sending, by first-class mail, a written notice to the challenged voter
3 at the address indicated on the voter's permanent registration record
4 and to any other address at which the county auditor could reasonably
5 expect mail to be received by the voter. The county auditor shall not
6 request any restriction on the forwarding of such notice by the postal
7 service. The notice shall contain the nature of the inquiry and
8 provide a suitable form for reply. The notice shall also contain a
9 warning that the county auditor must receive a response within forty-
10 five days from the date of mailing or the individual's voter
11 registration will be canceled.

12 ~~((3))~~ (4) The voter, in person or in writing, may state that the
13 information on the permanent voter registration record is correct or
14 may request a change in the address information on the permanent
15 registration record no later than the forty-fifth day after the date of
16 mailing the inquiry.

17 ~~((4))~~ (5) Upon the timely receipt of a response signed by the
18 voter, the county auditor shall consider the inquiry satisfied and will
19 make any address corrections requested by the voter on the permanent
20 registration record. The county auditor shall cancel the registration
21 of a voter who fails to respond to the notice of inquiry within forty-
22 five days after the date of mailing.

23 ~~((5))~~ (6) The county auditor shall notify any voter whose
24 registration has been canceled by sending, by first class mail, a
25 written notice to the address indicated on the voter's permanent
26 registration record and to any other address to which the original
27 inquiry was sent. Upon receipt of a satisfactory voter response, the
28 auditor shall reinstate the voter.

29 ~~((6))~~ (7) A voter whose registration has been canceled under this
30 section and who offers to vote at the next ensuing election shall be

1 issued a questioned ballot. Upon receipt of such a questioned ballot
2 the auditor shall investigate the circumstances surrounding the
3 original cancellation. If he or she determines that the cancellation
4 was in error, the voter's registration shall be immediately reinstated,
5 and the voter's questioned ballot shall be counted. If the original
6 cancellation was not in error, the voter shall be afforded the
7 opportunity to reregister at his or her correct address, and the
8 voter's questioned ballot shall not be counted.