
HOUSE BILL 2241

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Representative D. Schmidt

Read first time 03/04/97. Referred to Committee on Government Administration.

1 AN ACT Relating to major political parties; amending RCW 29.01.090;
2 adding a new section to chapter 29.42 RCW; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29.01.090 and 1977 ex.s. c 329 s 9 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 "Major political party" means a political party of which at least
7 one nominee for president, vice president, United States senator, or a
8 state-wide office received at least five percent of the total vote cast
9 at the last preceding state general election in an even-numbered
10 year(~~(:— PROVIDED, That any political party qualifying as a major~~
11 ~~political party under the previous subsection (2) or subsection (3) of~~
12 ~~this section prior to its 1977 amendment shall retain such status until~~
13 ~~after the next state general election following June 30, 1977)) at
14 which such an office was on the ballot.~~

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 29.42 RCW
16 to read as follows:

17 A new major political party that was not a major political party
18 before the last state general election held in an even-numbered year

1 shall not exercise the powers of a major political party until it has
2 organized as follows:

3 (1) A county central committee must be organized at a convention in
4 each county of the state. Notice of the convention must be published
5 each week for at least two weeks before the convention in a newspaper
6 of general circulation in the county, with the last date of publication
7 not more than ten days nor less than three days before the date of the
8 convention. The notice must specify the date, time, and place of the
9 convention, and indicate that precinct committee officers and the
10 county central committee of the party will be elected at the
11 convention.

12 Any registered voter residing in the county may appear and
13 participate at the convention. The first order of business at the
14 convention will be the election of a precinct committee officer from
15 each precinct in the county, where only registered voters residing in
16 the precinct may participate in this election. The elected precinct
17 committee officers shall elect a county central committee.

18 (2) The newly elected county central committee of each county shall
19 hold a meeting to organize and elect one committeeman and one
20 committeewoman to be part of the state committee at its organizational
21 meeting.

22 (3) The state committee shall hold an organizational meeting on or
23 before July 31st in the year after the even-year general election at
24 which the political party became a major political party. The
25 organizational meeting must be held for the purposes specified under
26 RCW 29.42.020, including the election of a chair and vice-chair.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
28 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
29 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
30 immediately.

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