
SENATE BILL 5045

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Senator Benton

Read first time 01/13/97. Referred to Committee on Government Operations.

1 AN ACT Relating to the rotation of names on primary and general
2 election ballots; amending RCW 29.30.025, 29.30.081, and 29.80.060; and
3 repealing RCW 29.30.040.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29.30.025 and 1990 c 59 s 80 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 After the close of business on the last day for candidates to
8 ~~((file for office))~~ withdraw, the ~~((filing officer))~~ county auditor of
9 each county shall~~((, from among those filings made in person and by~~
10 ~~mail,))~~ determine by lot the single order in which the names of
11 ~~((those))~~ candidates will appear on all ~~((sample and absentee))~~ ballots
12 for any partisan or nonpartisan office that will be voted upon by
13 voters in the county at the primary. ~~((In the case of candidates for~~
14 ~~city, town, and district office, this procedure shall also determine~~
15 ~~the order for candidate names on the official primary ballot used at~~
16 ~~the polling place. The determination shall be done publicly and may be~~
17 ~~witnessed by the media and by any candidate.))~~ After the primary, or
18 if no primary is required for any nonpartisan office under RCW
19 29.15.150 or 29.21.015, the county auditor of each county shall

1 determine by lot the single order in which the names ((shall)) of
2 nominees or candidates will appear on all ballots for any partisan or
3 nonpartisan office that will be voted upon by the voters in that county
4 at the general election ((ballot in the order determined by lot)).

5 A determination by lot under this section must be done publicly and
6 may be witnessed by the media and by any candidate or nominee for the
7 office, or a representative of the candidate or nominee.

8 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29.30.081 and 1990 c 59 s 13 are each amended to read
9 as follows:

10 (1) On the top of each ballot there shall be printed instructions
11 directing the voters how to mark the ballot, including write-in votes.
12 After the instructions and before the offices shall be placed the
13 questions of adopting constitutional amendments or any other state
14 measure authorized by law to be submitted to the voters at that
15 election.

16 (2) ~~((The candidate or candidates of the major political party~~
17 ~~which received the highest number of votes from the electors of this~~
18 ~~state for the office of president of the United States at the last~~
19 ~~presidential election shall appear first following the appropriate~~
20 ~~office heading, the candidate or candidates of the other major~~
21 ~~political parties shall follow according to the votes cast for their~~
22 ~~nominees for president at the last presidential election, and~~
23 ~~independent candidates and the candidate or candidates of all other~~
24 ~~parties shall follow in the order of their qualification with the~~
25 ~~secretary of state.~~

26 ~~(3))~~ The names of candidates for president and vice-president for
27 each political party shall be grouped together with a single response
28 position for a voter to indicate his or her choice.

29 ~~((4))~~ (3) All paper ballots and ballot cards shall be
30 sequentially numbered in such a way to permit removal of such numbers
31 without leaving any identifying marks on the ballot.

32 **Sec. 3.** RCW 29.80.060 and 1965 c 9 s 29.80.060 are each amended to
33 read as follows:

34 Whenever practical, the secretary of state shall cause the
35 pamphlets to be printed so that no candidate's picture or statement
36 shall be included in the copy of the pamphlet going to any county where
37 such candidate is not to be voted for.

1 (~~The candidates' photographs and statements shall appear in the~~
2 ~~pamphlet in the same sequence as the positions sought appear on the~~
3 ~~state general election ballot.~~) The secretary of state shall determine
4 by lot the single order in which the names of nominees or candidates
5 will appear for federal and state offices in the state candidates'
6 pamphlet.

7 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. RCW 29.30.040 and 1990 c 59 s 94, 1977 ex.s.
8 c 361 s 54, & 1965 c 9 s 29.30.040 are each repealed.

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