
HOUSE BILL 1287

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Representatives D. Schmidt, Scott, McMorris, Wensman, Doumit,
D. Sommers and Dunn

Read first time 01/20/1999. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to precinct committee officers; and amending RCW
2 29.42.050 and 29.36.030.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29.42.050 and 1991 c 363 s 34 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 ((The)) Precinct committee officers of major political parties will
7 be elected at general elections held in even-numbered years or
8 appointed as provided in this section. General statutory requirements
9 for filing ((as a candidate at the primaries shall)) declarations of
10 candidacy apply to ((candidates)) filing declarations of candidacy for
11 a precinct committee officer of a major political party, except that
12 the filing period for this office alone shall be extended to and
13 include the Friday immediately following the last day for political
14 parties to fill vacancies in the ticket as provided by RCW 29.18.150((
15 and)). A primary may not be held for the office ((shall not be voted
16 upon at the primaries, but the names of all candidates must appear
17 under the proper party and office designations on the ballot for the
18 general November election for each even-numbered year and the one)), no
19 matter how many persons file for the same office. The position of
20 precinct committee officer of a major political party for a precinct
21 may be placed on the ballot at the general election only if two or more

1 persons file declarations of candidacy for that position. The
2 candidate receiving the highest number of votes ((shall)) will be
3 declared elected((: PROVIDED, That to be declared elected, a candidate
4 must receive at least ten percent of the number of votes cast for the
5 candidate of the candidate's party receiving the greatest number of
6 votes in the precinct. Any person elected to the office of precinct
7 committee officer who has not filed a declaration of candidacy shall
8 pay the fee of one dollar to the county auditor for a certificate of
9 election)). Even though the position of a precinct committee officer
10 of each major political party for the same precinct are separate
11 offices, voters in the precinct may vote for only one candidate for all
12 of these positions. If only one person has filed a declaration of
13 candidacy for the same office of precinct committee officer, the office
14 may not be placed on the general election ballot, and the sole
15 candidate will be declared to have been elected to that position.

16 The term of office of precinct committee officer shall be for two
17 years, commencing upon completion of the official canvass of votes by
18 the county canvassing board of election returns.

19 ((Should any)) If a vacancy occurs in this office by reason of
20 death, resignation, or disqualification of the incumbent, or because of
21 failure to elect, the respective county chair of the county central
22 committee ((shall be empowered to)) may fill ((such)) the vacancy by
23 appointment((: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That)). However, in a legislative
24 district((s)) having a majority of its precincts in a county with a
25 population of one million or more, ((such)) the appointment ((shall))
26 may be made only upon the recommendation of the legislative district
27 chair((: PROVIDED, That the)). A person ((sø)) who is appointed
28 ((shall)) as a precinct committee officer must have the same
29 qualifications as ((candidates)) a candidate for that position must
30 have when filing for ((election to such)) that office ((for such
31 precinct: PROVIDED FURTHER, That)). When a vacancy in the office of
32 precinct committee officer exists because of failure to elect at a
33 state general election held in an even-numbered year, ((such)) the
34 vacancy ((shall)) may not be filled until after the organization
35 meeting of the county central committee and the new county chair
36 selected as provided by RCW 29.42.030.

37 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29.36.030 and 1991 c 81 s 31 are each amended to read
38 as follows:

1 If the information contained in a request for an absentee ballot
2 received by the county auditor is complete and correct and the
3 applicant is qualified to vote under federal or state law, the county
4 auditor shall issue an absentee ballot for the primary or election for
5 which the absentee ballot was requested. Otherwise, the county auditor
6 shall notify the applicant of the reason or reasons why the request
7 cannot be accepted.

8 ~~((At each general election in an even-numbered year, each))~~
9 Absentee voters ((shall)) of a precinct where an election is held for
10 precinct committee officer must also be given a separate ballot
11 containing the names of the candidates ~~((that have filed for the office~~
12 ~~of))~~ for precinct committee officer ~~((unless fewer than two candidates~~
13 ~~have filed for the same political party in the absentee voter's~~
14 ~~precinct))~~ from that precinct who are included on the ballot, as
15 provided under RCW 29.42.050. The separate ballot ((shall)) must
16 provide space for ((writing in the name of additional)) write-in
17 candidates.

18 When mailing an absentee ballot to a registered voter temporarily
19 outside the state or to an out-of-state voter, overseas voter, or
20 service voter, the county auditor shall send a copy of the state
21 voters' and candidates' pamphlet with the absentee ballot. The county
22 auditor shall mail all absentee ballots and related material to voters
23 outside the territorial limits of the United States and the District of
24 Columbia under 39 U.S.C. 3406.

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