
HOUSE BILL 3003

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Representative Koster

Read first time 01/25/2000. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to mail ballot precincts; and reenacting and
2 amending RCW 29.36.120.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29.36.120 and 1994 c 269 s 1 and 1994 c 57 s 48 are
5 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

6 (1) At any primary or election, general or special, the county
7 auditor may, in any precinct having fewer than two hundred active
8 registered voters at the time of closing of voter registration as
9 provided in RCW 29.07.160, conduct the voting in that precinct by mail
10 ballot. For any precinct having fewer than two hundred active
11 registered voters where voting at a primary or a general election is
12 conducted by mail ballot, the county auditor shall, not less than
13 fifteen days prior to the date of that primary or general election,
14 mail or deliver to each active and inactive registered voter within
15 that precinct a notice that the voting in that precinct will be by mail
16 ballot, an application form for a mail ballot, and a postage prepaid
17 envelope, preaddressed to the issuing officer. A mail ballot shall be
18 issued to each voter who returns a properly executed application to the
19 county auditor no later than the day of that primary or general

1 election. For all subsequent mail ballot elections in that precinct
2 the application is valid so long as the voter remains active and
3 qualified to vote. (~~In determining the number of registered voters in
4 a precinct for the purposes of this section, persons who are ongoing
5 absentee voters under RCW 29.36.013 shall not be counted.~~) Nothing in
6 this section may be construed as altering the vote tallying
7 requirements of RCW 29.62.090.

8 At any nonpartisan special election not being held in conjunction
9 with a state primary or general election, the county, city, town, or
10 district requesting the election pursuant to RCW 29.13.010 or 29.13.020
11 may also request that the election be conducted by mail ballot. The
12 county auditor may honor the request or may determine that the election
13 is not to be conducted by mail ballot. The decision of the county
14 auditor in this regard is final.

15 In no instance shall any special election be conducted by mail
16 ballot in any precinct with two hundred or more active registered
17 voters if candidates for partisan office are to be voted upon.

18 For all special elections not being held in conjunction with a
19 state primary or state general election where voting is conducted by
20 mail ballot, the county auditor shall, not less than fifteen days prior
21 to the date of such election, mail or deliver to each active registered
22 voter a mail ballot and an envelope, preaddressed to the issuing
23 officer. The auditor shall send each inactive voter either a ballot or
24 an application to receive a ballot. The auditor shall determine which
25 of the two is to be sent. If the inactive voter returns a voted
26 ballot, the ballot shall be counted and the voter's status restored to
27 active. If the inactive voter completes and returns an application, a
28 ballot shall be sent and the voter's status restored to active.

29 (2) For a two-year period beginning on June 9, 1994, and ending two
30 years after June 9, 1994, the county auditor may conduct the voting in
31 any precinct by mail for any primary or election, partisan or
32 nonpartisan, using the procedures set forth in RCW 29.36.120 through
33 29.36.139.

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