
HOUSE BILL 2709

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Representatives Romero, Upthegrove, Ogden, Cooper, Grant and McDermott

Read first time 01/24/2002. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to minor party nominating conventions; amending RCW
2 29.24.020, 29.24.025, 29.24.030, 29.24.035, and 29.24.040; adding a new
3 section to chapter 29.24 RCW; creating a new section; and prescribing
4 penalties.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** It is the intent of the legislature to
7 protect the integrity of the election process for minor political
8 parties and independent candidates. This act is not intended to create
9 barriers to the political process for minor political parties and
10 independent candidates, but to prevent major political parties from
11 interfering in the nominating process for minor political parties and
12 independent candidates.

13 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29.24.020 and 2001 c 30 s 2 are each amended to read
14 as follows:

15 (1) Any nomination of a candidate for partisan public office by
16 other than a major political party may be made only: (a) In a
17 convention held not earlier than the last Saturday in June and not
18 later than the first Saturday in July or during any of the seven days

1 immediately preceding the first day for filing declarations of
2 candidacy as fixed in accordance with RCW 29.68.080; (b) as provided by
3 RCW 29.62.180; or (c) as otherwise provided in this section.

4 (2) Nominations of candidates for president and vice president of
5 the United States other than by a major political party may be made
6 either at a convention conducted under subsection (1) of this section,
7 or at a similar convention taking place not earlier than the first
8 Sunday in July and not later than seventy days before the general
9 election. Conventions held during this time period may not nominate
10 candidates for any public office other than president and vice
11 president of the United States, except as provided in subsection (3) of
12 this section.

13 (3) If a special filing period for a partisan office is opened
14 under RCW 29.15.230, candidates of minor political parties and
15 independent candidates may file for office during that special filing
16 period. The names of those candidates may not appear on the ballot
17 unless they are nominated by convention held no later than five days
18 after the close of the special filing period and a certificate of
19 nomination is filed with the filing officer no later than three days
20 after the convention. The requirements of RCW 29.24.025 do not apply
21 to such a convention. If primary ballots or a voters' pamphlet are
22 ordered to be printed before the deadline for submitting the
23 certificate of nomination and the certificate has not been filed, then
24 the candidate's name will be included but may not appear on the general
25 election ballot unless the certificate is timely filed and the
26 candidate otherwise qualifies to appear on that ballot.

27 (4) A minor political party may hold more than one convention but
28 in no case shall any such party nominate more than one candidate for
29 any one partisan public office or position. For the purpose of
30 nominating candidates for the offices of president and vice president,
31 United States senator, or a statewide office, a minor party or
32 independent candidate holding multiple conventions may add together the
33 number of signatures of different individuals from each convention
34 obtained in support of the candidate or candidates in order to obtain
35 the number required by RCW 29.24.030. For all other offices for which
36 nominations are made, signatures of the requisite number of registered
37 voters must be obtained at a single convention, and the candidate or
38 candidates nominated must be present at the convention.

1 **Sec. 3.** RCW 29.24.025 and 1989 c 215 s 1 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 Each minor party or independent candidate must publish a notice in
4 a newspaper of general circulation within the county in which the party
5 or the candidate intends to hold a convention and must file a notice
6 with the appropriate filing officer as provided in RCW 29.24.040(7).
7 The notice must appear at least ten days before the convention is to be
8 held, ~~((and))~~ shall state the date, time, and place of the
9 convention(~~(. — Additionally, it)~~), and shall include the mailing
10 address of the person or organization sponsoring the convention.

11 **Sec. 4.** RCW 29.24.030 and 1989 c 215 s 3 are each amended to read
12 as follows:

13 (1) To be valid, a convention must be attended by at least twenty-
14 five registered voters.

15 (2) In order to nominate candidates for the offices of president
16 and vice-president of the United States, United States senator, or any
17 state-wide office, a nominating convention shall obtain and submit to
18 the filing officer the signatures of at least two hundred registered
19 voters of the state of Washington. In order to nominate candidates for
20 any other office, a nominating convention shall obtain and submit to
21 the filing officer the signatures of twenty-five persons who are
22 registered to vote in the jurisdiction of the office for which the
23 nominations are made. No person who is a precinct committee officer
24 may sign a nominating petition submitted under this chapter.

25 **Sec. 5.** RCW 29.24.035 and 2001 c 64 s 1 are each amended to read
26 as follows:

27 A nominating petition submitted under this chapter shall clearly
28 identify the name of the minor party or independent candidate
29 convention as it appears on the certificate of nomination as required
30 by RCW 29.24.040(3). The petition shall also contain a statement that
31 the person signing the petition is a registered voter of the state of
32 Washington and shall have a space for the voter to sign his or her name
33 and to print his or her name and address. No person may sign more than
34 one nominating petition under this chapter for an office for a primary
35 or election. No person may sign the nominating petition before the
36 candidate or candidates are nominated. No person who is a precinct

1 committee officer may sign a nominating petition submitted under this
2 chapter.

3 **Sec. 6.** RCW 29.24.040 and 1989 c 215 s 4 are each amended to read
4 as follows:

5 A certificate evidencing nominations made at a convention must:

6 (1) Be in writing;

7 (2) Contain the name of each person nominated, his residence, and
8 the office for which he is named, and if the nomination is for the
9 offices of president and vice-president of the United States, a sworn
10 statement from both nominees giving their consent to the nomination;

11 (3) Identify the minor political party or the independent candidate
12 on whose behalf the convention was held;

13 (4) Be verified by the oath of the presiding officer and secretary,
14 neither of whom may be a precinct officer;

15 (5) Be accompanied by a nominating petition or petitions bearing
16 the signatures and addresses of registered voters equal in number to
17 that required by RCW 29.24.030;

18 (6) Contain proof of publication of the notice of calling the
19 convention; and

20 (7) Be submitted to the appropriate filing officer not later than
21 one week following the adjournment of the convention at which the
22 nominations were made. If the nominations are made only for offices
23 whose jurisdiction is entirely within one county, the certificate and
24 nominating petitions must be filed with the county auditor. If a minor
25 party or independent candidate convention nominates any candidates for
26 offices whose jurisdiction encompasses more than one county, all
27 nominating petitions and the convention certificates must be filed with
28 the secretary of state.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 29.24 RCW
30 to read as follows:

31 Every person who signs a nominating petition using other than his
32 or her true name, who makes a false statement on a nominating petition
33 as to his or her residence, who is not registered to vote in the
34 jurisdiction of the office for which the nomination is made, who signs
35 a nominating petition for a minor political party or an independent
36 candidate while serving as a precinct committee officer, who knowingly
37 signs more than one nominating petition for the same office, who signs

1 a nominating petition before the candidate is nominated, who serves as
2 a presiding officer or a secretary at a minor political party or
3 independent candidate nominating convention while serving as a precinct
4 committee officer, or who falsely verifies a certificate of nomination,
5 is guilty of a gross misdemeanor punishable in the same manner as a
6 gross misdemeanor is punishable under RCW 9A.20.021.

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