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SENATE BILL 6118

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State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senator Roach

Read first time 02/23/2001. Referred to Committee on State & Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to election of precinct committee officers; and  
2 amending RCW 29.04.020, 29.15.120, 29.30.060, 29.36.030, 29.42.040,  
3 29.42.050, and 29.81.220.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29.04.020 and 1987 c 295 s 1 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 The county auditor of each county shall be ex officio the  
8 supervisor of all primaries and elections, general or special, and it  
9 shall be the county auditor's duty to provide places for holding such  
10 primaries and elections; to appoint the precinct election officers; to  
11 provide for their compensation; to provide ballot boxes and ballots or  
12 voting machines, poll books, or precinct lists of registered voters,  
13 and tally sheets, and deliver them to the precinct election officers at  
14 the polling places; to publish and post notices of calling such  
15 primaries and elections in the manner provided by law: PROVIDED, That  
16 notice of a (~~general election~~) primary held in an even-numbered year  
17 shall indicate that the office of precinct committee officer will be on  
18 the ballot; and to apportion to each city, town, or district, its share  
19 of the expense of such primaries and elections: PROVIDED, That this

1 section shall not apply to general or special elections for any city,  
2 town, or district which is not subject to RCW 29.13.010 and 29.13.020,  
3 but all such elections shall be held and conducted at the time, in the  
4 manner, and by the officials (with such notice, requirements for filing  
5 for office, and certifications by local officers) as provided and  
6 required by the laws governing such elections.

7 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29.15.120 and 1994 c 223 s 6 are each amended to read  
8 as follows:

9 A candidate may withdraw his or her declaration of candidacy at any  
10 time before the close of business on the Thursday following the last  
11 day for candidates to file under RCW 29.15.020 by filing, with the  
12 officer with whom the declaration of candidacy was filed, a signed  
13 request that his or her name not be printed on the ballot. There shall  
14 be no withdrawal period for declarations of candidacy filed during  
15 special filing periods held under this title. The filing officer may  
16 permit the withdrawal of a filing for the office of precinct committee  
17 officer at the request of the candidate at any time if no absentee  
18 ballots have been issued for that office and the ((general election))  
19 primary ballots for that precinct have not been printed. The filing  
20 officer may permit the withdrawal of a filing for any elected office of  
21 a city, town, or special district at the request of the candidate at  
22 any time before a primary if the primary ballots for that city, town,  
23 or special district have not been ordered. No filing fee may be  
24 refunded to any candidate who withdraws under this section. Notice of  
25 the deadline for withdrawal of candidacy and that the filing fee is not  
26 refundable shall be given to each candidate at the time he or she  
27 files.

28 **Sec. 3.** RCW 29.30.060 and 1991 c 363 s 33 are each amended to read  
29 as follows:

30 Except in each county with a population of one million or more, on  
31 or before the fifteenth day before a primary or election, the county  
32 auditor shall prepare a sample ballot which shall be made readily  
33 available to members of the public. The secretary of state shall adopt  
34 rules governing the preparation of sample ballots in counties with a  
35 population of one million or more. The rules shall permit, among other  
36 alternatives, the preparation of more than one sample ballot by a  
37 county with a population of one million or more for a primary or

1 election, each of which lists a portion of the offices and issues to be  
2 voted on in that county. The position of precinct committee officer  
3 shall be shown on the sample ballot for the (~~general election~~)  
4 primary, but the names of candidates for the individual positions need  
5 not be shown.

6 **Sec. 4.** RCW 29.36.030 and 1991 c 81 s 31 are each amended to read  
7 as follows:

8 If the information contained in a request for an absentee ballot  
9 received by the county auditor is complete and correct and the  
10 applicant is qualified to vote under federal or state law, the county  
11 auditor shall issue an absentee ballot for the primary or election for  
12 which the absentee ballot was requested. Otherwise, the county auditor  
13 shall notify the applicant of the reason or reasons why the request  
14 cannot be accepted.

15 At each (~~general election~~) primary in an even-numbered year, each  
16 absentee voter shall also be given a separate ballot containing the  
17 names of the candidates (~~that~~) who have filed for the office of  
18 precinct committee officer unless fewer than two candidates have filed  
19 for the same political party in the absentee voter's precinct. The  
20 ballot shall provide space for writing in the name of additional  
21 candidates.

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

29 **Sec. 5.** RCW 29.42.040 and 1990 c 59 s 104 are each amended to read  
30 as follows:

31 Any member of a major political party who is a registered voter in  
32 the precinct may upon payment of a fee of one dollar file his or her  
33 declaration of candidacy as prescribed under RCW 29.15.010 with the  
34 county auditor for the office of precinct committee officer of his or  
35 her party in that precinct. When elected the precinct committee  
36 officer shall serve so long as the committee officer remains an  
37 eligible voter in that precinct and until a successor has been elected

1 at the next ensuing state (~~general election~~) primary in the even-  
2 numbered year.

3 **Sec. 6.** RCW 29.42.050 and 1991 c 363 s 34 are each amended to read  
4 as follows:

5 The statutory requirements for filing as a candidate at the  
6 primaries shall apply to candidates for precinct committee officer  
7 except that the filing period for this office alone shall be extended  
8 to and include the Friday immediately following the last day for  
9 political parties to fill vacancies in the ticket as provided by RCW  
10 29.18.150, and (~~the office shall not be voted upon at the primaries,~~  
11 ~~but~~)) the names of all candidates must appear under the proper party  
12 and office designations on the ballot for the (~~general November~~  
13 ~~election~~)) state primary for each even-numbered year and the one  
14 receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected:  
15 PROVIDED, That to be declared elected, a candidate must receive at  
16 least ten percent of the number of votes cast for the candidate of the  
17 candidate's party receiving the greatest number of votes in the  
18 precinct. Any person elected to the office of precinct committee  
19 officer who has not filed a declaration of candidacy shall pay the fee  
20 of one dollar to the county auditor for a certificate of election. The  
21 term of office of precinct committee officer shall be for two years,  
22 commencing upon completion of the official canvass of votes by the  
23 county canvassing board of (~~election~~)) primary returns. Should any  
24 vacancy occur in this office by reason of death, resignation, or  
25 disqualification of the incumbent, or because of failure to elect, the  
26 respective county chair of the county central committee shall be  
27 empowered to fill such vacancy by appointment: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That  
28 in legislative districts having a majority of its precincts in a county  
29 with a population of one million or more, such appointment shall be  
30 made only upon the recommendation of the legislative district chair:  
31 PROVIDED, That the person so appointed shall have the same  
32 qualifications as candidates when filing for election to such office  
33 for such precinct: PROVIDED FURTHER, That when a vacancy in the office  
34 of precinct committee officer exists because of failure to elect at a  
35 state (~~general election~~) primary, such vacancy shall not be filled  
36 until after the organization meeting of the county central committee  
37 and the new county chair selected as provided by RCW 29.42.030.

1       **Sec. 7.** RCW 29.81.220 and 1999 c 260 s 2 are each amended to read  
2 as follows:

3       The voters' pamphlet must contain:

4       (1) Information about each ballot measure initiated by or referred  
5 to the voters for their approval or rejection as required by RCW  
6 29.81.250;

7       (2) In even-numbered years, statements, if submitted, advocating  
8 the candidacies of nominees for the office of president and vice-  
9 president of the United States, United States senator, United States  
10 representative, governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state,  
11 state treasurer, state auditor, attorney general, commissioner of  
12 public lands, superintendent of public instruction, insurance  
13 commissioner, state senator, state representative, justice of the  
14 supreme court, judge of the court of appeals, or judge of the superior  
15 court. Candidates may also submit a campaign mailing address and  
16 telephone number and a photograph not more than five years old and of  
17 a size and quality that the secretary of state determines to be  
18 suitable for reproduction in the voters' pamphlet;

19       (3) In odd-numbered years, if any office voted upon statewide  
20 appears on the ballot due to a vacancy, then statements and photographs  
21 for candidates for any vacant office listed in subsection (2) of this  
22 section must appear;

23       (4) In even-numbered years, a section explaining how voters may  
24 participate in the election campaign process; the address and telephone  
25 number of the public disclosure commission established under RCW  
26 42.17.350; and a summary of the disclosure requirements that apply when  
27 contributions are made to candidates and political committees;

28       (5) In even-numbered years the name, address, and telephone number  
29 of each political party with nominees listed in the pamphlet, if filed  
30 with the secretary of state by the state committee of a major political  
31 party or the presiding officer of the convention of a minor political  
32 party;

33       (6) In each odd-numbered year immediately before a year in which a  
34 president of the United States is to be nominated and elected,  
35 information explaining the precinct caucus and convention process used  
36 by each major political party to elect delegates to its national  
37 presidential candidate nominating convention. The pamphlet must also  
38 provide a description of the statutory procedures by which minor

1 political parties are formed and the statutory methods used by the  
2 parties to nominate candidates for president;  
3 (7) ~~((In even numbered years, a description of the office of~~  
4 ~~precinct committee officer and its duties;~~  
5 ~~(8))~~ An application form for an absentee ballot;  
6 ~~((9))~~ (8) A brief statement explaining the deletion and addition  
7 of language for proposed measures under RCW 29.81.260;  
8 ~~((10))~~ (9) Any additional information pertaining to elections as  
9 may be required by law or in the judgment of the secretary of state is  
10 deemed informative to the voters.

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