
HOUSE BILL 2026

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2003 Regular Session

By Representatives Hunt, Shabro, McDermott, Nixon, Wallace,
Armstrong, Simpson, Darneille, Moeller and Berkey

Read first time 02/19/2003. Referred to Committee on State
Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to daily counting of absentee ballots; amending RCW
2 29.62.020.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29.62.020 and 1999 c 259 s 4 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) (~~At least~~) Every (~~third~~) day after a special election,
7 primary, or general election and before certification of the election
8 results, except Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, the county
9 auditor shall convene the county canvassing board or their designees to
10 process absentee ballots and canvass the votes cast at that special
11 election, primary, or general election, if the county auditor is in
12 possession of more than twenty-five ballots that have yet to be
13 canvassed. The county auditor may use his or her discretion in
14 determining when to convene the canvassing board or their designees
15 during the final four days before the certification of election results
16 in order to protect the secrecy of any ballot.

17 Each absentee ballot previously not canvassed that was received by
18 the county auditor (~~two days or more~~) before the convening of the
19 canvassing board or their designees and that either was received by the

1 county auditor before the closing of the polls on the day of the
2 special election, primary, or general election for which it was issued,
3 or that bears a date of mailing on or before the special election,
4 primary, or general election for which it was issued, must be processed
5 at that time. The tabulation of votes that results from that day's
6 canvass must be made available to the general public immediately upon
7 completion of the canvass.

8 (2) On the tenth day after a special election or a primary and on
9 the fifteenth day after a general election, the canvassing board shall
10 complete the canvass and certify the results. Each absentee ballot
11 that was returned before the closing of the polls on the date of the
12 primary or election for which it was issued, and each absentee ballot
13 with a date of mailing on or before the date of the primary or election
14 for which it was issued and received on or before the date on which the
15 primary or election is certified, shall be included in the canvass
16 report.

17 (3) At the request of any caucus of the state legislature, the
18 county auditor shall transmit copies of all unofficial returns of state
19 and legislative primaries or elections prepared by or for the county
20 canvassing board to either the secretary of the senate or the chief
21 clerk of the house.

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