
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1754

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By House Committee on State Government Operations & Accountability (originally sponsored by Representatives Hunt, Nixon, McDermott, Haigh, Upthegrove, Moeller, Kenney, Chase, Simpson, Miloscia, Sells and Linville; by request of Secretary of State)

READ FIRST TIME 03/07/05.

1 AN ACT Relating to mail ballot elections; and amending RCW
2 29A.48.010.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.48.010 and 2004 c 266 s 14 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) Before January 1, 2008:

7 (a) With express authorization from the county legislative
8 authority, the county auditor may conduct all primary, special, and
9 general elections entirely by mail ballot. The county legislative
10 authority must give the county auditor at least ninety days' notice
11 before the first election to be conducted entirely by mail ballot. If
12 the county legislative authority and the county auditor decide to
13 return to a polling place election environment, the county legislative
14 authority must give the county auditor at least one hundred eighty
15 days' notice before the first election to be conducted using polling
16 places. Authorization under this subsection must apply to all primary,
17 special, and general elections conducted by the county auditor.

18 (b) The county auditor may designate any precinct having fewer than
19 two hundred active registered voters at the time of closing of voter

1 registration as provided in RCW 29A.08.140 as a mail ballot precinct.
2 (~~The county auditor shall notify each registered voter by mail that~~
3 ~~for all future primaries and elections the voting in his or her~~
4 ~~precinct will be by mail ballot only.~~) Authorization from the county
5 legislative authority is not required to designate a precinct as a mail
6 ballot precinct under this subsection. In determining the number of
7 registered voters in a precinct for the purposes of this section,
8 persons who are ongoing absentee voters under RCW 29A.40.040 shall not
9 be counted. Nothing in this section may be construed as altering the
10 vote tallying requirements of RCW 29A.60.230.

11 (c) If the county legislative authority and county auditor
12 determine under (a) of this subsection, or if the county auditor
13 determines under (b) of this subsection, to return to a polling place
14 election environment, the auditor shall notify each registered voter,
15 by mail, of this and shall provide the address of the polling place to
16 be used.

17 (2) Effective January 1, 2008, all primary, special, and general
18 elections must be conducted entirely by mail ballot.

19 (3) Before changing a county or precinct from a polling place
20 election environment to an all-mail election environment, the county
21 auditor shall notify each affected registered voter by mail that for
22 all future primaries and elections the voting will be by mail ballot
23 only. The auditor shall mail each active voter a ballot at least
24 eighteen days before a primary, general election, or special election.
25 The auditor shall send each inactive voter either a ballot or an
26 application to receive a ballot at least eighteen days before a
27 primary, general election, or special election. The auditor shall
28 determine which of the two is to be sent. If the inactive voter
29 returns a voted ballot, the ballot shall be counted and the voter's
30 status restored to active. If the inactive voter completes and returns
31 an application, a ballot shall be sent and the voter's status restored
32 to active. The requirements regarding certification, reporting, and
33 the mailing of overseas and military ballots in RCW ~~((29.36.270))~~
34 29A.40.070 apply to elections conducted by mail ballot ~~((precincts))~~.

35 ~~((If the precinct exceeds two hundred registered voters, or the~~
36 ~~auditor determines to return to a polling place election environment,~~
37 ~~the auditor shall notify each registered voter, by mail, of this and~~
38 ~~shall provide the address of the polling place to be used.))~~

1 (4) All vote by mail elections must provide voting access to
2 individuals with disabilities as provided in chapter 29A.46 RCW.

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