
HOUSE BILL 1990

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Hunt, Haigh, Williams, Miloscia and McDermott

Read first time 02/14/2005. Referred to Committee on State Government Operations & Accountability.

1 AN ACT Relating to voting by mail; and amending RCW 29A.48.010.

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

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

5 (~~The county auditor may designate any precinct having fewer than
6 two hundred active registered voters at the time of closing of voter
7 registration as provided in RCW 29A.08.140 as a mail ballot precinct.
8 The county auditor shall notify each registered voter by mail that for
9 all future primaries and elections the voting in his or her precinct
10 will be by mail ballot only. In determining the number of registered
11 voters in a precinct for the purposes of this section, persons who are
12 ongoing absentee voters under RCW 29A.40.040 shall not be counted.
13 Nothing in this section may be construed as altering the vote tallying
14 requirements of RCW 29A.60.230.))~~

15 (1) Effective January 1, 2008, all primary, special, and general
16 elections shall be conducted entirely by mail ballot.

17 (2) Before January 1, 2008, the county auditor may conduct all
18 primary, special, and general elections entirely by mail ballot.

1 (3) The county auditor shall notify each registered voter by mail
2 that for all future primaries and elections the voting will be by mail
3 ballot only. The auditor shall mail each active voter a ballot at
4 least eighteen days before a primary, general election, or special
5 election. The auditor shall send each inactive voter either a ballot
6 or an application to receive a ballot at least eighteen days before a
7 primary, general election, or special election. The auditor shall
8 determine which of the two is to be sent. If the inactive voter
9 returns a voted ballot, the ballot shall be counted and the voter's
10 status restored to active. If the inactive voter completes and returns
11 an application, a ballot shall be sent and the voter's status restored
12 to active. The requirements regarding certification, reporting, and
13 the mailing of overseas and military ballots in RCW ((29.36.270))
14 29A.40.070 apply to elections conducted by mail ballot ((precincts)).

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

19 (4) All vote by mail elections shall provide disability access
20 voting as provided in chapter 29A.46 RCW.

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