
SENATE BILL 6421

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senator Kastama

Read first time 01/12/2006. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to eliminating Saturday counting of ballots;
2 amending RCW 29A.60.160; reenacting and amending RCW 29A.60.160;
3 providing an effective date; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.60.160 and 2005 c 243 s 15 and 2005 c 153 s 11 are
6 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

7 Except for an election conducted under the instant runoff voting
8 method for the pilot project authorized by RCW 29A.53.020, (~~{and}~~)
9 and except for Sundays and legal holidays, the county auditor, as
10 delegated by the county canvassing board, shall process absentee
11 ballots and canvass the votes cast at that primary or election (~~on a~~
12 ~~daily basis in counties with a population of seventy five thousand or~~
13 ~~more, or~~) at least every third day (~~for counties with a population of~~
14 ~~less than seventy five thousand~~) after a primary or election and
15 before certification of election results, if the county auditor is in
16 possession of more than twenty-five ballots that have yet to be
17 canvassed. The county auditor, as delegated by the county canvassing
18 board, may use his or her discretion in determining when to process the
19 remaining absentee ballots and canvass the votes during the final four

1 days before the certification of election results in order to protect
2 the secrecy of any ballot. In counties where this process has not been
3 delegated to the county auditor, the county auditor shall convene the
4 county canvassing board to process absentee ballots and canvass the
5 votes cast at the primary or election as set forth in this section.

6 Except for an election conducted under the instant runoff voting
7 method for the pilot project authorized by RCW 29A.53.020, each
8 absentee ballot previously not canvassed that was received by the
9 county auditor two days or more before processing absentee ballots and
10 canvassing the votes as delegated by or processed by the county
11 canvassing board, that either was received by the county auditor before
12 the closing of the polls on the day of the primary or election for
13 which it was issued, or that bears a postmark on or before the primary
14 or election for which it was issued, must be processed at that time.
15 The tabulation of votes that results from that day's canvass must be
16 made available to the general public immediately upon completion of the
17 canvass.

18 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.60.160 and 2005 c 243 s 15 are each amended to
19 read as follows:

20 Except Sundays and legal holidays, the county auditor, as
21 delegated by the county canvassing board, shall process absentee
22 ballots and canvass the votes cast at that primary or election (~~on a~~
23 ~~daily basis in counties with a population of seventy five thousand or~~
24 ~~more, or~~) at least every third day (~~for counties with a population of~~
25 ~~less than seventy five thousand~~) after a primary or election and
26 before certification of election results, if the county auditor is in
27 possession of more than twenty-five ballots that have yet to be
28 canvassed. The county auditor, as delegated by the county canvassing
29 board, may use his or her discretion in determining when to process the
30 remaining absentee ballots and canvass the votes during the final four
31 days before the certification of election results in order to protect
32 the secrecy of any ballot. In counties where this process has not been
33 delegated to the county auditor, the county auditor shall convene the
34 county canvassing board to process absentee ballots and canvass the
35 votes cast at the primary or election as set forth in this section.

36 Each absentee ballot previously not canvassed that was received by
37 the county auditor two days or more before processing absentee ballots

1 and canvassing the votes as delegated by or processed by the county
2 canvassing board, that either was received by the county auditor before
3 the closing of the polls on the day of the primary or election for
4 which it was issued, or that bears a postmark on or before the primary
5 or election for which it was issued, must be processed at that time.
6 The tabulation of votes that results from that day's canvass must be
7 made available to the general public immediately upon completion of the
8 canvass.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Section 1 of this act expires July 1, 2013.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Section 2 of this act takes effect July 1,
11 2013.

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