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HOUSE BILL 2473

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State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2008 Regular Session

By Representatives Hunt, Armstrong, Appleton, and Blake

Prefiled 12/20/07. Read first time 01/14/08. Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs.

1            AN ACT Relating to inactive voters; 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 2005 c 241 s 1 are each amended to read  
4 as follows:

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

16            (2) The county auditor may designate any precinct having fewer than  
17 two hundred active registered voters at the time of closing of voter  
18 registration as provided in RCW 29A.08.140 as a mail ballot precinct.  
19 Authorization from the county legislative authority is not required to

1 designate a precinct as a mail ballot precinct under this subsection.  
2 In determining the number of registered voters in a precinct for the  
3 purposes of this section, persons who are ongoing absentee voters under  
4 RCW 29A.40.040 shall not be counted. Nothing in this section may be  
5 construed as altering the vote tallying requirements of RCW 29A.60.230.

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

20 (4) If the county legislative authority and county auditor  
21 determine under subsection (1) of this section, or if the county  
22 auditor determines under subsection (2) of this section, to return to  
23 a polling place election environment, the auditor shall notify each  
24 registered voter, by mail, of this and shall provide the address of the  
25 polling place to be used.

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