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HOUSE BILL 1731

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State of Washington                      61st Legislature                      2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Hunt, Armstrong, Appleton, Newhouse, Flannigan, Miloscia, and Hudgins

Read first time 01/28/09. Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs.

1            AN ACT Relating to clarifying party preference on primary ballots;  
2 and amending RCW 29A.52.112.

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

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.52.112 and 2005 c 2 s 7 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6            (1) A primary is a first stage in the public process by which  
7 voters elect candidates to public office.

8            (2) Whenever candidates for a partisan office are to be elected,  
9 the general election must be preceded by a primary conducted under this  
10 chapter. Based upon votes cast at the primary, the top two candidates  
11 will be certified as qualified to appear on the general election  
12 ballot, unless only one candidate qualifies as provided in RCW  
13 (~~29A.36.170~~) 29A.36.171.

14            (3) For partisan office, if a candidate has expressed:

15            (a) A major political party (~~(or independent)~~), as defined in RCW  
16 29A.04.086, preference on the declaration of candidacy, then that  
17 preference will be shown after the name of the candidate on the primary  
18 and general election ballots by appropriate abbreviation as set forth  
19 in rules (~~(of)~~) by the secretary of state. (~~(A candidate may express~~

1 ~~no party or independent preference.)~~ An expression of major political  
2 party preference may be done by the party name, in whole or in part, or  
3 trademark on the declaration of candidacy. If a candidate uses a major  
4 political party name or trademark as part of the party preference on  
5 the candidate's declaration of candidacy in conjunction with other  
6 descriptors, the preference that will be used will be simply the name  
7 of the major political party;

8 (b) A minor political party, as defined in RCW 29A.04.097,  
9 preference may be done by the party name, in whole or in part, or  
10 trademark on the declaration of candidacy, then that preference will be  
11 shown after the name of the candidate on the primary and general  
12 election ballots by appropriate abbreviation as set forth in rules by  
13 the secretary of state. If a candidate uses a minor political party  
14 name or trademark as part of the party preference on the candidate's  
15 declaration of candidacy in conjunction with other descriptors, the  
16 preference that will be used will be simply the name of the minor  
17 political party;

18 (c) A party preference not meeting (a) or (b) of this subsection,  
19 an independent preference, or no indication of party preference on the  
20 declaration of candidacy, then the preference that will be shown after  
21 the name of the candidate on the primary and general election ballots  
22 will be "independent" and as set forth in rules by the secretary of  
23 state.

24 (4) Any party or independent preferences are shown for the  
25 information of voters only and may in no way limit the options  
26 available to voters.

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