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HOUSE BILL 2398

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State of Washington

61st Legislature

2010 Regular Session

By Representatives Hunt and Armstrong

Prefiled 12/07/09. Read first time 01/11/10. Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs.

1 AN ACT Relating to election notices; amending RCW 29A.08.140 and  
2 29A.32.260; adding a new section to chapter 29A.52 RCW; and repealing  
3 RCW 29A.52.311 and 29A.52.351.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.08.140 and 2009 c 369 s 15 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (1) In order to vote in any primary, special election, or general  
8 election, a person who is not registered to vote in Washington must:

9 (a) Submit a registration application no later than twenty-nine  
10 days before the day of the primary, special election, or general  
11 election; or

12 (b) Register in person at the county auditor's office in his or her  
13 county of residence no later than eight days before the day of the  
14 primary, special election, or general election. A person registering  
15 under this subsection will be issued an absentee ballot.

16 (2) A person who is already registered to vote in Washington may  
17 update his or her registration no later than twenty-nine days before  
18 the day of the primary, special election, or general election to be in  
19 effect for that primary, special election, or general election. A

1 registered voter who fails to transfer his or her residential address  
2 by this deadline may vote according to his or her previous registration  
3 address.

4 ~~((3) Prior to each primary and general election, the county  
5 auditor shall give notice of the registration deadlines by one  
6 publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the county at  
7 least thirty five days before the primary or general election.))~~

8 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.32.260 and 2003 c 111 s 818 are each amended to  
9 read as follows:

10 As soon as practicable before the primary, special election, or  
11 general election, the county auditor, or if applicable, the city clerk  
12 of a first-class or code city, as appropriate, shall mail the local  
13 voters' pamphlet to every residence in each jurisdiction that has  
14 included information in the pamphlet. The county auditor or city  
15 clerk, as appropriate, may choose to mail the pamphlet to each  
16 registered voter in each jurisdiction that has included information in  
17 the pamphlet, if in his or her judgment, a more economical and  
18 effective distribution of the pamphlet would result. ~~((If the county  
19 or city chooses to mail the pamphlet to each residence, no notice of  
20 election otherwise required by RCW 29A.52.350 need be published.))~~

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 29A.52 RCW  
22 to read as follows:

23 Notice for any state, county, district, or municipal primary or  
24 election, whether special or general, must be given not more than  
25 fifteen nor less than five days prior to the date of closing of the  
26 registration roles to online or mail-in registrations by the county  
27 auditor or the officer conducting the election as the case may be.  
28 Notice must be published in one or more newspapers of general  
29 circulation and must contain, at a minimum, the last date to register  
30 online or through the mail, the last date to transfer or update an  
31 existing registration, the last date to register in-person for first  
32 time voters, information on where a person can register, the type of  
33 election, the date of the election, whether the election will be  
34 conducted entirely by mail or with polling places, a list of all  
35 jurisdictions involved in the election including positions and short  
36 titles for ballot measures appearing on the ballot, and the times and

1 dates of any public meetings associated with the election. The notice  
2 shall also include where additional information regarding the election  
3 may be obtained. This is the only notice required for a state, county,  
4 district, or municipal primary or special or general election. If the  
5 county or city chooses to mail a local voters' pamphlet as described in  
6 RCW 29A.32.210 to each residence, the notice required in this section  
7 need only include the last date to register online or through the mail,  
8 the last date to transfer or update an existing registration, the last  
9 date to register in-person for first time voters, information on where  
10 a person can register, and the times and dates of any public meetings  
11 associated with the election.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The following acts or parts of acts are each  
13 repealed:

14 (1) RCW 29A.52.311 (Notice of primary) and 2004 c 271 s 145; and

15 (2) RCW 29A.52.351 (Notice of election) and 2004 c 271 s 175.

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