
SENATE BILL 5716

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senator McCaslin

Read first time 01/29/09. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to election requirements for the creation of
2 municipal wards; and amending RCW 35A.12.180.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 35A.12.180 and 1994 c 223 s 34 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 At any time not within three months previous to a municipal general
7 election the council of a noncharter code city organized under this
8 chapter may divide the city into wards or change the boundaries of
9 existing wards. The qualified electors or the council of a noncharter
10 code city may divide the city into wards or change the boundaries of
11 existing wards at any time not within three months previous to a
12 municipal general election. No change in the boundaries of wards shall
13 affect the term of any councilmember, and councilmembers shall serve
14 out their terms in the wards of their residences at the time of their
15 elections: PROVIDED, That if this results in one ward being
16 represented by more councilmembers than the number to which it is
17 entitled those having the shortest unexpired terms shall be assigned by
18 the council to wards where there is a vacancy, and the councilmembers
19 so assigned shall be deemed to be residents of the wards to which they

1 are assigned for purposes of those positions being vacant. The
2 representation of each ward in the city council shall be in proportion
3 to the population as nearly as is practicable.

4 Wards shall be redrawn as provided in chapter (~~(29.70)~~) 29A.76 RCW.
5 Wards shall be used as follows: (1) Only a resident of the ward may be
6 a candidate for, or hold office as, a councilmember of the ward; and
7 (2) only voters of the ward may vote at a primary to nominate
8 candidates for a councilmember of the ward. Voters of the entire city
9 may vote at the general election to elect a councilmember of a ward,
10 unless the city had prior to January 1, 1994, limited the voting in the
11 general election for any or all council positions to only voters
12 residing within the ward associated with the council positions. If a
13 city had so limited the voting in the general election to only voters
14 residing within the ward, then the city shall be authorized to continue
15 to do so.

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