
SENATE BILL 6322

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2010 Regular Session

By Senators McDermott, Parlette, and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 01/12/10. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

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.

--- END ---