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HOUSE BILL 2204

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State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2012 Regular Session

**By** Representatives Fitzgibbon, Billig, Hudgins, Hunt, Miloscia, Goodman, Hansen, Carlyle, Orwall, Kagi, Pedersen, Ormsby, Reykdal, Appleton, Jinkins, Stanford, Ladenburg, Pollet, Hasegawa, Maxwell, Darneille, Upthegrove, and Kenney

Prefiled 12/15/11. Read first time 01/09/12. Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs.

1 AN ACT Relating to extending the time period for voter  
2 registration; amending RCW 29A.08.140; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that the right to  
5 vote is a fundamental right of citizens. The legislature also  
6 recognizes that voter turnout is statistically better in states that  
7 allow election day registration. In the 2008 presidential election,  
8 the average voter turnout for states with election day registration was  
9 sixty-nine percent, compared to sixty-two percent for all other states.  
10 Nine states have enacted election day registration. Therefore, it is  
11 the intent of the legislature to increase voter turnout by enacting  
12 election day registration.

13 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.08.140 and 2011 c 10 s 15 are each amended to read  
14 as follows:

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

17 (a) Submit a registration application no later than twenty-nine

1 days before the day of the primary, special election, or general  
2 election; (~~or~~)

3 (b) Register in person at the county auditor's office, or other  
4 location designated by the county auditor, in his or her county of  
5 residence no later than (~~eight days before~~) 5:00 p.m. on the day of  
6 the primary, special election, or general election; or

7 (c) Submit an online application no later than eight days before  
8 the day of the primary, special election, or general election.

9 (2) A person who is already registered to vote in Washington may  
10 update his or her registration no later than twenty-nine days before  
11 the day of the primary, special election, or general election to be in  
12 effect for that primary, special election, or general election. A  
13 registered voter who fails to transfer his or her residential address  
14 by this deadline may vote according to his or her previous registration  
15 address.

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