
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5507

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Senate Governmental Operations (originally sponsored by Senators Billig, Benton, Rolfes, Rivers, Hatfield, Harper, Ranker, Hasegawa, Frockt, Schlicher, Smith, Fraser, Sheldon, Roach, Kohl-Welles, Keiser, Shin, Murray, McAuliffe, Kline, and Conway)

READ FIRST TIME 02/20/13.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing transparency of donors to candidates
2 and ballot measures; amending RCW 29A.32.031, 29A.32.070, and
3 29A.36.161; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that the voters of
6 the state of Washington have overwhelmingly affirmed the public's right
7 to know about the financing of political activity. Recognizing that
8 Initiative 276, which created the public disclosure commission and
9 serves as the foundation of Washington's disclosure and campaign
10 finance laws, was approved with over seventy-two percent of voters in
11 support, the legislature also finds that maintaining the tradition of
12 transparency in campaigns and political activities in the state of
13 Washington is a top priority for citizens throughout Washington state.

14 (2) Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to increase
15 transparency and ensure that voters be provided easy access to accurate
16 information about the sources of money supporting or opposing
17 candidates and ballot measures by printing the public disclosure
18 commission's web site on voters' pamphlets and ballots for each primary
19 and general election.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.32.031 and 2011 c 60 s 13 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 The voters' pamphlet published or distributed under RCW 29A.32.010
4 must contain:

5 (1) Information about each measure for an advisory vote of the
6 people and each ballot measure initiated by or referred to the voters
7 for their approval or rejection as required by RCW 29A.32.070;

8 (2) In even-numbered years, statements, if submitted, from
9 candidates for the office of president and vice president of the United
10 States, United States senator, United States representative, governor,
11 lieutenant governor, secretary of state, state treasurer, state
12 auditor, attorney general, commissioner of public lands, superintendent
13 of public instruction, insurance commissioner, state senator, state
14 representative, justice of the supreme court, judge of the court of
15 appeals, or judge of the superior court. Candidates may also submit
16 campaign contact information and a photograph not more than five years
17 old in a format that the secretary of state determines to be suitable
18 for reproduction in the voters' pamphlet;

19 (3) In odd-numbered years, if any office voted upon statewide
20 appears on the ballot due to a vacancy, then statements and photographs
21 for candidates for any vacant office listed in subsection (2) of this
22 section must appear;

23 (4) Contact information for the public disclosure commission
24 established under RCW 42.17A.100, including the following statement:
25 "For a list of the people and organizations that donated to state and
26 local candidates and ballot measure campaigns, visit www.pdc.wa.gov."
27 The secretary of state may substitute such language as is necessary for
28 accuracy and clarity and consistent with the intent of this section;

29 (5) Contact information for major political parties;

30 (6) A brief statement explaining the deletion and addition of
31 language for proposed measures under RCW 29A.32.080; and

32 (7) Any additional information pertaining to elections as may be
33 required by law or in the judgment of the secretary of state is deemed
34 informative to the voters.

35 **Sec. 3.** RCW 29A.32.070 and 2009 c 415 s 5 are each amended to read
36 as follows:

37 The secretary of state shall determine the format and layout of the

1 voters' pamphlet published under RCW 29A.32.010. The secretary of
2 state shall print the pamphlet in clear, readable type on a size,
3 quality, and weight of paper that in the judgment of the secretary of
4 state best serves the voters. The pamphlet must contain a table of
5 contents. Measures and arguments must be printed in the order
6 specified by RCW 29A.72.290.

7 The voters' pamphlet must provide the following information for
8 each statewide issue on the ballot except measures for an advisory vote
9 of the people whose requirements are provided in subsection ~~((+11+))~~
10 (12) of this section:

11 (1) The legal identification of the measure by serial designation
12 or number;

13 (2) The official ballot title of the measure;

14 (3) A statement prepared by the attorney general explaining the law
15 as it presently exists;

16 (4) A statement prepared by the attorney general explaining the
17 effect of the proposed measure if it becomes law;

18 (5) The fiscal impact statement prepared under RCW 29A.72.025;

19 (6) The total number of votes cast for and against the measure in
20 the senate and house of representatives, if the measure has been passed
21 by the legislature;

22 (7) An argument advocating the voters' approval of the measure
23 together with any statement in rebuttal of the opposing argument;

24 (8) An argument advocating the voters' rejection of the measure
25 together with any statement in rebuttal of the opposing argument;

26 (9) Each argument or rebuttal statement must be followed by the
27 names of the committee members who submitted them, and may be followed
28 by a telephone number that citizens may call to obtain information on
29 the ballot measure;

30 (10) The following statement: "For a list of the people and
31 organizations that donated to state and local candidates and ballot
32 measure campaigns, visit www.pdc.wa.gov." The secretary of state may
33 substitute such language as is necessary for accuracy and clarity and
34 consistent with the intent of this section;

35 (11) The full text of the measure;

36 ~~((+11+))~~ (12) Two pages shall be provided in the general election
37 voters' pamphlet for each measure for an advisory vote of the people
38 under RCW 43.135.041 and shall consist of the serial number assigned by

1 the secretary of state under RCW 29A.72.040, the short description
2 formulated by the attorney general under RCW 29A.72.283, the tax
3 increase's most up-to-date ten-year cost projection, including a
4 year-by-year breakdown, by the office of financial management under RCW
5 43.135.031, and the names of the legislators, and their contact
6 information, and how they voted on the increase upon final passage so
7 they can provide information to, and answer questions from, the public.
8 For the purposes of this subsection, "names of legislators, and their
9 contact information" includes each legislator's position (senator or
10 representative), first name, last name, party affiliation (for example,
11 Democrat or Republican), city or town they live in, office phone
12 number, and office e-mail address.

13 **Sec. 4.** RCW 29A.36.161 and 2011 c 10 s 33 are each amended to read
14 as follows:

15 (1) On the top of each ballot must be printed:

16 (a) Clear and concise instructions directing the voter how to mark
17 the ballot, including write-in votes; and

18 (b) The following statement: "For a list of the people and
19 organizations that donated to state and local candidates and ballot
20 measure campaigns, visit www.pdc.wa.gov." The secretary of state may
21 substitute such language as is necessary for accuracy and clarity and
22 consistent with the intent of this section. If placement of the
23 statement required by this subsection (1)(b) would lengthen the ballot
24 to the point additional postage will be incurred, the statement
25 required by this subsection (1)(b) may be printed in a prominent
26 position on the ballot envelope or in the ballot materials.

27 ~~((On the top of each primary ballot must be printed the~~
28 ~~instructions required by this chapter.))~~

29 (2) The ballot must have a clear delineation between the ballot
30 instructions and the first ballot measure or office through the use of
31 white space, illustration, shading, color, symbol, font size, or bold
32 type. The secretary of state shall establish standards for ballot
33 design and layout consistent with this section and RCW 29A.04.611.

34 (3) The questions of adopting constitutional amendments or any
35 other state measure authorized by law to be submitted to the voters at
36 that election must appear after the instructions and before any
37 offices.

1 (4) In a year that president and vice president appear on the
2 general election ballot, the names of candidates for president and vice
3 president for each political party must be grouped together with a
4 single response position for a voter to indicate his or her choice.

5 (~~(5) On a general election ballot, the candidate or candidates~~
6 ~~of~~) The major political party that received the highest number of
7 votes from the electors of this state for the office of president of
8 the United States at the last presidential election must appear first
9 (~~(following the appropriate office heading)~~). (~~The candidate or~~
10 ~~candidates of the~~) Other major political parties (~~(will)~~) must follow
11 according to the votes cast for their nominees for president at the
12 last presidential election(~~(, and)~~). Independent candidates and (~~the~~
13 ~~candidate or candidates of all other~~) minor parties (~~(will)~~) must
14 follow major parties and be listed in the order of their qualification
15 with the secretary of state.

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