

---

SENATE BILL 5676

---

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Senators Braun, Benton, Holmquist Newbry, Padden, Becker,  
Honeyford, Rivers, and Roach

Read first time 02/07/13. Referred to Committee on Governmental Operations.

1 AN ACT Relating to protecting personal voter signatures; and adding  
2 a new section to chapter 29A.72 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 29A.72 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 In order to avoid public access to the personal voter signatures of  
7 those who sign petitions, when petitions are submitted to the secretary  
8 of state for verification, the secretary of state shall produce two  
9 scanned copies: One that contains all the information on the petitions  
10 and that can only be viewed by the secretary of state's team during the  
11 verification process and one for public access that includes only the  
12 front of the petitions containing the signers' names and addresses with  
13 the voters' personal signatures blacked out. Unless ordered by a  
14 court, the secretary of state shall not permit copies to be made of or  
15 allow public access to the verification version of the petitions.  
16 Nothing in this section prohibits a court from reviewing any petition  
17 or petitions in a legal challenge; any petition or petitions reviewed  
18 by the court must remain under seal and be subject to a protective  
19 order. The legislature finds that the secretary of state's policy of

1 not allowing the personal voter signatures on the voter rolls and  
2 individual ballots to be made public should be extended to the personal  
3 voter signatures on petitions. The legislature cannot find a good  
4 public policy rationale for allowing hundreds of thousands of personal  
5 voter signatures to be publicly available.

--- END ---