
HOUSE BILL 1144

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Representatives S. Hunt, Fitzgibbon, Ryu, Bergquist, Tarleton, Appleton, Pollet, Riccelli, Dunshee, Orwall, Moscoso, Robinson, Gregerson, Morris, Ormsby, Reykdal, Stanford, Peterson, Tharinger, Jinkins, Walkinshaw, Sells, Fey, Farrell, and Goodman

Read first time 01/14/15. Referred to Committee on State Government.

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
5 to 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
9 was sixty-nine percent, compared to sixty-two percent for all other
10 states. In 2012 election day registration states had a turnout
11 average of sixty-six percent compared to the national average of
12 fifty-eight percent. Nine states have enacted election day
13 registration. Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to
14 increase voter turnout by enacting election day registration.

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

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

1 (a) Submit a registration application no later than twenty-nine
2 days before the day of the primary, special election, or general
3 election; (~~or~~)

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

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

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

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