
HOUSE BILL 1379

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Shea, G. Hunt, Holy, Scott, Condotta, and Buys

Read first time 01/19/15. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to eliminating the February and April special
2 elections; and amending RCW 29A.04.321 and 29A.04.330.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.04.321 and 2013 c 11 s 8 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) All state, county, city, town, and district general elections
7 for the election of federal, state, legislative, judicial, county,
8 city, town, and district officers, and for the submission to the
9 voters of the state, county, city, town, or district of any measure
10 for their adoption and approval or rejection, shall be held on the
11 first Tuesday after the first Monday of November, in the year in
12 which they may be called. A statewide general election shall be held
13 on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November of each year.
14 However, the statewide general election held in odd-numbered years
15 shall be limited to (a) city, town, and district general elections as
16 provided for in RCW 29A.04.330, or as otherwise provided by law; (b)
17 the election of federal officers for the remainder of any unexpired
18 terms in the membership of either branch of the Congress of the
19 United States; (c) the election of state and county officers for the
20 remainder of any unexpired terms of offices created by or whose
21 duties are described in Article II, section 15, Article III, sections

1 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23, and Article IV, sections 3 and 5 of
2 the state Constitution and RCW 2.06.080; (d) the election of county
3 officers in any county governed by a charter containing provisions
4 calling for general county elections at this time; and (e) the
5 approval or rejection of state measures, including proposed
6 constitutional amendments, matters pertaining to any proposed
7 constitutional convention, initiative measures and referendum
8 measures proposed by the electorate, referendum bills, and any other
9 matter provided by the legislature for submission to the electorate.

10 (2) A county legislative authority may call a special county
11 election by presenting a resolution to the county auditor prior to
12 the proposed election date. A special election called by the county
13 legislative authority shall be held on one of the following dates as
14 decided by such governing body:

15 (a) ~~((The second Tuesday in February;~~

16 ~~(b) The fourth Tuesday in April;~~

17 ~~(c))~~ The day of the primary as specified by RCW 29A.04.311; or

18 ~~((d))~~ (b) The first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

19 (3) ~~((A resolution calling for a special election on a date set
20 forth in subsection (2)(a) and (b) of this section must be presented
21 to the county auditor at least forty six days prior to the election
22 date.))~~ A resolution calling for a special election on a date set
23 forth in subsection (2)~~((c))~~ (a) of this section must be presented
24 to the county auditor no later than the Friday immediately before the
25 first day of regular candidate filing. A resolution calling for a
26 special election on a date set forth in subsection (2)~~((d))~~ (b) of
27 this section must be presented to the county auditor no later than
28 the day of the primary.

29 (4) In addition to the dates set forth in subsection (2)~~((a)
30 through (d))~~ of this section, a special election to validate an
31 excess levy or bond issue may be called at any time to meet the needs
32 resulting from fire, flood, earthquake, or other act of God. Such
33 county special election shall be noticed and conducted in the manner
34 provided by law.

35 (5) This section shall supersede the provisions of any and all
36 other statutes, whether general or special in nature, having
37 different dates for such city, town, and district elections, the
38 purpose of this section being to establish mandatory dates for
39 holding elections. This section shall not be construed as fixing the

1 time for holding primary elections, or elections for the recall of
2 any elective public officer.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.04.330 and 2013 c 11 s 9 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 (1) All city, town, and district general elections shall be held
6 throughout the state of Washington on the first Tuesday following the
7 first Monday in November in the odd-numbered years.

8 This section shall not apply to:

9 (a) Elections for the recall of any elective public officer;

10 (b) Public utility districts, conservation districts, or district
11 elections at which the ownership of property within those districts
12 is a prerequisite to voting, all of which elections shall be held at
13 the times prescribed in the laws (~~specifically applicable thereto~~);

14 (c) Consolidation proposals as provided for in RCW 28A.315.235
15 and nonhigh capital fund aid proposals as provided for in chapter
16 28A.540 RCW; and

17 (d) Special flood control districts consisting of three or more
18 counties.

19 (2) The county auditor, as ex officio supervisor of elections,
20 upon request in the form of a resolution of the governing body of a
21 city, town, or district, presented to the auditor prior to the
22 proposed election date, shall call a special election in such city,
23 town, or district, and for the purpose of such special election he or
24 she may combine, unite, or divide precincts. Such a special election
25 shall be held on one of the following dates as decided by the
26 governing body:

27 ~~(a) ((The second Tuesday in February;~~

28 ~~(b) The fourth Tuesday in April;~~

29 ~~(e))~~ The day of the primary election as specified by RCW
30 29A.04.311; or

31 ~~((d))~~ (b) The first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

32 (3) ~~((A resolution calling for a special election on a date set
33 forth in subsection (2)(a) and (b) of this section must be presented
34 to the county auditor at least forty six days prior to the election
35 date.))~~ A resolution calling for a special election on a date set
36 forth in subsection (2)~~((e))~~ (a) of this section must be presented
37 to the county auditor no later than the Friday immediately before the
38 first day of regular candidate filing. A resolution calling for a
39 special election on a date set forth in subsection (2)~~((d))~~ (b) of

1 this section must be presented to the county auditor no later than
2 the day of the primary.

3 (4) In addition to subsection (2)((~~(a) through (d)~~)) of this
4 section, a special election to validate an excess levy or bond issue
5 may be called at any time to meet the needs resulting from fire,
6 flood, earthquake, or other act of God(~~(, except that no special~~
7 ~~election may be held between the first day for candidates to file for~~
8 ~~public office and the last day to certify the returns of the general~~
9 ~~election other than as provided in subsection (2)(c) and (d) of this~~
10 ~~section)~~). Such special election shall be conducted and notice
11 thereof given in the manner provided by law.

12 (5) This section shall supersede the provisions of any and all
13 other statutes, whether general or special in nature, having
14 different dates for such city, town, and district elections, the
15 purpose of this section being to establish mandatory dates for
16 holding elections.

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