
HOUSE BILL 2477

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2016 Regular Session

By Representatives Fitzgibbon, Cody, and Bergquist

Read first time 01/13/16. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to candidate filing fee petitions; and amending
2 RCW 29A.24.091 and 29A.24.111.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.24.091 and 2009 c 106 s 2 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) Subject to subsection (2) of this section, a filing fee of
7 ten dollars ~~((shall))~~ must accompany the declaration of candidacy for
8 any office with a fixed annual salary of one thousand dollars or
9 less; a filing fee equal to one percent of the annual salary of the
10 office at the time of filing ~~((shall))~~ must accompany the declaration
11 of candidacy for any office with a fixed annual salary of more than
12 one thousand dollars per annum. No filing fee need accompany a
13 declaration of candidacy for precinct committee officer or any office
14 for which compensation is on a per diem or per meeting attended
15 basis.

16 ~~((A candidate who lacks sufficient assets or income at the time~~
17 ~~of filing to pay the filing fee required by this section shall submit~~
18 ~~with his or her declaration of candidacy a filing fee petition. The~~
19 ~~petition shall contain not less than a number of signatures of~~
20 ~~registered voters equal to the number of dollars of the filing fee.~~

1 ~~The signatures shall be of voters registered to vote within the~~
2 ~~jurisdiction of the office for which the candidate is filing.)~~

3 When the candidacy is for:

4 ~~((1))~~ (a) A statewide office, the United States senate, or the
5 United States house of representatives, the fee ~~((shall))~~ must be
6 paid to the secretary of state;

7 ~~((2))~~ (b) A legislative or judicial office that includes
8 territory from more than one county, the fee ~~((shall))~~ must be paid
9 to the secretary of state for equal division between the treasuries
10 of the counties comprising the district;

11 ~~((3))~~ (c) A legislative or judicial office that includes
12 territory from only one county, the fee ~~((shall))~~ must be paid to the
13 county auditor;

14 ~~((4))~~ (d) A city or town office, the fee ~~((shall))~~ must be paid
15 to the county auditor who shall transmit it to the city or town clerk
16 for deposit in the city or town treasury.

17 (2) Any candidate may submit with his or her declaration of
18 candidacy a filing fee petition in lieu of paying the filing fee
19 required by subsection (1) of this section. The candidate must file
20 the petition in the form prescribed in RCW 29A.24.101 at the same
21 location required for candidates to pay the filing fee. The petition
22 must contain not less than a number of signatures of registered
23 voters within the jurisdiction of the office for which the candidate
24 is filing that is equal to the number of dollars of the filing fee.

25 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.24.111 and 2006 c 206 s 5 are each amended to
26 read as follows:

27 (1) Filing fee petitions may be rejected for the following
28 reasons:

29 ~~((1))~~ (a) The petition is not in the proper form;

30 ~~((2))~~ (b) The petition clearly bears insufficient signatures;

31 ~~((3))~~ (c) The petition is not accompanied by a declaration of
32 candidacy;

33 ~~((4))~~ (d) The time within which the petition and the
34 declaration of candidacy could have been filed has expired.

35 (2) If the petition is accepted, the officer with whom it is
36 filed shall canvass the signatures contained on it and shall reject
37 the signatures of those persons who are not registered voters and the
38 signatures of those persons who are not registered to vote within the
39 jurisdiction of the office for which the filing fee petition is

1 filed. He or she shall additionally reject any signature that appears
2 on the filing fee petitions of two or more candidates for the same
3 office and shall also reject, each time it appears, the name of any
4 person who signs the same petition more than once.

5 (3)(a) If the officer with whom the petition is filed refuses to
6 certify the petition as bearing sufficient valid signatures, and the
7 number of valid signatures is not less than ninety-five percent of
8 the number of required signatures, the officer must provide written
9 notice to the candidate and include the number of rejected signatures
10 less than the sufficient number of valid signatures. Within fourteen
11 days after such notice has been sent, the candidate may either:

12 (i) Submit a supplemental petition, in the form prescribed in RCW
13 29A.24.101, containing not less than the number of signatures of
14 registered voters equal to the number of rejected signatures
15 identified in the notice; or

16 (ii) Pay a filing fee in dollars equal to the number of rejected
17 signatures identified in the notice.

18 (b) The supplemental petition must be accepted or rejected and
19 canvassed in the same manner as provided in subsections (1) and (2)
20 of this section.

21 (4) If the officer with whom the petition is filed refuses to
22 accept the petition or refuses to certify the petition as bearing
23 sufficient valid signatures, the person filing the petition may
24 appeal that action to the superior court. The application for
25 judicial review shall take precedence over other cases and matters
26 and shall be speedily heard and determined.

--- END ---