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HOUSE BILL 2082

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representative Hudgins

Read first time 02/13/17. Referred to Committee on State Govt,  
Elections & IT.

1 AN ACT Relating to the timing of state elections; and amending  
2 RCW 29A.04.311, 29A.24.050, and 29A.56.020.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.04.311 and 2011 c 349 s 2 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 Primaries for general elections to be held in November, and the  
7 election of precinct committee officers, must be held on the  
8 ((~~first~~)) third Tuesday of the preceding ((~~August~~)) May.

9 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.24.050 and 2011 c 349 s 7 are each amended to  
10 read as follows:

11 Except where otherwise provided by this title, declarations of  
12 candidacy for the following offices shall be filed during regular  
13 business hours with the filing officer beginning the first Monday  
14 ((~~two weeks before Memorial day~~)) in March and ending the following  
15 Friday in the year in which the office is scheduled to be voted upon:

16 (1) Offices that are scheduled to be voted upon for full terms or  
17 both full terms and short terms at, or in conjunction with, a state  
18 general election; and

19 (2) Offices where a vacancy, other than a short term, exists that  
20 has not been filled by election and for which an election to fill the

1 vacancy is required in conjunction with the next state general  
2 election.

3 This section supersedes all other statutes that provide for a  
4 different filing period for these offices.

5 **Sec. 3.** RCW 29A.56.020 and 2003 c 111 s 1402 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (1) On the (~~fourth~~) third Tuesday in May of each year in which  
8 a president of the United States is to be nominated and elected, a  
9 presidential primary shall be held at which voters may vote for the  
10 nominee of a major political party for the office of president. The  
11 secretary of state may propose an alternative date for the primary no  
12 later than the first day of August of the year before the year in  
13 which a president is to be nominated and elected.

14 (2) No later than the first day of September of the year before  
15 the year in which a presidential nominee is selected, the state  
16 committee of any major political party that will use the primary  
17 results for candidates of that party may propose an alternative date  
18 for that primary.

19 (3) If an alternative date is proposed under subsection (1) or  
20 (2) of this section, a committee consisting of the chair and the vice  
21 chair of the state committee of each major political party, the  
22 secretary of state, the majority leader and minority leader of the  
23 senate, and the speaker and the minority leader of the house of  
24 representatives shall meet and, if affirmed by a two-thirds vote of  
25 the members of the committee, the date of the primary shall be  
26 changed. The committee shall meet and decide on the proposed  
27 alternate date not later than the first day of October of the year  
28 before the year in which a presidential nominee is selected. The  
29 secretary of state shall convene and preside over the meeting of the  
30 committee. A committee member other than a legislator may appoint, in  
31 writing, a designee to serve on his or her behalf. A legislator who  
32 is a member of the committee may appoint, in writing, another  
33 legislator to serve on his or her behalf.

34 (4) If an alternate date is approved under this section, the  
35 secretary of state shall adopt rules under RCW 29A.04.620 to adjust  
36 the deadlines in RCW 29A.56.030 and related provisions of this  
37 chapter to correspond with the date that has been approved.

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