
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2297

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By House State Government, Elections & Information Technology (originally sponsored by Representatives Dolan, Hudgins, Lytton, Cody, Goodman, Pettigrew, Tarleton, Bergquist, Fitzgibbon, Slatter, Wylie, Robinson, Tharinger, Kagi, Morris, Orwall, Valdez, Kilduff, Frame, Stanford, Clibborn, Macri, Jinkins, Ormsby, Ryu, Pollet, Doglio, Ortiz-Self, Stonier, Appleton, and Gregerson)

READ FIRST TIME 01/15/18.

1 AN ACT Relating to extending the period for voter registration;
2 amending RCW 29A.08.140, 29A.08.110, 29A.08.410, 29A.40.160, and
3 29A.32.031; providing an effective date; and providing an expiration
4 date.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.08.140 and 2011 c 10 s 15 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

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

10 (a) Submit a registration application that is received no later
11 than (~~twenty-nine~~) eight days before the day of the primary,
12 special election, or general election; or

13 (b) Register in person at the county auditor's office, the
14 division of elections if in a separate city from the county auditor's
15 office, a voting center, or other location designated by the county
16 auditor in his or her county of residence no later than (~~eight days~~
17 ~~before~~) 8:00 p.m. on the day of the primary, special election, or
18 general election.

19 (2) A person who is already registered to vote in Washington may
20 update his or her registration no later than (~~twenty-nine days~~
21 ~~before~~) 8:00 p.m. on the day of the primary, special election, or

1 general election to be in effect for that primary, special election,
2 or general election. A registered voter who fails to transfer his or
3 her residential address by this deadline may vote according to his or
4 her previous registration address.

5 (3) To register in person at the county auditor's office, a
6 voting center, or other location designated by the county auditor, a
7 person must appear in person at the county auditor's office, a voting
8 center, or other location designated by the county auditor in the
9 county in which the person resides at a time when the facility is
10 open and complete the voter registration application by providing the
11 information required by RCW 29A.08.010.

12 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.08.110 and 2009 c 369 s 10 are each amended to
13 read as follows:

14 (1) An application is considered complete only if it contains the
15 information required by RCW 29A.08.010. The applicant is considered
16 to be registered to vote as of the original date of mailing or date
17 of delivery, whichever is applicable. As soon as practicable, the
18 auditor shall record the appropriate precinct identification, taxing
19 district identification, and date of registration on the voter's
20 record in the state voter registration list. The secretary of state
21 shall, pursuant to RCW 29A.04.611, establish procedures to enable new
22 or updated voter registrations to be recorded on an expedited basis.
23 Any mailing address provided shall be used only for mail delivery
24 purposes, and not for precinct assignment or residency purposes.
25 Within sixty days after the receipt of an application or transfer,
26 the auditor shall send to the applicant, by first-class
27 nonforwardable mail, an acknowledgment notice identifying the
28 registrant's precinct and containing such other information as may be
29 required by the secretary of state. The postal service shall be
30 instructed not to forward a voter registration card to any other
31 address and to return to the auditor any card which is not
32 deliverable.

33 (2) If an application is not complete, the auditor shall promptly
34 mail a verification notice to the applicant. The verification notice
35 shall require the applicant to provide the missing information. If
36 the applicant provides the required information within forty-five
37 days, the applicant shall be registered to vote as of the original
38 date of application. The applicant shall not be placed on the
39 official list of registered voters until the application is complete.

1 **Sec. 3.** RCW 29A.08.410 and 2009 c 369 s 22 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 A registered voter who changes his or her residence from one
4 address to another within the same county may transfer his or her
5 registration to the new address in one of the following ways:

6 (1) Sending the county auditor a request stating both the voter's
7 present address and the address from which the voter was last
8 registered;

9 (2) Appearing in person before the county auditor, or at a voting
10 center or other location designated by the county auditor, and making
11 such a request;

12 (3) Telephoning or emailing the county auditor to transfer the
13 registration; or

14 (4) Submitting a voter registration application.

15 **Sec. 4.** RCW 29A.40.160 and 2017 c 327 s 1 are each amended to
16 read as follows:

17 (1) Each county auditor shall open a voting center each primary,
18 special election, and general election. The voting center shall be
19 open during business hours during the voting period, which begins
20 eighteen days before, and ends at 8:00 p.m. on the day of, the
21 primary, special election, or general election.

22 (2) ~~((The))~~ Each county auditor shall register voters in person
23 at each of the following locations in the county:

24 (a) At the county auditor's office;

25 (b) At the division of elections, if located in a separate city
26 from the county auditor's office; and

27 (c) For each presidential general election, at a voting center in
28 each city in the county with a population of one hundred thousand or
29 greater, which does not have a voting center as required in (a) or
30 (b) of this subsection. A voting center opened pursuant to this
31 subsection (2) is not required to be open on the Sunday before the
32 presidential election.

33 (3) Voting centers shall be located in public buildings or
34 buildings that are leased by a public entity including, but not
35 limited to, libraries.

36 (4) Each voting center, and at least one of the other locations
37 designated by the county auditor to allow voters to register in
38 person pursuant to RCW 29A.08.140(1)(b), must provide voter
39 registration materials, ballots, provisional ballots, disability

1 access voting units, sample ballots, instructions on how to properly
2 vote the ballot, a ballot drop box, and voters' pamphlets, if a
3 voters' pamphlet has been published.

4 ~~((3) The))~~ (5) Each voting center must be accessible to persons
5 with disabilities. Each state agency and entity of local government
6 shall permit the use of any of its accessible facilities as voting
7 centers when requested by a county auditor.

8 ~~((4) The))~~ (6) Each voting center must provide at least one
9 voting unit certified by the secretary of state that provides access
10 to individuals who are blind or visually impaired, enabling them to
11 vote with privacy and independence.

12 ~~((5))~~ (7) No person may interfere with a voter attempting to
13 vote in a voting center. Interfering with a voter attempting to vote
14 is a violation of RCW 29A.84.510.

15 ~~((6))~~ (8) Before opening the voting center, the voting
16 equipment shall be inspected to determine if it has been properly
17 prepared for voting. If the voting equipment is capable of direct
18 tabulation of each voter's choices, the county auditor shall verify
19 that no votes have been registered for any issue or office, and that
20 the device has been sealed with a unique numbered seal at the time of
21 final preparation and logic and accuracy testing. A log must be made
22 of all device numbers and seal numbers.

23 ~~((7))~~ (9) The county auditor shall require any person desiring
24 to vote at a voting center to either sign a ballot declaration or
25 provide identification.

26 (a) The signature on the declaration must be compared to the
27 signature on the voter registration record before the ballot may be
28 counted. If the voter registered using a mark, or can no longer sign
29 his or her name, the election officers shall require the voter to be
30 identified by another registered voter.

31 (b) The identification must be valid photo identification, such
32 as a driver's license, state identification card, student
33 identification card, tribal identification card, or employer
34 identification card. Any individual who desires to vote in person but
35 cannot provide identification shall be issued a provisional ballot,
36 which shall be accepted if the signature on the declaration matches
37 the signature on the voter's registration record.

38 ~~((8))~~ (10) Provisional ballots must be accompanied by a
39 declaration and security envelope, as required by RCW 29A.40.091, and
40 space for the voter's name, date of birth, current and former

1 registered address, reason for the provisional ballot, and
2 disposition of the provisional ballot. The voter shall vote and
3 return the provisional ballot at the voting center. The voter must be
4 provided information on how to ascertain whether the provisional
5 ballot was counted and, if applicable, the reason why the vote was
6 not counted.

7 ~~((+9))~~ (11) Any voter may take printed or written material into
8 the voting device to assist in casting his or her vote. The voter
9 shall not use this material to electioneer and shall remove it when
10 he or she leaves the voting center.

11 ~~((+10))~~ (12) If any voter states that he or she is unable to
12 cast his or her votes due to a disability, the voter may designate a
13 person of his or her choice, or two election officers, to enter the
14 voting booth and record the votes as he or she directs.

15 ~~((+11))~~ (13) No voter is entitled to vote more than once at a
16 primary, special election, or general election. If a voter
17 incorrectly marks a ballot, he or she may be issued a replacement
18 ballot.

19 ~~((+12))~~ (14) A voter who has already returned a ballot but
20 requests to vote at a voting center shall be issued a provisional
21 ballot. The canvassing board shall not count the provisional ballot
22 if it finds that the voter has also voted a regular ballot in that
23 primary, special election, or general election.

24 ~~((+13))~~ (15) The county auditor must prevent overflow of each
25 ballot drop box to allow a voter to deposit his or her ballot
26 securely. Ballots must be removed from a ballot drop box by at least
27 two people, with a record kept of the date and time ballots were
28 removed, and the names of people removing them. Ballots from drop
29 boxes must be returned to the counting center in secured transport
30 containers. A copy of the record must be placed in the container, and
31 one copy must be transported with the ballots to the counting center,
32 where the seal number must be verified by the county auditor or a
33 designated representative. All ballot drop boxes must be secured at
34 8:00 p.m. on the day of the primary, special election, or general
35 election.

36 ~~((+14))~~ (16) Any voter who is inside or in line at the voting
37 center at 8:00 p.m. on the day of the primary, special election, or
38 general election must be allowed to vote.

39 ~~((+15))~~ (17) For each primary, special election, and general
40 election, the county auditor may provide election services at

1 locations in addition to the voting center. The county auditor has
2 discretion to establish which services will be provided at the
3 additional locations, and which days and hours the locations will be
4 open, except that the county auditor must establish a minimum of one
5 ballot drop box per fifteen thousand registered voters in the county
6 and a minimum of one ballot drop box in each city, town, and census-
7 designated place in the county with a post office.

8 **Sec. 5.** RCW 29A.32.031 and 2013 c 283 s 2 are each amended to
9 read as follows:

10 The voters' pamphlet published or distributed under RCW
11 29A.32.010 must contain:

12 (1) Information about each measure for an advisory vote of the
13 people and each ballot measure initiated by or referred to the voters
14 for their approval or rejection as required by RCW 29A.32.070;

15 (2) In even-numbered years, statements, if submitted, from
16 candidates for the office of president and vice president of the
17 United States, United States senator, United States representative,
18 governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, state treasurer,
19 state auditor, attorney general, commissioner of public lands,
20 superintendent of public instruction, insurance commissioner, state
21 senator, state representative, justice of the supreme court, judge of
22 the court of appeals, or judge of the superior court. Candidates may
23 also submit campaign contact information and a photograph not more
24 than five years old in a format that the secretary of state
25 determines to be suitable for reproduction in the voters' pamphlet;

26 (3) In odd-numbered years, if any office voted upon statewide
27 appears on the ballot due to a vacancy, then statements and
28 photographs for candidates for any vacant office listed in subsection
29 (2) of this section must appear;

30 (4) Contact information for the public disclosure commission
31 established under RCW 42.17A.100, including the following statement:
32 "For a list of the people and organizations that donated to state and
33 local candidates and ballot measure campaigns, visit www.pdc.wa.gov."
34 The statement must be placed in a prominent position, such as on the
35 cover or on the first two pages of the voters' pamphlet. The
36 secretary of state may substitute such language as is necessary for
37 accuracy and clarity and consistent with the intent of this section;

38 (5) Contact information for major political parties;

1 (6) A brief statement explaining the deletion and addition of
2 language for proposed measures under RCW 29A.32.080; (~~and~~)

3 (7) For the 2018 general election, information regarding the
4 changes in the deadlines to register to vote made by chapter . . . ,
5 Laws of 2018 (this act); and

6 (8) Any additional information pertaining to elections as may be
7 required by law or in the judgment of the secretary of state is
8 deemed informative to the voters.

9 NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. Section 5 of this act expires January 1,
10 2019.

11 NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. Sections 1 through 4 of this act take
12 effect June 30, 2019.

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