

ESHB 2421 - S COMM AMD  
By Committee on Ways & Means

ADOPTED 03/04/2020

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "Sec. 1. RCW 29A.04.410 and 2013 c 11 s 10 are each amended to  
4 read as follows:

5 Every county, city, town, and district, and the state is liable  
6 for its proportionate share of the costs when such elections are held  
7 in conjunction with other elections held under RCW 29A.04.321 and  
8 29A.04.330.

9 Whenever any county, city, town, or district, or the state holds  
10 any primary or election, general or special, on an isolated date, all  
11 costs of such elections must be borne by the county, city, town, or  
12 district concerned, or the state as appropriate.

13 The purpose of this section is to clearly establish that the  
14 county is not responsible for any costs involved in the holding of  
15 any city, town, (~~or~~) district, state, or federal election.

16 In recovering such election expenses, including a reasonable  
17 (~~pro-ration~~) proration of administrative costs, the county auditor  
18 shall certify the cost to the county treasurer with a copy to the  
19 clerk or auditor of the city, town, or district concerned, or the  
20 secretary of state as appropriate. Upon receipt of such certification  
21 relating to a city, town, or district, the county treasurer shall  
22 make the transfer from any available and appropriate city, town, or  
23 district funds to the county current expense fund or to the county  
24 election reserve fund if such a fund is established. Each city, town,  
25 or district must be promptly notified by the county treasurer  
26 whenever such transfer has been completed. However, in those  
27 districts wherein a treasurer, other than the county treasurer, has  
28 been appointed such transfer procedure does not apply, but the  
29 district shall promptly issue its warrant for payment of election  
30 costs. State and federal offices are to be considered one entity for  
31 purposes of election cost proration and reimbursement.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.04.420 and 2019 c 161 s 2 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       (1) Whenever federal officers, state officers, or measures are  
4 voted upon at a state primary or general election held (~~(in an odd-~~  
5 ~~numbered year)~~) under RCW 29A.04.321, the state of Washington shall  
6 assume a prorated share of the costs of that state primary or general  
7 election(~~(-~~

8       ~~(2) The state shall reimburse counties for~~) for the federal and  
9 state offices and measures, including the prorated cost of return  
10 postage, required to be included on return envelopes pursuant to RCW  
11 29A.40.091(~~(, for all elections)~~).

12       (~~(3)~~) (2) Whenever a primary or vacancy election is held to  
13 fill a vacancy in the position of United States senator or United  
14 States representative under chapter 29A.28 RCW, the state of  
15 Washington shall assume a prorated share of the costs of that primary  
16 or vacancy election.

17       (~~(4)~~) (3) The county auditor shall apportion the state's share  
18 of these expenses when prorating election costs under RCW 29A.04.410  
19 and in accordance with the state budgeting, accounting, and reporting  
20 system, shall file such expense claims with the secretary of state.

21       (~~(5)~~) (4) The secretary of state shall include in his or her  
22 biennial budget requests sufficient funds to carry out this section.  
23 Reimbursements for election costs shall be from appropriations  
24 specifically provided by law for that purpose.

25       (5) State and federal offices are to be considered one entity for  
26 purposes of election cost proration and reimbursement.

27       **Sec. 3.** RCW 29A.04.216 and 2013 c 11 s 7 are each amended to  
28 read as follows:

29       The county auditor of each county shall be ex officio the  
30 supervisor of all primaries and elections, general or special, and it  
31 shall be the county auditor's duty to provide places for holding such  
32 primaries and elections; to provide the supplies and materials  
33 necessary for the conduct of elections; and to publish and post  
34 notices of calling such primaries and elections in the manner  
35 provided by law. The auditor shall also apportion to the county, each  
36 city, town, or district, and to the state of Washington (~~(in the odd-~~  
37 ~~numbered year)~~), its share of the expense of such primaries and  
38 elections. This section does not apply to general or special  
39 elections for any city, town, or district that is not subject to RCW

1 29A.04.321 and 29A.04.330, but all such elections must be held and  
2 conducted at the time, in the manner, and by the officials (with such  
3 notice, requirements for filing for office, and certifications by  
4 local officers) as provided and required by the laws governing such  
5 elections. State and federal offices are to be considered one entity  
6 for purposes of election cost proration and reimbursement.

7 **Sec. 4.** RCW 29A.04.430 and 2003 c 111 s 148 are each amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 (1) For any reimbursement of election costs under RCW 29A.04.420,  
10 the secretary of state shall pay ((interest at an annual rate equal  
11 to two percentage points in excess of the discount rate on ninety-day  
12 commercial paper in effect at the federal reserve bank in San  
13 Francisco on the fifteenth day of the month immediately preceding the  
14 payment for any period of time in excess of)) within thirty days  
15 after the receipt of a properly executed and documented voucher for  
16 such expenses and the entry of an allotment from specifically  
17 appropriated funds for this purpose until those funds are exhausted.  
18 If funds appropriated for this purpose are not sufficient to pay all  
19 claims, the secretary of state shall include a budget request to the  
20 legislature during the next legislative session for sufficient funds  
21 for reimbursement of all remaining claims and shall pay all properly  
22 executed and documented vouchers to the counties within thirty days  
23 of allotment of specifically appropriated funds for this purpose. The  
24 secretary of state shall promptly notify any county that submits an  
25 incomplete or inaccurate voucher for reimbursement under RCW  
26 29A.04.420.

27 (2) Funding provided in this section to counties for election  
28 costs in even-numbered years is retrospective and prospective  
29 reimbursement under RCW 43.135.060 for any new or increased  
30 responsibilities under this title.

31 **Sec. 5.** RCW 29A.64.081 and 2004 c 271 s 181 are each amended to  
32 read as follows:

33 The canvassing board shall determine the expenses for conducting  
34 a recount of votes.

35 ~~((The))~~ (1) For a recount conducted under RCW 29A.64.011, the  
36 cost of the recount shall be deducted from the amount deposited by  
37 the applicant for the recount at the time of filing the request for  
38 the recount, and the balance shall be returned to the applicant. If

1 the costs of the recount exceed the deposit, the applicant shall pay  
2 the difference. No charges may be deducted by the canvassing board  
3 from the deposit for a recount if the recount changes the result of  
4 the nomination or election for which the recount was ordered.

5 (2) For a recount conducted under RCW 29A.64.021, for an office  
6 where the candidates filed the declarations of candidacy with the  
7 secretary of state, any legislative office, and any congressional  
8 office, the county auditor shall file an expense claim for such costs  
9 with the secretary of state. The secretary of state shall include a  
10 budget request to the legislature during the next legislative session  
11 for sufficient funds for reimbursement of all costs of the recount  
12 and shall pay all properly executed and documented vouchers to the  
13 counties within thirty days of allotment of specifically appropriated  
14 funds for this purpose. The secretary of state shall promptly notify  
15 any county that submits an incomplete or inaccurate voucher for  
16 reimbursement under this section.

17 (3) State and federal offices are to be considered one entity for  
18 purposes of election cost proration and reimbursement.

19 **Sec. 6.** RCW 29A.32.210 and 2013 c 11 s 38 are each amended to  
20 read as follows:

21 ~~((At least ninety days before))~~ Before any primary or general  
22 election, or ~~((at least forty days before))~~ any special election held  
23 under RCW 29A.04.321 or 29A.04.330, ~~((the legislative authority of~~  
24 ~~any county or first-class or code city may adopt an ordinance~~  
25 ~~authorizing the publication and distribution of))~~ each county auditor  
26 shall print and distribute a local voters' pamphlet. The pamphlet  
27 shall provide information on all measures ~~((within that jurisdiction~~  
28 ~~and may, if specified in the ordinance, include information on))~~ and  
29 candidates within that jurisdiction. ~~((If both a county and a first-~~  
30 ~~class or code city within that county authorize a local voters'~~  
31 ~~pamphlet for the same election, the pamphlet shall be produced~~  
32 ~~jointly by the county and the first-class or code city. If no~~  
33 ~~agreement can be reached between the county and first-class or code~~  
34 ~~city, the county and first-class or code city may each produce a~~  
35 ~~pamphlet. Any ordinance adopted authorizing a local voters' pamphlet~~  
36 ~~may be for a specific primary, special election, or general election~~  
37 ~~or for any future primaries or elections.))~~ The format of any local  
38 voters' pamphlet shall, whenever applicable, comply with the

1 provisions of this chapter regarding the publication of the state  
2 candidates' and voters' pamphlets.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** This act takes effect July 1, 2021."

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4 On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "costs;" strike the  
5 remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 29A.04.410,  
6 29A.04.420, 29A.04.216, 29A.04.430, 29A.64.081, and 29A.32.210; and  
7 providing an effective date."

EFFECT: Removes appropriation, removes voter outreach  
requirements, and changes the effective date.

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