
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1520

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By House State Government & Tribal Relations (originally sponsored by Representatives Morgan, Hudgins, Rude, Mead, Stonier, Frame, Riccelli, Appleton, Pellicciotti, Kilduff, Doglio, and Reeves)

READ FIRST TIME 02/22/19.

1 AN ACT Relating to calendar election dates on ballot envelopes;
2 and amending RCW 29A.40.091.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.40.091 and 2019 c 161 s 3 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) The county auditor shall send each voter a ballot, a security
7 envelope in which to conceal the ballot after voting, a larger
8 envelope in which to return the security envelope, a declaration that
9 the voter must sign, and instructions on how to obtain information
10 about the election, how to mark the ballot, and how to return the
11 ballot to the county auditor. The calendar date of the election must
12 be prominently displayed in bold type, twenty-point font or larger,
13 on the envelope sent to the voter containing the ballot and other
14 materials listed in this subsection:

15 (a) For all general elections in 2020 and after;

16 (b) For all primary elections in 2021 and after; and

17 (c) For all elections in 2022 and after.

18 (2) The voter must swear under penalty of perjury that he or she
19 meets the qualifications to vote, and has not voted in any other
20 jurisdiction at this election. The declaration must clearly inform
21 the voter that it is illegal to vote if he or she is not a United

1 States citizen; it is illegal to vote if he or she has been convicted
2 of a felony and has not had his or her voting rights restored; and it
3 is illegal to cast a ballot or sign a ballot declaration on behalf of
4 another voter. The ballot materials must provide space for the voter
5 to sign the declaration, indicate the date on which the ballot was
6 voted, and include a telephone number.

7 (3) For overseas and service voters, the signed declaration
8 constitutes the equivalent of a voter registration. Return envelopes
9 for overseas and service voters must enable the ballot to be returned
10 postage free if mailed through the United States postal service,
11 United States armed forces postal service, or the postal service of a
12 United States foreign embassy under 39 U.S.C. 3406.

13 (4) The voter must be instructed to either return the ballot to
14 the county auditor no later than 8:00 p.m. the day of the election or
15 primary, or mail the ballot to the county auditor with a postmark no
16 later than the day of the election or primary. Return envelopes for
17 all election ballots must include prepaid postage. Service and
18 overseas voters must be provided with instructions and a privacy
19 sheet for returning the ballot and signed declaration by fax or
20 email. A voted ballot and signed declaration returned by fax or email
21 must be received by 8:00 p.m. on the day of the election or primary.

22 (5) The county auditor's name may not appear on the security
23 envelope, the return envelope, or on any voting instructions or
24 materials included with the ballot if he or she is a candidate for
25 office during the same year.

26 (6) For purposes of this section, "prepaid postage" means any
27 method of return postage paid by the county or state.

--- END ---