
HOUSE BILL 2008

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representatives Hudgins, Gregerson, and Tarleton

Read first time 02/11/19. Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Relations.

1 AN ACT Relating to alternate methods of ballot security; and
2 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 2016 c 83 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. Instead of sending separate return and
12 security envelopes, a county auditor may send the voter a return
13 envelope that fully shields the voter's ballot from view after the
14 voter's identifying information is removed.

15 (2) The voter must swear under penalty of perjury that he or she
16 meets the qualifications to vote, and has not voted in any other
17 jurisdiction at this election. The declaration must clearly inform
18 the voter that it is illegal to vote if he or she is not a United
19 States citizen; it is illegal to vote if he or she has been convicted
20 of a felony and has not had his or her voting rights restored; and it
21 is illegal to cast a ballot or sign a ballot declaration on behalf of

1 another voter. The ballot materials must provide space for the voter
2 to sign the declaration, indicate the date on which the ballot was
3 voted, and include a telephone number.

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

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

18 (5) The county auditor's name may not appear on (~~the security~~
19 ~~envelope, the return~~) any envelope(~~(r)~~) or on any voting
20 instructions or materials included with the ballot if he or she is a
21 candidate for office during the same year.

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