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ENGROSSED SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1272

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State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By House Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Bergquist, Volz, Reeves, Gregerson, Christian, Riccelli, and Schmidt)

READ FIRST TIME 02/24/23.

1 AN ACT Relating to publishing, formatting, and distribution of  
2 the state and local voters' pamphlets; amending RCW 29A.32.010,  
3 29A.32.020, 29A.32.031, 29A.32.060, 29A.32.070, 29A.32.090,  
4 29A.32.121, 29A.32.210, 29A.32.220, 29A.32.230, 29A.32.241,  
5 29A.32.250, 29A.32.260, and 29A.32.280; and providing an effective  
6 date.

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

8 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.32.010 and 2003 c 111 s 801 are each amended to  
9 read as follows:

10 The secretary of state shall, whenever at least one statewide  
11 measure or office is scheduled to appear on the general election  
12 ballot, print and distribute a voters' pamphlet.

13 The secretary of state shall distribute the voters' pamphlet to  
14 each household in the state, to public libraries, and to any other  
15 locations ((he—~~or~~—she)) the secretary deems appropriate. The  
16 secretary of state shall also produce ((~~taped~~)) recorded or Braille  
17 transcripts of the voters' pamphlet, publicize their availability,  
18 and mail without charge a copy to any person who requests one.

19 The secretary of state may make the material required to be  
20 distributed by this chapter available to the public in electronic  
21 form. The secretary of state may provide the material in electronic

1 form to (~~computer bulletin boards~~) web based, print, and broadcast  
2 news media(~~(community computer networks)~~) and similar services at  
3 the cost of reproduction or transmission of the data.

4 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.32.020 and 2003 c 111 s 802 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 No person or entity may publish or distribute any campaign  
7 material that is deceptively similar in design or appearance to a  
8 voters' pamphlet that was published by the secretary of state during  
9 the (~~ten~~) 10-year period before the publication or distribution of  
10 the campaign material by the person or entity. The secretary of state  
11 shall take reasonable measures to prevent or to stop violations of  
12 this section. Such measures may include, among others, petitioning  
13 the superior court for a temporary restraining order or other  
14 appropriate injunctive relief. In addition, the secretary may request  
15 the superior court to impose a civil fine on a violator of this  
16 section. The court is authorized to levy on and recover from each  
17 violator a civil fine not to exceed the greater of: (1) (~~Two~~  
18 ~~dollars~~) \$5 for each copy of the deceptive material distributed, or  
19 (2) (~~one thousand dollars~~) \$10,000. In addition, the violator is  
20 liable for the state's legal expenses and other costs resulting from  
21 the violation. Any funds recovered under this section must be  
22 transmitted to the state treasurer for deposit in the general fund.

23 **Sec. 3.** RCW 29A.32.031 and 2023 c 109 s 8 are each amended to  
24 read as follows:

25 The voters' pamphlet published or distributed under RCW  
26 29A.32.010 must contain:

27 (1) Information about each ballot measure initiated by or  
28 referred to the voters for their approval or rejection as required by  
29 RCW 29A.32.070;

30 (2) In even-numbered years, statements, if submitted, from  
31 candidates for the office of president and vice president of the  
32 United States, United States senator, United States representative,  
33 governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, state treasurer,  
34 state auditor, attorney general, commissioner of public lands,  
35 superintendent of public instruction, insurance commissioner, state  
36 senator, state representative, justice of the supreme court, judge of  
37 the court of appeals, or judge of the superior court. Candidates may  
38 also submit campaign contact information and a photograph not more

1 than five years old in a format that the secretary of state  
2 determines to be suitable for reproduction in the voters' pamphlet;

3 (3) In odd-numbered years, ~~((if))~~ statements, if submitted, from  
4 candidates for any office ~~((voted upon statewide))~~ listed in  
5 subsection (2) of this section that appears on the ballot due to a  
6 vacancy ~~((, then statements and photographs for candidates for any~~  
7 ~~vacant office listed in subsection (2) of this section must appear)).~~  
8 Candidates may also submit campaign contact information and a  
9 photograph not more than five years old in a format that the  
10 secretary of state determines to be suitable for reproduction in the  
11 voters' pamphlet;

12 (4) Contact information for the public disclosure commission  
13 established under RCW 42.17A.100, including the following statement:  
14 "For a list of the people and organizations that donated to state and  
15 local candidates and ballot measure campaigns, visit [www.pdc.wa.gov](http://www.pdc.wa.gov)."  
16 The statement must be placed in a prominent position, such as ~~((on~~  
17 ~~the cover or on))~~ the first two pages of the voters' pamphlet. The  
18 secretary of state may substitute such language as is necessary for  
19 accuracy and clarity and consistent with the intent of this section;

20 (5) Contact information for major political parties;

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

23 (7) A list of all student engagement hubs as designated under RCW  
24 29A.40.180;

25 (8) A page providing information about how to access the internet  
26 presentation of the information created in RCW 44.48.160 about the  
27 state budgets, including a uniform resource locator, a quick response  
28 code, and a phone number for the legislative information center. The  
29 uniform resource locator and quick response codes will lead the voter  
30 to the internet information required in RCW 44.48.160; and

31 (9) Any additional information pertaining to elections as may be  
32 required by law or in the judgment of the secretary of state is  
33 deemed informative to the voters.

34 **Sec. 4.** RCW 29A.32.060 and 2015 c 171 s 2 are each amended to  
35 read as follows:

36 Committees shall write and submit arguments advocating the  
37 approval or rejection of each statewide ballot issue and rebuttals of  
38 those arguments. The secretary of state, the presiding officer of the  
39 senate, and the presiding officer of the house of representatives

1 shall appoint the initial two members of each committee. In making  
2 these committee appointments the secretary of state and presiding  
3 officers of the senate and house of representatives shall consider  
4 legislators, sponsors of initiatives and referendums, and other  
5 interested groups known to advocate or oppose the ballot measure.  
6 Committees must have the explanatory and fiscal impact statements  
7 available before preparing their arguments.

8 The initial two members may select up to four additional members,  
9 and the committee shall elect a chairperson. The remaining committee  
10 member or members may fill vacancies through appointment.

11 After the committee submits its initial argument statements to  
12 the secretary of state, the secretary of state shall transmit the  
13 statements to the opposite committee. The opposite committee may then  
14 prepare rebuttal arguments. Rebuttals may not interject new points.

15 The voters' pamphlet may contain only text argument statements  
16 prepared according to this section. (~~Arguments may contain graphs  
17 and charts supported by factual statistical data and pictures or  
18 other illustrations. Cartoons~~) Graphs, charts, photographs,  
19 cartoons, or caricatures are not permitted.

20 **Sec. 5.** RCW 29A.32.070 and 2023 c 109 s 2 are each amended to  
21 read as follows:

22 The secretary of state shall determine the format and layout of  
23 the voters' pamphlet published under RCW 29A.32.010. The secretary of  
24 state shall print the pamphlet in clear, readable type on a size,  
25 quality, and weight of paper that in the judgment of the secretary of  
26 state best serves the voters. The pamphlet must contain a table of  
27 contents. Measures and arguments must be printed in the order  
28 specified by RCW 29A.72.290.

29 The secretary of state's name may not appear in the voters'  
30 pamphlet in (~~his or her~~) an official capacity if the secretary is a  
31 candidate for office during the same year. (~~His or her~~) The  
32 secretary's name may only be included as part of the information  
33 normally included for candidates.

34 The voters' pamphlet must provide the following information for  
35 each statewide issue on the ballot:

- 36 (1) The legal identification of the measure by serial designation  
37 or number;
- 38 (2) The official ballot title of the measure;

1 (3) A statement prepared by the attorney general explaining the  
2 law as it presently exists;

3 (4) A statement prepared by the attorney general explaining the  
4 effect of the proposed measure if it becomes law;

5 (5) The fiscal impact statement prepared under RCW 29A.72.025;

6 (6) The total number of votes cast for and against the measure in  
7 the senate and house of representatives, if the measure has been  
8 passed by the legislature;

9 (7) An argument advocating the voters' approval of the measure  
10 together with any statement in rebuttal of the opposing argument;

11 (8) An argument advocating the voters' rejection of the measure  
12 together with any statement in rebuttal of the opposing argument;

13 (9) Each argument or rebuttal statement must be followed by the  
14 names of the committee members who submitted them, and may be  
15 followed by a telephone number that citizens may call to obtain  
16 information on the ballot measure;

17 (10) The full text of the measure.

18 **Sec. 6.** RCW 29A.32.090 and 2009 c 222 s 3 are each amended to  
19 read as follows:

20 (1) ~~((~~F~~))~~ All statements, arguments, and photographs submitted  
21 are subject to review and approval, and must conform to the criteria  
22 in this section. A statement or photograph may be rejected if in the  
23 opinion of the secretary of state any argument or statement offered  
24 for inclusion in the voters' pamphlet in support of or opposition to  
25 a measure or candidate does not comply with the standards contained  
26 in this section or administrative rules or contains obscene matter or  
27 matter that is otherwise prohibited by law from distribution through  
28 the mail(~~r~~)). A person or committee that has submitted a statement  
29 or photograph rejected by the secretary may edit their statement or  
30 petition the superior court of Thurston county for a judicial  
31 determination that the ~~photograph,~~ argument, or statement (~~may be~~  
32 rejected)) complies with the standards and is acceptable for  
33 publication (~~(or edited to delete the matter)~~). The court shall not  
34 enter such an order unless it concludes that the matter is compliant,  
35 not obscene, or not otherwise prohibited for distribution through the  
36 mail. The court may award reasonable attorneys' fees and costs to a  
37 person or committee who receives such an order.

38 (2) Candidate statements may not:

39 (a) Ask for contributions; or

1 (b) Make commercial solicitations.

2 (3) Statements and arguments submitted in support of or  
3 opposition to a measure, or in reply to the opposing statement, may  
4 not:

5 (a) Ask for contributions; or

6 (b) Make commercial solicitations.

7 (4) A ((candidate's)) statement submitted for inclusion in the  
8 voters' pamphlet shall not contain false or misleading statements  
9 ((about the candidate's opponent)) that constitute libel or  
10 defamation per se. A false or misleading statement shall be  
11 considered "libel or defamation per se" if the statement tends to  
12 expose the ((candidate)) opposition to hatred, contempt, ridicule, or  
13 obloquy, or to deprive him or her of the benefit of public confidence  
14 or social intercourse, or to injure him or her in his or her business  
15 or occupation. If a candidate believes his or her opponent has  
16 libeled or defamed him or her, the candidate may commence an action  
17 under subsection ((+3)) (5) of this section.

18 ((+3)) (5)(a) A person who believes that he or she may be  
19 defamed by an argument or statement offered for inclusion in the  
20 voters' pamphlet in support of or opposition to a measure or  
21 candidate may petition the superior court of Thurston county for a  
22 judicial determination that the argument or statement may be rejected  
23 for publication or edited to delete the defamatory statement.

24 (b) The court shall not enter such an order unless it concludes  
25 that the statement is untrue and that the petitioner has a very  
26 substantial likelihood of prevailing in a defamation action.

27 (c) An action under this subsection ((+3)) (5) must be filed and  
28 served no later than the tenth day after the deadline for the  
29 submission of the argument or statement to the secretary of state.

30 (d) If the secretary of state notifies a person named or  
31 identified in an argument or statement of the contents of the  
32 argument or statement within three days after the deadline for  
33 submission to the secretary, then neither the state nor the secretary  
34 is liable for damages resulting from publication of the argument or  
35 statement unless the secretary publishes the argument or statement in  
36 violation of an order entered under this section. Nothing in this  
37 section creates a duty on the part of the secretary of state to  
38 identify, locate, or notify the person.

39 ((+4)) (6) Parties to a dispute under this section may agree to  
40 resolve the dispute by rephrasing the argument or statement, even if

1 the deadline for submission to the secretary has elapsed, unless the  
2 secretary determines that the process of publication is too far  
3 advanced to permit the change. The secretary shall promptly provide  
4 any such revision to any committee entitled to submit a rebuttal  
5 argument. If that committee has not yet submitted its rebuttal, its  
6 deadline to submit a rebuttal is extended by five days. If it has  
7 submitted a rebuttal, it may revise it to address the change within  
8 five days of the filing of the revised argument with the secretary.

9 ~~((5))~~ (7) In an action under this section the committee or  
10 candidate must be named as a defendant, and may be served with  
11 process by certified mail directed to the address contained in the  
12 secretary's records for that party. The secretary of state shall be a  
13 nominal party to an action brought under subsection ~~((3))~~ (5) of  
14 this section, solely for the purpose of determining the content of  
15 the voters' pamphlet. The superior court shall give such an action  
16 priority on its calendar.

17 **Sec. 7.** RCW 29A.32.121 and 2004 c 271 s 168 are each amended to  
18 read as follows:

19 (1) The maximum number of words for statements submitted by  
20 candidates is as follows: State representative, ~~((one hundred))~~ 100  
21 words; state senator, judge of the superior court, judge of the court  
22 of appeals, justice of the supreme court, and all state offices voted  
23 upon throughout the state, except that of governor, ~~((two hundred))~~  
24 200 words; president and vice president, United States senator,  
25 United States representative, and governor, ~~((three hundred))~~ 300  
26 words.

27 (2) Arguments written by committees under RCW 29A.32.060 may not  
28 exceed ~~((two hundred fifty))~~ 250 words in length.

29 (3) Rebuttal arguments written by committees may not exceed  
30 ~~((seventy-five))~~ 75 words in length.

31 (4) The secretary of state or county auditor shall allocate space  
32 in the pamphlet based on the number of candidates or nominees for  
33 each office.

34 **Sec. 8.** RCW 29A.32.210 and 2020 c 337 s 6 are each amended to  
35 read as follows:

36 Before any primary or general election, or any special election  
37 held under RCW 29A.04.321 or 29A.04.330, each county auditor shall  
38 print and distribute a local voters' pamphlet. The pamphlet shall

1 provide information on all measures and candidates appearing on  
2 ballots within that (~~(jurisdiction)~~) county. The format of any local  
3 voters' pamphlet shall, whenever applicable, comply with the  
4 provisions of this chapter regarding the publication of the state  
5 candidates' and voters' pamphlets.

6 **Sec. 9.** RCW 29A.32.220 and 2003 c 111 s 814 are each amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 (1) Not later than (~~(ninety)~~) 90 days before the publication and  
9 distribution of a local voters' pamphlet by a county, the county  
10 auditor shall notify each city, town, or special taxing district  
11 (~~(located wholly)~~) with issues or offices appearing on ballots within  
12 that county that a pamphlet will be produced.

13 (2) (~~(If a)~~) All voters' (~~(pamphlet is)~~) pamphlets published by  
14 the county (~~(for a primary or general election, the pamphlet shall be~~  
15 ~~published for)~~) pursuant to RCW 29A.32.210 must include the elective  
16 offices and ballot measures of the county and (~~(for)~~) the elective  
17 offices and ballot measures of each unit of local government  
18 (~~(located entirely)~~) within the county which will appear on the  
19 ballot at that primary or election. (~~(However, the offices and~~  
20 ~~measures of a first-class or code city shall not be included in the~~  
21 ~~pamphlet if the city publishes and distributes its own voters'~~  
22 ~~pamphlet for the primary or election for its offices and measures.~~  
23 ~~The offices and measures of any other town or city are not required~~  
24 ~~to appear in the county's pamphlet if the town or city is obligated~~  
25 ~~by ordinance or charter to publish and distribute a voters' pamphlet~~  
26 ~~for the primary or election for its offices and measures and it does~~  
27 ~~so.)~~)

28 If the required appearance in a county's voters' pamphlet of the  
29 offices or measures of a unit of local government would create undue  
30 financial hardship for the unit of government, the legislative  
31 authority of the unit may petition the legislative authority of the  
32 county to waive this requirement. The legislative authority of the  
33 county may provide such a waiver if it does so not later than  
34 (~~(sixty)~~) 60 days before the publication of the pamphlet and it finds  
35 that the requirement would create such hardship.

36 (3) If a city, town, or district is located within more than one  
37 county, (~~(the respective county auditors may enter into an interlocal~~  
38 ~~agreement to permit the distribution of each county's local voters'~~  
39 ~~pamphlet into those parts of the city, town, or district located~~



1 ~~outside of that county))~~ all appropriate information for that  
2 jurisdiction must appear in the local voters' pamphlet for each of  
3 the counties containing the jurisdiction. Arguments, candidate  
4 statements, and photographs must be submitted to the county auditor  
5 of the county that accepted any resolutions or candidate filings for  
6 that jurisdiction. The auditor that receives this information shall  
7 provide it to the other county auditors after reviewing and accepting  
8 the submissions.

9 ~~((4) If a first-class or code city authorizes the production and~~  
10 ~~distribution of a local voters' pamphlet, the city clerk of that city~~  
11 ~~shall notify any special taxing district located wholly within that~~  
12 ~~city that a pamphlet will be produced. Notification shall be provided~~  
13 ~~in the manner required or provided for in subsection (1) of this~~  
14 ~~section.~~

15 ~~(5) A unit of local government located within a county and the~~  
16 ~~county may enter into an interlocal agreement for the publication of~~  
17 ~~a voters' pamphlet for offices or measures not required by subsection~~  
18 ~~(2) of this section to appear in a county's pamphlet.))~~

19 **Sec. 10.** RCW 29A.32.230 and 2023 c 394 s 10 are each amended to  
20 read as follows:

21 ~~((The))~~ (1) The secretary of state, in consultation with county  
22 ~~((auditor or, if applicable, the city clerk of a first-class or code~~  
23 ~~city))~~ auditors, shall ~~((, in consultation with the participating~~  
24 ~~jurisdictions,))~~ adopt and publish administrative rules necessary to  
25 facilitate ~~((the provisions of any ordinance authorizing))~~ production  
26 of a local voters' pamphlet. ~~((Any amendment to such a rule shall~~  
27 ~~also be adopted and published. Copies of the rules shall identify the~~  
28 ~~date they were adopted or last amended and shall be made available to~~  
29 ~~any person upon request. One copy of the rules adopted by a county~~  
30 ~~auditor and one copy of any amended rules shall be submitted to the~~  
31 ~~county legislative authority. One copy of the rules adopted by a city~~  
32 ~~clerk and one copy of any amended rules shall be submitted to the~~  
33 ~~city legislative authority.))~~ These rules shall include but not be  
34 limited to the following:

35 ~~((1) Deadlines for decisions by cities, towns, or special taxing~~  
36 ~~districts on being included in the pamphlet;~~

37 ~~(2))~~ (a) Limits on the length and deadlines for submission of  
38 arguments for and against each measure;

1       ~~((3))~~ (b) The basis for rejection of any explanatory or  
2 candidates' statement or argument deemed to be (~~libelous or~~  
3 ~~otherwise inappropriate. Any statements by a candidate shall be~~  
4 ~~limited to those about the candidate himself or herself)~~  
5 noncompliant with this section or administrative rules adopted in  
6 accordance with this section;

7       ~~((4))~~ (c) Limits on the length of candidates' statements;

8       ~~((5))~~ (d) Deadlines for submission of candidates' statements  
9 not sooner than 11 days following the deadline for filing  
10 declarations of candidacy under RCW 29A.24.050;

11       ~~((6))~~ (e) Standards related to acceptable candidate  
12 photographs;

13       (f) Standards related to statements for and against any measure;  
14 and

15       (g) An appeal process in the case of the rejection of any  
16 statement or argument.

17       (2) Candidate statements may not:

18       (a) Ask for contributions; or

19       (b) Make commercial solicitations.

20       (3) Statements and arguments submitted in support of or  
21 opposition to a measure, or in reply to the opposing statement, may  
22 not:

23       (a) Ask for contributions; or

24       (b) Make commercial solicitations.

25       (4) The county auditor shall adopt and publish local  
26 administrative rules necessary to facilitate production of a local  
27 voters' pamphlet. Copies of the rules must identify the date they  
28 were adopted or last amended and must be made available to any person  
29 upon request.

30       **Sec. 11.** RCW 29A.32.241 and 2020 c 208 s 12 are each amended to  
31 read as follows:

32       (1) The local voters' pamphlet shall include but not be limited  
33 to the following:

34       (a) Appearing on the cover, the words "official local voters'  
35 pamphlet," the name of the jurisdiction producing the pamphlet, and  
36 the date of the election or primary;

37       (b) A list of jurisdictions that have measures or candidates in  
38 the pamphlet;

1 (c) Information on how a person may register to vote and obtain a  
2 ballot;

3 (d) Candidate statements and photographs;

4 (e) The text of each measure accompanied by an explanatory  
5 statement prepared by the prosecuting attorney for any county measure  
6 or by the attorney for the jurisdiction submitting the measure if  
7 other than a county measure. All explanatory statements for city,  
8 town, or district measures not approved by the attorney for the  
9 jurisdiction submitting the measure shall be reviewed and approved by  
10 the county prosecuting attorney or city attorney, when applicable,  
11 before inclusion in the pamphlet;

12 ~~((e))~~ (f) The arguments for and against each measure submitted  
13 by committees selected pursuant to RCW 29A.32.280; and

14 ~~((f))~~ (g) A list of all student engagement hubs in the county  
15 as designated under RCW 29A.40.180 ~~(; and~~

16 ~~(g) For partisan primary elections, information on how to vote~~  
17 ~~the applicable ballot format and an explanation that minor political~~  
18 ~~party candidates and independent candidates will appear only on the~~  
19 ~~general election ballot)).~~

20 (2) The county auditor's name may not appear in the local voters'  
21 pamphlet in ~~((his or her))~~ an official capacity if the county auditor  
22 is a candidate for office during the same year. ~~((His or her))~~ The  
23 auditor's name may only be included as part of the information  
24 normally included for candidates.

25 **Sec. 12.** RCW 29A.32.250 and 2003 c 111 s 817 are each amended to  
26 read as follows:

27 ~~((If the legislative authority of a county or first-class or code~~  
28 ~~city provides for the inclusion of candidates in the local voters'~~  
29 ~~pamphlet, the pamphlet)) Local voters' pamphlets shall include~~  
30 ~~((the))~~ candidate statements ~~((from candidates))~~ accepted by the  
31 county auditor and may also include ~~((these))~~ candidates' photographs  
32 accepted by the county auditor.

33 **Sec. 13.** RCW 29A.32.260 and 2022 c 193 s 2 are each amended to  
34 read as follows:

35 As soon as practicable before the primary, special election, or  
36 general election, the county auditor ~~((, or if applicable, the city~~  
37 ~~clerk of a first-class or code city, as appropriate,)) shall mail the  
38 local voters' pamphlet to every residence in each jurisdiction ~~((that~~~~

1 ~~has included information~~) within the county that is participating in  
2 the associated primary or election and for which election information  
3 is included in the pamphlet. The county auditor (~~or city clerk, as~~  
4 ~~appropriate,~~) may choose to mail the pamphlet to each registered  
5 voter in each jurisdiction (~~that has included information in the~~  
6 ~~pamphlet~~) within the county that is participating in the associated  
7 primary or election and for which election information is included in  
8 the pamphlet, if in (~~his or her~~) the auditor's judgment, a more  
9 economical and effective distribution of the pamphlet would result.  
10 The county auditor shall either mail or send a printable electronic  
11 version of the state and local voters' pamphlets to any service or  
12 overseas voter registered in the jurisdiction who has requested them.

13 **Sec. 14.** RCW 29A.32.280 and 2015 c 146 s 3 are each amended to  
14 read as follows:

15 (1) For each measure from a unit of local government (~~that is~~)  
16 included in a local voters' pamphlet, the legislative authority of  
17 that jurisdiction shall, not later than the resolution deadline,  
18 formally appoint a committee to prepare arguments advocating voters'  
19 approval of the measure and shall formally appoint a committee to  
20 prepare arguments advocating voters' rejection of the measure.

21 (2) The authority shall appoint persons that reside within the  
22 jurisdictional boundaries and are known to favor the measure to serve  
23 on the committee advocating approval and shall, whenever possible,  
24 appoint persons that reside within the jurisdictional boundaries and  
25 are known to oppose the measure to serve on the committee advocating  
26 rejection.

27 (3) Each committee shall have not more than three members,  
28 however, a committee may seek the advice of any person or persons.

29 (4) If the legislative authority of a unit of local government  
30 fails to make such appointments by the prescribed deadline, the  
31 county auditor shall (~~whenever possible make the appointments~~)  
32 issue a media release and publish information on the auditor's  
33 election website announcing the opportunity to form committees and  
34 provide statements. If the legislative authority is unable to make  
35 appointments, the auditor shall make appointments on a first-come,  
36 first-served basis if qualified committee members contact the auditor  
37 by the appropriate deadline.

38 (5) If no statement is produced, the auditor shall include a  
39 statement in the pamphlet stating that no person in the jurisdiction

1 contacted the auditor to provide a statement, and there are no  
2 statements for that measure.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 15.** This act takes effect January 1, 2025.

--- END ---