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**SENATE BILL 5112**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2023 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Hunt, Hasegawa, Kuderer, Valdez, C. Wilson, and J. Wilson; by request of Secretary of State

Prefiled 12/29/22. Read first time 01/09/23. Referred to Committee on State Government & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to updating processes related to voter  
2 registration; amending RCW 29A.08.010, 29A.08.030, 29A.08.110,  
3 29A.08.125, 29A.08.210, 29A.08.220, 29A.08.260, 29A.08.270,  
4 29A.08.330, 29A.08.340, 29A.08.350, 29A.08.355, 29A.08.357,  
5 29A.08.359, 29A.08.362, 29A.08.365, 29A.08.370, 29A.08.615,  
6 46.20.153, 46.20.155, 46.20.156, 46.20.205, 29A.08.625, 29A.08.630,  
7 29A.08.635, 29A.08.710, 29A.08.810, 29A.08.820, 29A.08.835,  
8 29A.08.840, 29A.04.611, 29A.84.110, 29A.04.058, and 29A.08.115;  
9 reenacting and amending RCW 29A.08.320; adding a new section to  
10 chapter 29A.08 RCW; repealing RCW 29A.08.375; and providing an  
11 effective date.

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

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 29A.08  
14 RCW to read as follows:

15 A person applying for government services which require proof of  
16 citizenship as part of that application may receive automatic voter  
17 registration services by providing the following information:

- 18 (1) Name;  
19 (2) Residential address;  
20 (3) Date of birth;

1 (4) A signature attesting to the truth of the information  
2 provided on the application;

3 (5) An address where the person receives mail, if different from  
4 the residence address; and

5 (6) Presentation of documentation as part of another government  
6 transaction confirming the individual is a United States citizen.

7 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.08.010 and 2019 c 6 s 1 are each amended to read  
8 as follows:

9 (1) The minimum required information provided on a voter  
10 registration application (~~((that is required))~~) in order to place a  
11 voter registration applicant on the voter registration rolls  
12 includes:

13 (a) Name;

14 (b) Residential address;

15 (c) Date of birth;

16 (d) A signature attesting to the truth of the information  
17 provided on the application; (~~and~~)

18 (e) An address where the person receives mail, if different from  
19 the residence address; and

20 (f) Affirmation of citizenship which confirms the individual is a  
21 United States citizen, in one of the following forms:

22 (i) A check or indication in the box on a voter registration form  
23 confirming ((the individual is a United States citizen)) citizenship;  
24 or

25 (ii) Presentation of documents as part of another government  
26 transaction confirming citizenship.

27 (2) The residential address provided must identify the actual  
28 physical residence of the voter in Washington, as defined in RCW  
29 29A.04.151, with detail sufficient to allow the voter to be assigned  
30 to the proper precinct and to locate the voter to confirm his or her  
31 residence for purposes of verifying qualification to vote under  
32 Article VI, section 1 of the state Constitution. A residential  
33 address may be either a traditional address or a nontraditional  
34 address.

35 (a) A traditional address consists of a street number and name,  
36 optional apartment number or unit number, and city or town, as  
37 assigned by a local government, which serves to identify the parcel  
38 or building of residence and the unit if a multiunit residence.

1       **(b)** A nontraditional address consists of a narrative description  
2 of the location of the voter's residence, and may be used when a  
3 traditional address has not been assigned or affixed to the voter's  
4 residence or when a voter resides on an Indian reservation or Indian  
5 lands, pursuant to the conditions in RCW 29A.08.112.

6       (3) All other information supplied is ancillary and not to be  
7 used as grounds for not registering an applicant to vote.

8       (4) Modification of the language of the official Washington state  
9 voter registration form by the voter will not be accepted and will  
10 cause the rejection of the registrant's application.

11       **Sec. 3.** RCW 29A.08.030 and 2009 c 369 s 7 are each amended to  
12 read as follows:

13       The definitions set forth in this section apply throughout this  
14 chapter, unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

15       (1) "Verification notice" means a notice sent by the county  
16 auditor or secretary of state to a voter registration applicant and  
17 is used to verify or collect information about the applicant in order  
18 to complete the registration. The verification notice must be  
19 designed to include a postage prepaid, preaddressed return form by  
20 which the applicant may verify or send information.

21       (2) "Acknowledgment notice" means a notice sent by nonforwardable  
22 mail by the county auditor or secretary of state to a registered  
23 voter to acknowledge a voter registration transaction or an automatic  
24 voter registration transaction, which can include initial  
25 registration, ~~((transfer))~~ residential address change, or  
26 reactivation of an inactive registration, identifying the  
27 registrant's precinct and containing such other information as may be  
28 required by the secretary of state. An acknowledgment notice may be a  
29 voter registration card.

30       (3) "Automatic voter registration acknowledgment notice package"  
31 means a package of information sent by nonforwardable mail by the  
32 county auditor, to a registered voter who utilized the automatic  
33 voter registration process at the department of licensing, to  
34 acknowledge a voter registration transaction, which can include  
35 initial registration, residential address change, or reactivation of  
36 an inactive registration. The package must include:

37       (a) A postage prepaid, preaddressed return form by which the  
38 individual may decline to be registered to vote or decline the  
39 update;

1 (b) A statement explaining that the person has become registered  
2 to vote or signed up to register to vote, as appropriate, setting  
3 forth the qualifications to vote, stating that if the individual does  
4 not meet the qualifications to vote, the person shall return the  
5 notice and affirmatively decline in writing to register to vote, and  
6 that if the person wishes to cancel the voter registration at any  
7 time, that the person may contact their county auditor to do so;

8 (c) Instructions regarding how an individual can obtain more  
9 information about the notice and assistance in the individual's  
10 preferred language, including languages as set forth in RCW  
11 29A.08.270;

12 (d) An acknowledgment notice; and

13 (e) Other information required by the secretary of state.

14 (4) "Identification notice" means a notice sent to a  
15 provisionally registered voter to confirm the applicant's identity.

16 ~~((4))~~ (5) "Confirmation notice" means a notice sent to a  
17 registered voter by first-class forwardable mail at the address  
18 indicated on the voter's permanent registration record and to any  
19 other address at which the county auditor or secretary of state could  
20 reasonably expect mail to be received by the voter in order to  
21 confirm the voter's residence address. The confirmation notice must  
22 be designed to include a postage prepaid, preaddressed return form by  
23 which the registrant may verify the address information.

24 **Sec. 4.** RCW 29A.08.110 and 2020 c 208 s 14 are each amended to  
25 read as follows:

26 (1) For persons registering under RCW 29A.08.120, 29A.08.123,  
27 29A.08.170, 29A.08.330, 29A.08.340, 29A.08.362, and 29A.08.365, an  
28 application is considered complete only if it contains the  
29 information required by RCW 29A.08.010. The applicant is considered  
30 to be registered to vote as of:

31 (a) The original date of receipt;

32 (b) When the person will be at least eighteen years old by the  
33 next election; ~~((~~or~~))~~

34 (c) When the person will be at least seventeen years old by the  
35 next primary election or presidential primary election and eighteen  
36 years old by the general election, whichever is applicable; or

37 (d) For voters utilizing automatic voter registration under  
38 section 1 of this act at the department of licensing, 21 days

1 following the original transaction, if the voter has not declined  
2 registration.

3 (2) As soon as practicable, the auditor shall record the  
4 appropriate precinct identification, taxing district identification,  
5 and date of registration on the voter's record in the state voter  
6 registration list. The secretary of state shall, pursuant to RCW  
7 29A.04.611, establish procedures to enable new or updated voter  
8 registrations to be recorded on an expedited basis. Any mailing  
9 address provided shall be used only for mail delivery purposes, and  
10 not for precinct assignment or residency purposes. (~~Within sixty~~)

11 (3) The voter must be sent an acknowledgment notice using first-  
12 class nonforwardable mail:

13 (a) For voters utilizing automatic voter registration services at  
14 the department of licensing, within five days after the receipt of an  
15 application or residential address change, the auditor shall send an  
16 automatic voter registration acknowledgment notice package as  
17 required by RCW 29A.08.030.

18 (b) For all other voters, within 60 days after the receipt of an  
19 application or (~~transfer~~) residential address change, the auditor  
20 shall send (~~to the applicant, by first-class nonforwardable mail,~~)  
21 an acknowledgment notice (~~identifying the registrant's precinct and~~  
22 ~~containing such other information as may be required by the secretary~~  
23 ~~of state. The postal service shall be instructed not to forward a~~  
24 ~~voter registration card to any other address and to return to the~~  
25 ~~auditor any card which is not deliverable)~~ as required by RCW  
26 29A.08.030.

27 (~~(3)~~) (4) If an application is not complete, the auditor shall  
28 promptly mail a verification notice to the applicant. The  
29 verification notice shall require the applicant to provide the  
30 missing information. If the applicant provides the required  
31 information within forty-five days, the applicant shall be registered  
32 to vote as of the original date of application. The applicant shall  
33 not be placed on the official list of registered voters until the  
34 application is complete.

35 (~~(4)~~) (5) Once a future voter is no longer in pending status,  
36 as described in RCW 29A.08.615, his or her application to sign up to  
37 register to vote is no longer pending and is subject to this section.

38 **Sec. 5.** RCW 29A.08.125 and 2018 c 109 s 7 are each amended to  
39 read as follows:

1 (1) The office of the secretary of state shall maintain a  
2 statewide voter registration database. This database must be a  
3 centralized, uniform, interactive computerized statewide voter  
4 registration list that contains the name and registration information  
5 of every registered voter in the state.

6 (2) The statewide list is the official list of registered voters  
7 for the conduct of all elections.

8 (3) The statewide list must include, but is not limited to, the  
9 name, date of birth, residence address, signature, gender, and date  
10 of registration of every legally registered voter in the state.

11 (4) A unique identifier must be assigned to each registered voter  
12 in the state.

13 (5) The database must be coordinated with other government  
14 databases within the state including, but not limited to, the  
15 department of corrections, the department of licensing, the  
16 department of health, (~~the administrative office of the courts,~~)  
17 and county auditors. The database may also be coordinated with the  
18 databases of election officials in other states.

19 (6) Authorized employees of the secretary of state and each  
20 county auditor must have immediate electronic access to the  
21 information maintained in the database.

22 (7) Voter registration information received by each county  
23 auditor must be electronically entered into the database. The office  
24 of the secretary of state must provide support, as needed, to enable  
25 each county auditor to enter and maintain voter registration  
26 information in the state database.

27 (8) The secretary of state has data authority over all voter  
28 registration data.

29 (9) The voter registration database must be designed to  
30 accomplish at a minimum, the following:

31 (a) Comply with the help America vote act of 2002 (P.L. 107-252);

32 (b) Identify duplicate voter registrations;

33 (c) Identify suspected duplicate voters;

34 (d) Screen against any available databases maintained by other  
35 government agencies to identify voters who are ineligible to vote due  
36 to serving a sentence of total confinement as the result of a felony  
37 conviction, lack of citizenship, or a court finding of mental  
38 incompetence;

39 (e) Provide images of voters' signatures for the purpose of  
40 checking signatures on initiative and referendum petitions;

1 (f) Provide for a comparison between the voter registration  
2 database and the department of licensing change of address database;

3 (g) Provide access for county auditors that includes the  
4 capability to update registrations and search for duplicate  
5 registrations;

6 (h) Provide for the cancellation of registrations of voters who  
7 have moved out of state; and

8 (i) Provide for the storage of pending registration records for  
9 all future voters who have not yet reached eighteen years of age in a  
10 manner that these records will not appear on the official list of  
11 registered voters until the future registrant is no longer in pending  
12 status as defined under RCW 29A.08.615.

13 (10) The secretary of state may, upon agreement with other  
14 appropriate jurisdictions, screen against any available databases  
15 maintained by election officials in other states and databases  
16 maintained by federal agencies including, but not limited to, the  
17 federal bureau of investigation, the federal court system, the  
18 federal bureau of prisons, and the bureau of citizenship and  
19 immigration services.

20 (11) The database shall retain information regarding previous  
21 successful appeals of proposed cancellations of registrations in  
22 order to avoid repeated cancellations for the same reason.

23 (12) Each county auditor shall maintain a list of all registered  
24 voters within the county that are contained on the official statewide  
25 voter registration list. In addition to the information maintained in  
26 the statewide database, the county database must also maintain the  
27 applicable taxing district and precinct codes for each voter in the  
28 county, and a list of elections in which the individual voted.

29 (13) Each county auditor shall allow electronic access and  
30 (~~information transfer~~) residential address change between the  
31 county's voter registration system and the official statewide voter  
32 registration list.

33 **Sec. 6.** RCW 29A.08.210 and 2020 c 208 s 3 are each amended to  
34 read as follows:

35 An applicant for voter registration shall complete an application  
36 providing the following information concerning (~~his or her~~) the  
37 applicant's qualifications as a voter in this state:

38 (1) (~~The former address of the applicant if previously~~  
39 ~~registered to vote;~~

1       ~~(2)~~) The applicant's full name;

2       ~~((3))~~ (2) The applicant's date of birth;

3       ~~((4))~~ (3) The address of the applicant's residence for voting

4 purposes;

5       ~~((5))~~ (4) The mailing address of the applicant if that address

6 is not the same as the address in subsection ~~((4))~~ (3) of this

7 section;

8       ~~((6))~~ (5) The ~~((sex))~~ gender of the applicant;

9       (6) The former address of the applicant if previously registered

10 to vote;

11       (7) The applicant's Washington state driver's license number,

12 Washington state identification card number, or the last four digits

13 of the applicant's social security number if ~~((he—or—she))~~ the

14 applicant does not have a Washington state driver's license or

15 Washington state identification card;

16       (8) A check box allowing the applicant to indicate ~~((that he or~~

17 ~~she is a member of))~~ membership in the armed forces, national guard,

18 or reserves, or ~~((that he or she is an))~~ overseas voter status;

19       ~~(9) ((A check box allowing the applicant to acknowledge that he~~

20 ~~or she is at least sixteen years old;~~

21       ~~(10))~~ Clear and conspicuous language, designed to draw the

22 applicant's attention, stating that:

23       (a) The applicant must be a United States citizen in order to

24 register to vote; and

25       (b) The applicant may register to vote if the applicant is at

26 least sixteen years old and may vote if the applicant will be at

27 least eighteen years old by the next general election, or is at least

28 eighteen years old for special elections;

29       ~~((11))~~ (10) A check box and declaration confirming that the

30 applicant is a citizen of the United States;

31       ~~((12))~~ (11) The following warning:

32       "If you knowingly provide false information on this voter

33 registration form or knowingly make a false declaration about your

34 qualifications for voter registration you will have committed a class

35 C felony that is punishable by imprisonment for up to five years, a

36 fine of up to ten thousand dollars, or both."

37       ~~((13))~~ (12) The oath required by RCW 29A.08.230 and a space for

38 the applicant's signature; and



1       (~~(14)~~) (13) Any other information that the secretary of state  
2 determines is necessary to establish the identity of the applicant  
3 and prevent duplicate or fraudulent voter registrations.

4       This information shall be recorded on a single registration form  
5 to be prescribed by the secretary of state.

6       **Sec. 7.** RCW 29A.08.220 and 2013 c 11 s 13 are each amended to  
7 read as follows:

8       (1) The secretary of state shall specify by rule the format of  
9 all voter registration applications. These applications shall be  
10 compatible with existing voter registration records. An applicant for  
11 voter registration shall be required to complete only one application  
12 and to provide the required information other than (~~(his or her)~~) the  
13 applicant's signature no more than one time. These applications shall  
14 also contain (~~(information)~~) instructions for the voter to use the  
15 form to update (~~(his or her)~~) information related to the voter's  
16 voter registration.

17       (2) Any application format specified by the secretary for use in  
18 registering to vote in state and local elections shall satisfy the  
19 requirements of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (P.L.  
20 103-31) and the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-252) for  
21 registering to vote in federal elections.

22       **Sec. 8.** RCW 29A.08.260 and 2013 c 11 s 15 are each amended to  
23 read as follows:

24       (1) All registration applications required under RCW 29A.08.210  
25 and 29A.08.340 shall be produced and furnished by the secretary of  
26 state to the county auditors and the department of licensing.

27       (2) The county auditor shall distribute forms by which a person  
28 may register to vote by mail and (~~(transfer)~~) update the address for  
29 any previous registration in this state. The county auditor shall  
30 keep a supply of voter registration forms in (~~(his or her)~~) the  
31 auditor's office at all times for (~~(political parties and others)~~)  
32 people and organizations interested in assisting in voter  
33 registration, and shall make every effort to make these forms  
34 generally available to the public. The county auditor shall provide  
35 voter registration forms to city and town clerks, state offices,  
36 schools, fire stations, public libraries, and any other locations  
37 considered appropriate by the auditor or secretary of state for  
38 extending registration opportunities to all areas of the county.

1 After the initial distribution of voter registration forms to a given  
2 location, a representative designated by the official in charge of  
3 that location shall notify the county auditor of the need for  
4 additional voter registration supplies.

5 **Sec. 9.** RCW 29A.08.270 and 2003 c 111 s 139 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 In order to encourage the broadest possible voting participation  
8 by all eligible citizens, the secretary of state shall produce voter  
9 registration information in the ~~((foreign))~~ various languages  
10 required of state agencies.

11 **Sec. 10.** RCW 29A.08.320 and 2004 c 267 s 119 and 2004 c 266 s 7  
12 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

13 For persons not performing an automatic voter registration  
14 transaction subject to section 1 of this act:

15 (1) A person may register to vote or ~~((transfer))~~ update their  
16 residential address information for a voter registration when ~~((he or~~  
17 ~~she applies))~~ applying for service or assistance and with each  
18 renewal, recertification, or change of address at agencies designated  
19 under RCW 29A.08.310.

20 (2) A prospective applicant shall initially be offered a form  
21 approved by the secretary of state designed to determine whether the  
22 person wishes to register to vote. The form must comply with all  
23 applicable state and federal statutes regarding content.

24 The form shall also contain a box that may be checked by the  
25 applicant to ~~((indicate that he or she))~~ decline~~((s))~~ to register at  
26 the time of the transaction.

27 If the person indicates an interest in registering or has made no  
28 indication as to a desire to register or not register to vote, the  
29 person shall be given a mail-in voter registration application or a  
30 prescribed agency application as provided by RCW 29A.08.330.

31 **Sec. 11.** RCW 29A.08.330 and 2020 c 208 s 5 are each amended to  
32 read as follows:

33 (1) The secretary of state shall prescribe the method of voter  
34 registration for each designated agency. The agency shall use either  
35 the state voter registration by mail form with a separate declination  
36 form for the applicant to ~~((indicate that he or she))~~ decline~~((s))~~ to

1 register at this time, or the agency may use a separate form or  
2 process approved for use by the secretary of state.

3 (2) The person providing service at the agency shall offer voter  
4 registration services to every client (~~((whenever he or she applies))~~)  
5 at the time of application for service or assistance and with each  
6 renewal, recertification, or change of address. The person providing  
7 service shall give the applicant the same level of assistance with  
8 the voter registration application as is offered to fill out the  
9 agency's forms and documents, including information about age and  
10 citizenship requirements for voter registration.

11 (3) (a) The person providing service at the agency shall determine  
12 if the prospective applicant wants to register to vote or update  
13 (~~((his or her))~~) the applicant's voter registration by asking the  
14 following question of all applicants age 16 or older:

15 "Do you want to register or sign up to vote or update your voter  
16 registration?"

17 (b) If the applicant chooses to register, sign up, or update a  
18 registration, the service agent shall ask the following:

19 (~~((a))~~) "Are you a United States citizen?"

20 (~~((b) "Are you at least sixteen years old?")~~)

21 If the applicant answers in the affirmative to (~~((both))~~) the  
22 question(~~((s))~~), the agent shall then provide the applicant with a  
23 voter registration form and instructions and shall record that the  
24 applicant has requested to sign up to vote, register to vote, or  
25 update a voter registration. If the applicant answers in the negative  
26 to (~~((either))~~) the question, the agent shall not provide the applicant  
27 with a voter registration application.

28 (4) If an agency uses a computerized application process, it may,  
29 in consultation with the secretary of state, develop methods to  
30 capture simultaneously the information required for voter  
31 registration during a person's computerized application process.

32 (5) Each designated agency shall transmit the applications to the  
33 secretary of state or appropriate county auditor within three  
34 business days and must be received by the election official by the  
35 required voter registration deadline.

36 (6) Information that is otherwise disclosable under this chapter  
37 cannot be disclosed on the future voter until the person reaches

1 eight years of age, except for the purpose of processing and  
2 delivering ballots.

3 **Sec. 12.** RCW 29A.08.340 and 2013 c 11 s 17 are each amended to  
4 read as follows:

5 (1) A person not performing an automatic voter registration  
6 transaction under section 1 of this act may register to vote or  
7 update (~~(his or her)~~) the person's existing voter registration when  
8 (~~(he or she applies for or renews)~~) applying for or renewing a  
9 driver's license or identification card under chapter 46.20 RCW.

10 (2) To register to vote or update a registration, the applicant  
11 shall provide the information required by RCW 29A.08.010.

12 (3) The driver licensing agent shall record that the applicant  
13 has requested to register to vote or update a voter registration.

14 **Sec. 13.** RCW 29A.08.350 and 2018 c 110 s 106 are each amended to  
15 read as follows:

16 The department of licensing shall produce and transmit to the  
17 secretary of state the following information from the records of each  
18 individual who requested ((a)) to register to vote or update the  
19 individual's existing voter registration (~~(or update)~~) at a driver's  
20 license facility: The name, address, date of birth, any gender (~~(of)~~)  
21 information provided by the applicant, the driver's license number,  
22 signature image, any language preference information collected, any  
23 phone number provided by the voter, any email address provided by the  
24 voter, digital images of documents used to prove citizenship, if  
25 applicable, and the date on which the application for voter  
26 registration or update was submitted. The secretary of state shall  
27 process the registrations and updates as an electronic application.

28 **Sec. 14.** RCW 29A.08.355 and 2020 c 208 s 7 are each amended to  
29 read as follows:

30 (1) The department of licensing must (~~(allow a person age~~  
31 ~~eighteen years or older to be registered to vote or update voter~~  
32 ~~registration information)) collect and transmit to the secretary of  
33 state voter registration information for all citizens applying for,  
34 renewing, or updating an enhanced driver's license or enhanced  
35 identocard by automated process at the time of registration, renewal,  
36 or change of address if:~~

37 (a) The person meets requirements for voter registration;

1 (b) The person has received or is renewing an enhanced driver's  
2 license or enhanced identicard issued under RCW 46.20.202 or is  
3 changing the address for an existing enhanced driver's license or  
4 enhanced identicard pursuant to RCW 46.20.205; and

5 (c) The department of licensing record associated with the  
6 applicant contains:

7 (i) The data required to determine whether the applicant meets  
8 requirements for voter registration under RCW 29A.08.010;

9 (ii) Other information as required by the secretary of state; and

10 (iii) A signature image.

11 (2) The department of licensing must (~~allow a person sixteen or~~  
12 ~~seventeen~~) collect and transmit to the secretary of state voter  
13 registration information for all citizens applying for, renewing, or  
14 updating an enhanced driver's license or enhanced identicard 16 or 17  
15 years of age (~~to be signed up to register to vote by automated~~  
16 ~~process at the time of registration, renewal, or change of address~~)  
17 if:

18 (a) The person meets requirements to sign up to register to vote;

19 (b) The person has received or is renewing an enhanced driver's  
20 license or enhanced identicard issued under RCW 46.20.202 or is  
21 changing the address for an existing enhanced driver's license or  
22 enhanced identicard pursuant to RCW 46.20.205; and

23 (c) The department of licensing record associated with the  
24 applicant contains:

25 (i) The data required to determine whether the applicant meets  
26 the requirements for voter registration under RCW 29A.08.210, other  
27 than age;

28 (ii) Other information as required by the secretary of state; and

29 (iii) A signature image.

30 (~~(3) The person must be informed that his or her record will be~~  
31 ~~used for voter registration and offered an opportunity to decline to~~  
32 ~~register.))~~

33 **Sec. 15.** RCW 29A.08.357 and 2018 c 110 s 103 are each amended to  
34 read as follows:

35 (1) (~~If the applicant in~~) For applicants served under RCW  
36 29A.08.355 (~~does not decline registration~~), the application is  
37 submitted pursuant to RCW 29A.08.350 and marked as an automatic voter  
38 registrant.

1 (2) For each such application, the secretary of state must obtain  
2 a digital copy of the applicant's signature image from the department  
3 of licensing.

4 **Sec. 16.** RCW 29A.08.359 and 2020 c 208 s 18 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (1)(a) For persons age eighteen years and older registering under  
7 RCW 29A.08.355(1), an application is considered complete only if it  
8 contains the information required by RCW 29A.08.010 and other  
9 information as required by the secretary of state. The applicant is  
10 considered to be registered to vote as of the 21st day following the  
11 original date of issuance or renewal or date of change of address of  
12 an enhanced driver's license or enhanced identicard issued under RCW  
13 46.20.202 or change of address for an existing enhanced driver's  
14 license or enhanced identicard pursuant to RCW 46.20.205.

15 (b) For persons sixteen or seventeen years of age registering  
16 under RCW 29A.08.355(2), an application is considered complete only  
17 if it contains the information required by RCW 29A.08.010 and other  
18 information as required by the secretary of state. The applicant is  
19 considered to be registered to vote as of the date set forth in RCW  
20 29A.08.110(1).

21 (c) The information must be transmitted (~~in an expedited manner~~  
22 ~~and must be received by an election official by the required voter~~  
23 ~~registration deadline~~) daily to the secretary of state. ((The))

24 (i) If the information shows no name change or change of  
25 residence or mailing address for an existing voter registration, the  
26 auditor may choose to send the voter an acknowledgment notice.

27 (ii) If the information is an application for new registration or  
28 updates any element of an existing voter registration, the auditor  
29 shall update the voter's record and, if the information updates the  
30 voter's name, residence address, or mailing address, record the  
31 appropriate precinct identification, taxing district identification,  
32 and date of registration on the voter's record in the state voter  
33 registration list and send an automatic voter registration  
34 acknowledgment notice package within five days of the original  
35 application. Any mailing address provided shall be used only for mail  
36 delivery purposes, and not for precinct assignment or residency  
37 purposes. (~~Within sixty days after the receipt of an application or~~  
38 ~~transfer, the auditor shall send to the applicant, by first-class~~  
39 ~~nonforwardable mail, an acknowledgment notice identifying the~~

1 ~~registrant's precinct and containing such other information as may be~~  
2 ~~required by the secretary of state. The United States postal service~~  
3 ~~shall be instructed not to forward a voter registration card to any~~  
4 ~~other address and to return to the auditor any card which is not~~  
5 ~~deliverable.)~~)

6 (d) An auditor may use other means to communicate with potential  
7 and registered voters such as, but not limited to, email, phone, or  
8 text messaging. The alternate form of communication must not be in  
9 lieu of the ((~~first-class~~)) mail requirements. The auditor shall act  
10 in compliance with all voter notification processes established in  
11 federal law.

12 (2) If an application is not complete, the auditor shall promptly  
13 mail a verification notice to the applicant. The verification notice  
14 must require the applicant to provide the missing information. If the  
15 applicant provides the required information within forty-five days,  
16 the applicant must be registered to vote. The applicant must not be  
17 placed on the official list of registered voters until the  
18 application is complete.

19 (3) If the prospective registration applicant responds to the  
20 automatic voter registration acknowledgment notice and declines to  
21 register to vote or the information provided by the department of  
22 licensing does not indicate citizenship, the information must not be  
23 included on the list of registered voters.

24 (4) For new registrants, after a period of 15 days from the date  
25 of mailing of the automatic voter registration acknowledgment notice  
26 package, if the voter has not responded to the automatic voter  
27 registration acknowledgment notice, the county auditor must add the  
28 applicant to the list of registered voters.

29 (5) The department of licensing is prohibited from sharing data  
30 files used by the secretary of state to certify voters registered  
31 through the automated process outlined in RCW 29A.08.355 with any  
32 federal agency, or state agency other than the secretary of state.  
33 Personal information supplied for the purposes of obtaining a  
34 driver's license or identicard is exempt from public inspection  
35 pursuant to RCW 42.56.230.

36 **Sec. 17.** RCW 29A.08.362 and 2018 c 110 s 201 are each amended to  
37 read as follows:

38 (1) ((~~Beginning July 1, 2019, the~~)) The health benefit exchange  
39 shall provide the following information to the secretary of state's

1 office for consenting Washington healthplanfinder applicants who  
2 affirmatively indicate that they are interested in registering to  
3 vote, including applicants who file changes of address, who reside in  
4 Washington, are age eighteen years or older, and are verified  
5 citizens, for voter registration purposes:

6 (a) Names;

7 (b) Traditional or nontraditional residential addresses;

8 (c) Mailing addresses, if different from the traditional or  
9 nontraditional residential address; and

10 (d) Dates of birth.

11 (2) The health benefit exchange shall consult with the secretary  
12 of state's office to ensure that sufficient information is provided  
13 to allow the secretary of state to obtain a digital copy of the  
14 person's signature when available from the department of licensing  
15 and establish other criteria and procedures that are secure and  
16 compliant with federal and state voter registration and privacy laws  
17 and rules.

18 ~~(3) ((If applicable, the health benefit exchange shall report any  
19 known barriers or impediments to implementation of this section to  
20 the appropriate committees of the legislature and the governor no  
21 later than December 1, 2018.~~

22 ~~(4) If the health benefit exchange determines, in consultation  
23 with the health care authority, that implementation of chapter 110,  
24 Laws of 2018 requires changes subject to approval from the centers  
25 for medicare and medicaid services, participation of the health  
26 benefit exchange is contingent on receiving that approval.))~~ If the  
27 health benefit exchange determines, in consultation with the health  
28 care authority, that implementation of an automatic voter  
29 registration system requires approval from the centers for medicare  
30 and medicaid services, then any implementation is contingent on  
31 receiving that approval.

32 **Sec. 18.** RCW 29A.08.365 and 2018 c 110 s 202 are each amended to  
33 read as follows:

34 (1) The governor shall make a decision, in consultation with the  
35 office of the secretary of state, as to whether each agency  
36 identified in subsection ~~((3))~~ (2) of this section shall implement  
37 automatic voter registration. The final decision is at the governor's  
38 sole discretion.



1           ~~(2) ((a) Each agency identified in subsection (3) of this section~~  
2 ~~shall submit a report to the governor and appropriate legislative~~  
3 ~~committees no later than December 1, 2018, describing:~~

4           ~~(i) Steps needed to implement automatic voter registration under~~  
5 ~~chapter 110, Laws of 2018 by July 1, 2019;~~

6           ~~(ii) Barriers to implementation, including ways to mitigate those~~  
7 ~~barriers; and~~

8           ~~(iii) Applicable federal and state privacy protections for voter~~  
9 ~~registration information.~~

10          ~~(b) In preparing the report required under this subsection, the~~  
11 ~~agency may consult with the secretary of state's office to determine~~  
12 ~~automatic voter registration criteria and procedures.~~

13          ~~(3))~~ This section applies to state agencies, other than the  
14 health benefit exchange, providing public assistance or services to  
15 persons with disabilities, designated pursuant to RCW 29A.08.310(1),  
16 that collect, process, and store the following information as part of  
17 providing assistance or services:

18           (a) Names;

19           (b) Traditional or nontraditional residential addresses;

20           (c) Dates of birth;

21           (d) A signature attesting to the truth of the information  
22 provided on the application for assistance or services; and

23           (e) Verification of citizenship information, via social security  
24 administration data match or manually verified by the agency during  
25 the client transaction.

26          ~~((4))~~ (3) Once an agency has implemented automatic voter  
27 registration, it shall continue to provide automatic voter  
28 registration unless legislation is enacted that directs the agency to  
29 do otherwise.

30          ~~((5))~~ (4) Agencies may not begin verifying citizenship as part  
31 of an agency transaction for the sole purpose of providing automatic  
32 voter registration.

33          **Sec. 19.** RCW 29A.08.370 and 2018 c 110 s 203 are each amended to  
34 read as follows:

35           (1) If a person who is ineligible to vote becomes, in the rare  
36 occasion, registered to vote under RCW 29A.08.355 or 29A.08.362 in  
37 the absence of a knowing violation by that person of RCW 29A.84.140,  
38 that person shall be deemed to have performed an authorized act of

1 registration and such act may not be considered as evidence of a  
2 claim to citizenship.

3 ~~(2) ((Unless a person willfully and knowingly votes or attempts  
4 to vote knowing that he or she is not entitled to vote, a person who  
5 is ineligible to vote and becomes registered to vote under RCW  
6 29A.08.355 or 29A.08.362, and subsequently votes or attempts to vote  
7 in an election held after the effective date of the person's  
8 registration, is not guilty of violating RCW 29A.84.130, and shall be  
9 deemed to have performed an authorized act, and such act may not be  
10 considered as evidence of a claim to citizenship.~~

11 ~~(3))~~ A person who is ineligible to vote, who successfully  
12 completes the voter registration process under RCW 29A.08.355 or  
13 29A.08.362 or votes in an election, must have their voter  
14 registration, or record of vote, removed from the voter registration  
15 database and any other application records.

16 ~~((4))~~ (3) Should an ineligible individual become registered to  
17 vote, the office of the secretary of state and the relevant agency  
18 shall jointly determine the cause. If the cause is found to be  
19 intentional registration of ineligible persons by a person employed  
20 by the state or county government tasked with assisting the public  
21 with voter registration, that government employee is subject to the  
22 penalties of RCW 29A.84.110.

23 **Sec. 20.** RCW 29A.08.615 and 2018 c 109 s 9 are each amended to  
24 read as follows:

25 (1) Registered voters are divided into two categories, "active"  
26 and "inactive." All registered voters are classified as active,  
27 unless assigned to inactive status by the county auditor.

28 (2) Persons signing up to register to vote as future voters as  
29 defined under RCW 29A.04.070 are classified as "pending" until the  
30 person will be at least eighteen years of age by the next election.

31 (3) Persons being served via automatic voter registration under  
32 RCW 29A.08.355 are classified as "pending" until 15 days have passed  
33 from the time of mailing for the automatic voter registration  
34 acknowledgment notice package.

35 **Sec. 21.** RCW 46.20.153 and 2001 c 41 s 15 are each amended to  
36 read as follows:

37 The department shall post signs at each driver licensing facility  
38 advertising the availability of voter registration services, of

1 automatic voter registration services for enhanced license and  
2 enhanced identification card applicants, and advising of the  
3 qualifications to register to vote. The information shall be visible  
4 to a person conducting a licensing transaction at the time of the  
5 transaction, either as a sign, or as a placard handed to the voter  
6 for review. Copies of the information shall be available in the  
7 various languages required of state agencies.

8 **Sec. 22.** RCW 46.20.155 and 2020 c 208 s 8 are each amended to  
9 read as follows:

10 (1) ~~((Before))~~ (a) For transactions other than enhanced  
11 identocard applicants, before issuing an original license or  
12 identocard or renewing a license or identocard under this chapter,  
13 the licensing agent shall determine if the applicant wants to  
14 register to vote or update his or her voter registration by asking  
15 the following question:

16 "Do you want to register or sign up to vote or update your voter  
17 registration?"

18 (b) If the applicant chooses to register, sign up, or update a  
19 registration, the agent shall ask the following:

20 ~~((1))~~ "Are you a United States citizen?"

21 ~~((2) "Are you at least sixteen years old?")~~

22 If the applicant answers in the affirmative to ~~((both))~~ the  
23 question(s), the agent shall then submit the registration, sign up  
24 form, or update. If the applicant answers in the negative to  
25 ~~((either))~~ the question, the agent shall not submit an application.  
26 Information that is otherwise disclosable under chapter 29A.08 RCW  
27 cannot be disclosed on the future voter until the person reaches  
28 eighteen years of age, except for the purpose of processing and  
29 delivering ballots.

30 (2) The department shall establish a procedure that substantially  
31 meets the requirements of subsection (1) of this section when  
32 permitting an applicant to renew a license or identocard by mail or  
33 by electronic commerce.

34 **Sec. 23.** RCW 46.20.156 and 2020 c 208 s 21 are each amended to  
35 read as follows:

1 For persons eighteen years of age or older who meet requirements  
2 for voter registration and persons sixteen or seventeen years of age  
3 who meet requirements to sign up to register to vote, who have been  
4 issued or are renewing an enhanced driver's license or identicard  
5 under RCW 46.20.202 or applying for a change of address for an  
6 existing enhanced driver's license or identicard pursuant to RCW  
7 46.20.205, ~~((and have not declined to register to vote,))~~ the  
8 department shall produce and transmit to the secretary of state the  
9 following information from the records of each individual: The name,  
10 address, date of birth, gender of the applicant if provided, the  
11 driver's license number, signature image, any language preference  
12 information collected, any phone number provided by the voter, any  
13 email address provided by the voter, images of the documents  
14 submitted to prove citizenship if applicable, and the date on which  
15 the application was submitted. The department and the secretary of  
16 state shall process information as an automated application on a  
17 daily basis.

18 **Sec. 24.** RCW 46.20.205 and 2017 c 147 s 8 are each amended to  
19 read as follows:

20 Whenever any person, after applying for or receiving a driver's  
21 license or identicard, moves from the address named in the  
22 application or in the license or identicard issued to him or her, or  
23 changes his or her name of record, the person shall, within ten days  
24 thereafter, notify the department of the name or address change as  
25 provided in RCW 46.08.195. This notification information shall be  
26 transmitted to the secretary of state on a daily basis, including the  
27 person's name, former name, address, former address, date of birth,  
28 signature image, and date of the transaction.

29 **Sec. 25.** RCW 29A.08.625 and 2009 c 369 s 30 are each amended to  
30 read as follows:

31 (1) A voter whose registration has been made inactive under this  
32 chapter and who requests to vote at an ensuing election before two  
33 federal general elections have been held must be allowed to vote a  
34 regular ballot applicable to ~~((the registration))~~ the voter's current  
35 residence address, and the voter's registration record updated and  
36 restored to active status.

37 (2) ((A)) An eligible voter whose registration has been properly  
38 canceled under this chapter shall ~~((vote a provisional ballot. The~~

1 voter shall mark the provisional ballot in secrecy, the ballot placed  
2 in a security envelope, the security envelope placed in a provisional  
3 ballot envelope, and the reasons for the use of the provisional  
4 ballot noted.

5 ~~(3) Upon receipt of such a voted provisional ballot the auditor~~  
6 ~~shall investigate the circumstances surrounding the original~~  
7 ~~cancellation. If he or she determines that the cancellation was in~~  
8 ~~error, the voter's registration must be immediately reinstated, and~~  
9 ~~the voter's provisional ballot must be counted. If the original~~  
10 ~~cancellation was not in error, the voter must be afforded the~~  
11 ~~opportunity to reregister at his or her correct address, and the~~  
12 ~~voter's provisional ballot must not be counted.)~~ be allowed to  
13 register to vote at the voter's current residence address.

14 **Sec. 26.** RCW 29A.08.630 and 2009 c 369 s 31 are each amended to  
15 read as follows:

16 (1) The county auditor shall return an inactive voter to active  
17 voter status if, prior to the passage of two federal general  
18 elections, the voter:

19 ~~((1))~~ (a) Notifies the auditor of a change of address;

20 ~~((2))~~ (b) Responds to a confirmation notice with information  
21 that he or she continues to reside at the registration address; or

22 ~~((3))~~ (c) Votes or attempts to vote in a primary, special  
23 election, or general election.

24 (2) If the inactive voter fails to provide ~~((such))~~ a notice or  
25 take ~~((such))~~ an action ~~((within that period))~~ as described in  
26 subsection (1) of this section, the auditor shall cancel the person's  
27 voter registration.

28 (3) The county auditor must cancel an inactive voter registration  
29 when receiving information indicating that the inactive voter has  
30 moved out of state or died.

31 **Sec. 27.** RCW 29A.08.635 and 2009 c 369 s 32 are each amended to  
32 read as follows:

33 Confirmation notices must be on a form prescribed by, or approved  
34 by, the secretary of state and must request that the voter  
35 ~~((confirm))~~ verify that ~~((he or she))~~ the voter continues to reside  
36 at the address of record and desires to continue to use that address  
37 for voting purposes, or provide a new residence address for voting,  
38 or provide information that the voter no longer resides in the state.

1 The notice must inform the voter that if the voter does not respond  
2 to the notice and does not vote in either of the next two federal  
3 general elections, (~~his or her voter~~) the voter's registration will  
4 be canceled.

5 **Sec. 28.** RCW 29A.08.710 and 2018 c 109 s 10 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (1) The county auditor shall have custody of the original voter  
8 registration records and voter registration sign up records for each  
9 county. The original voter registration form must be filed without  
10 regard to precinct and is considered confidential and unavailable for  
11 public inspection and copying. An automated file of all registered  
12 voters must be maintained pursuant to RCW 29A.08.125. An auditor may  
13 maintain the automated file in lieu of filing or maintaining the  
14 original voter registration forms if the automated file includes all  
15 of the information from the original voter registration forms  
16 including, but not limited to, a retrievable facsimile of each  
17 voter's signature.

18 (2)(a) The following information contained in voter registration  
19 records or files regarding a voter or a group of voters is available  
20 for public inspection and copying, except as provided in RCW  
21 40.24.060 and (b) of this subsection: The voter's name, address,  
22 political jurisdiction, gender, (~~date~~) year of birth, voting  
23 record, date of registration, and registration number. No other  
24 information from voter registration records or files is available for  
25 public inspection or copying.

26 (b) The personally identifiable information of individuals who  
27 are under the age of eighteen are exempt from public inspection and  
28 copying until the subject of the record is eighteen years of age,  
29 except for the purpose of processing and delivering ballots.

30 **Sec. 29.** RCW 29A.08.810 and 2020 c 208 s 6 are each amended to  
31 read as follows:

32 (1) Registration of a person as a voter is presumptive evidence  
33 of his or her right to vote. A challenge to the person's right to  
34 vote must be based on personal knowledge of one of the following:

35 (a) The challenged voter has been convicted of a felony that  
36 includes serving a sentence of total confinement under jurisdiction  
37 of the department of corrections, or a felony conviction in another  
38 state's court or federal court and the (~~voter's civil rights~~) voter

1 is serving that sentence of total confinement and the person's voting  
2 rights have not been restored under RCW 29A.08.520;

3 (b) The challenged voter has been judicially declared ineligible  
4 to vote due to mental incompetency under RCW 29A.08.515;

5 (c) The challenged voter (~~((does not live))~~) resides at a different  
6 address than the residential address provided, and is not subject to  
7 RCW 29A.04.151 or 29A.08.112, in which case the challenger must  
8 either:

9 (i) Provide the challenged voter's actual residence on the  
10 challenge form; or

11 (ii) Submit evidence that he or she exercised due diligence to  
12 verify that the challenged voter does not reside at the address  
13 provided (~~((and to attempt to contact the challenged voter to learn~~  
14 ~~the challenged voter's actual residence, including))~~). Evidence  
15 includes that the challenger personally:

16 (A) Sent a letter with return service requested to the challenged  
17 voter's residential address provided, and to the challenged voter's  
18 mailing address, if provided;

19 (B) (~~(Visited the residential address provided and contacted~~  
20 ~~persons at the address to determine whether the voter resides at the~~  
21 ~~address and, if not, obtained and submitted with the challenge form a~~  
22 ~~signed affidavit subject to the penalties of perjury from a person~~  
23 ~~who owns or manages property, resides, or is employed at the address~~  
24 ~~provided, that to his or her personal knowledge the challenged voter~~  
25 ~~does not reside at the address as provided on the voter registration;~~

26 ~~(C))~~ Searched local telephone directories, including online  
27 directories, to determine whether the voter maintains a telephone  
28 listing at any address in the county;

29 ~~((D))~~ (C) Searched county auditor property records to determine  
30 whether the challenged voter owns any property in the county; (~~and~~

31 ~~(E))~~ (D) Searched the statewide voter registration database to  
32 determine if the voter is registered at any other address in the  
33 state; and

34 (E) Searched the voter registration database of another state to  
35 determine if the voter is registered to vote in any other state;

36 (d) The challenged voter will not be eighteen years of age by the  
37 next general election; or

38 (e) The challenged voter is not a citizen of the United States.

39 (2) A person's right to vote may be challenged by another  
40 registered voter or the county prosecuting attorney.

1 (3) The challenger must file a signed affidavit subject to the  
2 penalties of perjury swearing that, to his or her personal knowledge  
3 and belief, having exercised due diligence to personally verify the  
4 evidence presented, the challenged voter either is not qualified to  
5 vote or does not reside at the address given on his or her voter  
6 registration record based on one of the reasons allowed in subsection  
7 (1) of this section. The challenger must provide the factual basis  
8 for the challenge, including any information required by subsection  
9 (1)(c) of this section, in the signed affidavit. The challenge may  
10 not be based on unsupported allegations or allegations by anonymous  
11 third parties. All documents pertaining to the challenge are public  
12 records.

13 (4) Challenges based on a felony conviction under RCW 29A.08.520  
14 must be heard according to RCW 29A.08.520 and rules adopted by the  
15 secretary of state.

16 **Sec. 30.** RCW 29A.08.820 and 2013 c 11 s 20 are each amended to  
17 read as follows:

18 (1) Challenges must be filed with the county auditor of the  
19 county in which the challenged voter is registered no later than  
20 (~~forty-five~~) 45 days before the election. The county auditor  
21 presides over the hearing.

22 (2) (~~Only if~~) Challenges may be filed after 45 days before the  
23 election, only when the challenged voter registered to vote less than  
24 (~~sixty~~) 60 days before the election, or changed residence less than  
25 (~~sixty~~) 60 days before the election without (~~transferring his or~~  
26 ~~her~~) updating the residence address of the voter's voter  
27 registration(~~, may a~~). A challenge may then be filed not later than  
28 (~~ten~~) 10 days before any primary or election, general or special,  
29 or within (~~ten~~) 10 days of the voter being added to the voter  
30 registration database, whichever is later.

31 (a) If the challenge is filed (~~within forty-five~~) after 45 days  
32 before an election at which the challenged voter is eligible to vote,  
33 a notation of the challenge must be made immediately to the  
34 challenged voter's registration in the voter registration system, and  
35 the county canvassing board shall preside(~~s~~) over the hearing.

36 (b) If the challenge is filed before the challenged voter's  
37 ballot is received, the ballot must be (~~treated~~) processed as a  
38 challenged ballot, and held until the challenge is resolved.



1 (c) If the challenge is filed after the challenged voter's ballot  
2 is received, the challenge cannot affect the current election.  
3 However, the process shall proceed until the challenge is resolved.

4 **Sec. 31.** RCW 29A.08.835 and 2006 c 320 s 1 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (1) The county auditor shall, within seventy-two hours of  
7 receipt, publish on the auditor's internet website the entire content  
8 of any voter challenge filed under chapter 29A.08 RCW. Immediately  
9 after publishing any voter challenge, the county auditor shall notify  
10 any person who requests to receive such notifications on an ongoing  
11 basis.

12 (2) The information on the website may be removed 45 days  
13 following certification of an election. Information related to the  
14 challenge must be maintained by the county auditor for the  
15 appropriate retention period, and is subject to disclosure upon  
16 request.

17 **Sec. 32.** RCW 29A.08.840 and 2006 c 320 s 6 are each amended to  
18 read as follows:

19 (1) If the challenge is not in proper form or the factual basis  
20 for the challenge does not meet the legal grounds for a challenge,  
21 the county auditor may dismiss the challenge and notify the  
22 challenger of the reasons for the dismissal. A challenge is not in  
23 proper form if it is incomplete on its face or does not substantially  
24 comply with the form issued by the secretary of state.

25 (2) If the challenge is in proper form and the factual basis  
26 meets the legal grounds for a challenge, the county auditor must  
27 notify the challenged voter and provide a copy of the affidavit. The  
28 county auditor shall also provide to any person, upon request, a copy  
29 of all materials provided to the challenged voter.

30 (a) If the challenge is to the residential address provided by  
31 the voter, the challenged voter must be provided notice of the  
32 exceptions allowed in RCW 29A.08.112 and 29A.04.151, and Article VI,  
33 section 4 of the state Constitution(~~(. A challenged voter))~~), and may  
34 (~~(transfer))~~) update the residence address on the voter's voter  
35 registration, or reregister until 8:00 p.m. the day ((before)) of the  
36 election.

1       **(b)** The county auditor must schedule a hearing and notify the  
2 challenger and the challenged voter of the time and place for the  
3 hearing.

4       (3) All notice must be by certified mail to the address provided  
5 in the voter registration record, and any other addresses at which  
6 the challenged voter is alleged to reside or the county auditor  
7 reasonably expects the voter to receive notice. The challenger and  
8 challenged voter may either appear in person or submit testimony by  
9 affidavit. Personal appearance may be accomplished using video  
10 telecommunications technology if the auditor or canvassing board  
11 chooses.

12       (4) The challenger has the burden to prove by clear and  
13 convincing evidence that the challenged voter's registration is  
14 improper. The challenged voter must be provided a reasonable  
15 opportunity to respond. If the challenge is to the residential  
16 address provided by the voter, the challenged voter may provide  
17 evidence that he or she resides at the location described in his or  
18 her voter's registration records, or meets one of the exceptions  
19 allowed in RCW 29A.08.112 or 29A.04.151, or Article VI, section 4 of  
20 the state Constitution. If either the challenger or challenged voter  
21 fails to appear at the hearing, the challenge must be resolved based  
22 on the available facts.

23       (5) If the challenge is based on an allegation under RCW  
24 29A.08.810(1) (a), (b), (d), or (e) and the canvassing board sustains  
25 the challenge, the voter registration shall be canceled and any  
26 challenged ballot shall not be counted. If the challenge is based on  
27 an allegation under RCW 29A.08.810(1)(c) and the canvassing board  
28 sustains the challenge, the board shall permit the voter to correct  
29 ~~((his or her))~~ the residence address on the voter registration and  
30 any races and ballot measures on ~~((the))~~ any challenged ballot that  
31 the voter would have been qualified to vote for had the registration  
32 been correct shall be counted.

33       (6) If the challenger fails to prove by clear and convincing  
34 evidence that the registration is improper, the challenge must be  
35 dismissed and ~~((the))~~ any pending challenged ballot must be accepted  
36 as valid. ~~((Challenged))~~ All challenged ballots must be resolved  
37 before certification of the election. The decision of the county  
38 auditor or canvassing board is final subject only to judicial review  
39 by the superior court under chapter 34.05 RCW.

1       **Sec. 33.** RCW 29A.04.611 and 2011 c 10 s 13 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       The secretary of state as chief election officer shall make  
4 reasonable rules in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW not  
5 inconsistent with the federal and state election laws to effectuate  
6 any provision of this title and to facilitate the execution of its  
7 provisions in an orderly, timely, and uniform manner relating to any  
8 federal, state, county, city, town, and district elections. To that  
9 end the secretary shall assist local election officers by devising  
10 uniform forms and procedures.

11       In addition to the rule-making authority granted otherwise by  
12 this section, the secretary of state shall make rules governing the  
13 following provisions:

14       (1) The maintenance of voter registration records;

15       (2) The preparation, maintenance, distribution, review, and  
16 filing of precinct maps;

17       (3) Standards for the design, layout, and production of ballots;

18       (4) The examination and testing of voting systems for  
19 certification;

20       (5) The source and scope of independent evaluations of voting  
21 systems that may be relied upon in certifying voting systems for use  
22 in this state;

23       (6) Standards and procedures for the acceptance testing of voting  
24 systems by counties;

25       (7) Standards and procedures for testing the programming of vote  
26 tallying software for specific primaries and elections;

27       (8) Standards and procedures for the preparation and use of each  
28 type of certified voting system including procedures for the  
29 operation of counting centers where vote tallying systems are used;

30       (9) Standards and procedures to ensure the accurate tabulation  
31 and canvassing of ballots;

32       (10) Consistency among the counties of the state in the  
33 preparation of ballots, the operation of vote tallying systems, and  
34 the canvassing of primaries and elections;

35       (11) Procedures to ensure the secrecy of a voter's ballot when a  
36 small number of ballots are counted;

37       (12) The use of substitute devices or means of voting when a  
38 voting device is found to be defective, the counting of votes cast on  
39 the defective device, the counting of votes cast on the substitute

1 device, and the documentation that must be submitted to the county  
2 auditor regarding such circumstances;

3 (13) Procedures for the transportation of sealed containers of  
4 voted ballots or sealed voting devices;

5 (14) The acceptance and filing of documents via electronic  
6 transmission;

7 (15) Voter registration applications and records;

8 (16) The use of voter registration information in the conduct of  
9 elections;

10 (17) The coordination, delivery, and processing of voter  
11 registration records accepted by driver licensing agents or the  
12 department of licensing;

13 (18) The coordination, delivery, and processing of voter  
14 registration records accepted by agencies designated by the governor  
15 to provide voter registration services;

16 (19) Procedures to receive and distribute voter registration  
17 applications by mail;

18 (20) Procedures for a voter to change his or her voter  
19 registration address within a county by telephone;

20 (21) Procedures for a voter to change the name under which he or  
21 she is registered to vote;

22 (22) Procedures for canceling dual voter registration records and  
23 for maintaining records of persons whose voter registrations have  
24 been canceled;

25 (23) Procedures for the electronic transfer of voter registration  
26 records between county auditors and the office of the secretary of  
27 state;

28 (24) Procedures and forms related to automatic voter  
29 registration;

30 (25) Procedures and forms for declarations of candidacy;

31 (~~(25)~~) (26) Procedures and requirements for the acceptance and  
32 filing of declarations of candidacy by electronic means;

33 (~~(26)~~) (27) Procedures for the circumstance in which two or  
34 more candidates have a name similar in sound or spelling so as to  
35 cause confusion for the voter;

36 (~~(27)~~) (28) Filing for office;

37 (~~(28)~~) (29) The order of positions and offices on a ballot;

38 (~~(29)~~) (30) Sample ballots;

39 (~~(30)~~) (31) Independent evaluations of voting systems(~~(31)~~

- 1       ~~(31) The~~) and the testing, approval, and certification of voting  
2 systems;
- 3       (32) The testing of vote tallying software programming;
- 4       (33) Standards and procedures to prevent fraud and to facilitate  
5 the accurate processing and canvassing of ballots, including  
6 standards for the approval and implementation of hardware and  
7 software for automated signature verification systems;
- 8       (34) Standards and procedures to guarantee the secrecy of  
9 ballots;
- 10       (35) Uniformity among the counties of the state in the conduct of  
11 elections;
- 12       (36) Standards and procedures to accommodate overseas voters and  
13 service voters;
- 14       (37) The tabulation of paper ballots;
- 15       (38) The accessibility of voting centers;
- 16       (39) The aggregation of precinct results if reporting the results  
17 of a single precinct could jeopardize the secrecy of a person's  
18 ballot;
- 19       (40) Procedures for conducting a statutory recount;
- 20       (41) Procedures for filling vacancies in congressional offices if  
21 the general statutory time requirements for availability of ballots,  
22 certification, canvassing, and related procedures cannot be met;
- 23       (42) Procedures for the statistical sampling of signatures for  
24 purposes of verifying and canvassing signatures on initiative,  
25 referendum, and recall election petitions;
- 26       (43) Standards and deadlines for submitting material to the  
27 office of the secretary of state for the voters' pamphlet;
- 28       (44) Deadlines for the filing of ballot titles for referendum  
29 bills and constitutional amendments if none have been provided by the  
30 legislature;
- 31       (45) Procedures for the publication of a state voters' pamphlet;
- 32       (46) Procedures for conducting special elections regarding  
33 nuclear waste sites if the general statutory time requirements for  
34 availability of ballots, certification, canvassing, and related  
35 procedures cannot be met;
- 36       (47) Procedures for conducting partisan primary elections;
- 37       (48) Standards and procedures for the proper conduct of voting on  
38 accessible voting devices;
- 39       (49) Standards for voting technology and systems used by the  
40 state or any political subdivision to be accessible for individuals

1 with disabilities, including nonvisual accessibility for the blind  
2 and visually impaired, in a manner that provides the same opportunity  
3 for access and participation, including privacy and independence, as  
4 other voters;

5 (50) All data formats for transferring voter registration data on  
6 electronic or machine-readable media for the purpose of administering  
7 the statewide voter registration list required by the Help America  
8 Vote Act (P.L. 107-252);

9 (51) Defining the interaction of electronic voter registration  
10 election management systems employed by each county auditor to  
11 maintain a local copy of each county's portion of the official state  
12 list of registered voters;

13 (52) Provisions and procedures to implement the state-based  
14 administrative complaint procedure as required by the Help America  
15 Vote Act (P.L. 107-252);

16 (53) Facilitating the payment of local government grants to local  
17 government election officers or vendors; and

18 (54) Standards for the verification of signatures on ballot  
19 declarations.

20 **Sec. 34.** RCW 29A.84.110 and 2003 c 111 s 2105 are each amended  
21 to read as follows:

22 If any county auditor or registration assistant, including  
23 government agency employees providing voter registration services  
24 under the requirements of state law or the national voter  
25 registration act of 1993:

26 (1) Willfully neglects or refuses to perform any duty required by  
27 law in connection with the registration of voters; or

28 (2) Willfully neglects or refuses to perform such duty in the  
29 manner required by voter registration law; or

30 (3) Enters or causes or permits to be entered on the voter  
31 registration records the name of any person in any other manner or at  
32 any other time than as prescribed by voter registration law or enters  
33 or causes or permits to be entered on such records the name of any  
34 person not entitled to be thereon; or

35 (4) Destroys, mutilates, conceals, changes, or alters any  
36 registration record in connection therewith except as authorized by  
37 voter registration law,

1 ((he or she)) that person is guilty of a gross misdemeanor punishable  
2 to the same extent as a gross misdemeanor that is punishable under  
3 RCW 9A.20.021.

4 **Sec. 35.** RCW 29A.04.058 and 2019 c 391 s 1 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 "Election official" when pertaining to voter registration  
7 includes any staff member of the office of the secretary of state,  
8 staff of state agencies or offices providing voter registration  
9 services, or a staff member of ((the)) a county auditor's office.

10 **Sec. 36.** RCW 29A.08.115 and 2009 c 369 s 11 are each amended to  
11 read as follows:

12 A person or organization collecting voter registration  
13 application forms must transmit the forms to the secretary of state  
14 or a county auditor within five business days. The registration date  
15 on such forms will be the date they are received by the secretary of  
16 state or county auditor. A person or organization collecting voter  
17 registration forms that intentionally does not transmit the forms to  
18 an election office may be subject to penalty under RCW 29A.84.030.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 37.** RCW 29A.08.375 (Automatic registration—  
20 Rule-making authority) and 2018 c 110 s 207 are each repealed.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 38.** Sections 3, 4, 6, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 20,  
22 21, 22, 23, and 24 of this act take effect July 15, 2024.

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