
HOUSE BILL 1584

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Marshall, Dye, Eslick, Couture, Connors, Klicker, Volz, Corry, Keaton, Waters, Graham, Schmick, McEntire, Walsh, and Barnard

Read first time 01/24/25. Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Relations.

1 AN ACT Relating to ending vote by mail for nonabsentee voters and
2 restoring in-person voting at polling places and voting centers;
3 amending RCW 29A.04.008, 29A.04.019, 29A.04.031, 29A.04.223,
4 29A.04.611, 29A.08.140, 29A.08.410, 29A.08.620, 29A.08.810,
5 29A.12.085, 29A.12.120, 29A.12.160, 29A.32.241, 29A.36.220,
6 29A.40.010, 29A.40.020, 29A.40.050, 29A.40.070, 29A.40.091,
7 29A.40.100, 29A.40.110, 29A.40.130, 29A.40.160, 29A.40.170,
8 29A.40.180, 29A.60.050, 29A.60.110, 29A.60.120, 29A.60.165,
9 29A.60.170, 29A.60.190, 29A.60.235, 29A.84.510, 29A.84.520,
10 29A.84.540, 29A.84.545, and 29A.84.550; reenacting and amending RCW
11 29A.40.110; adding a new section to chapter 29A.04 RCW; adding new
12 sections to chapter 29A.16 RCW; adding new sections to chapter 29A.40
13 RCW; adding a new chapter to Title 29A RCW; creating a new section;
14 repealing 2011 c 10 s 85 (uncodified); prescribing penalties;
15 providing an effective date; and providing an expiration date.

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

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that while voting by
18 mail in Washington has increased turnout in elections, this increase
19 in turnout has come at the expense of ballot security. No longer do
20 voters have the privacy of a voting booth or the security of a
21 polling place, but instead they are subject to potential

1 intimidation, electioneering, and fraud while filling out and casting
2 a ballot.

3 The legislature further finds that trust in the electoral system
4 across the United States has declined due to credible allegations of
5 voter fraud, ballot tampering, and foreign interference in elections.
6 As a result, it is important to institute an electoral process that
7 not only secures the vote from fraud, tampering, and interference,
8 but also restores trust that the outcomes are legitimate and that the
9 election was free and fair.

10 Accordingly, the legislature intends to ensure ballot security
11 and restore trust in electoral outcomes by reimplementing in-person
12 voting in Washington, while continuing to provide ballot access to
13 those who most need it by allowing for limited absentee voting.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.04.008 and 2013 c 11 s 1 are each amended to
15 read as follows:

16 As used in this title:

17 (1) "Ballot" means, as the context implies, either:

18 (a) The issues and offices to be voted upon in a jurisdiction or
19 portion of a jurisdiction at a particular primary, general election,
20 or special election;

21 (b) A facsimile of the contents of a particular ballot whether
22 printed on a paper ballot or ballot card or as part of a voting
23 machine or voting device in a polling place;

24 (c) A physical or electronic record of the choices of an
25 individual voter in a particular primary, general election, or
26 special election; or

27 (d) The physical document on which the voter's choices are to be
28 recorded;

29 (2) "Paper ballot" means a piece of paper on which the ballot for
30 a particular election or primary has been printed, on which a voter
31 may record his or her choices for any candidate or for or against any
32 measure, and that is to be tabulated manually;

33 (3) "Ballot card" means any type of card or piece of paper of any
34 size on which a voter may record his or her choices for any candidate
35 and for or against any measure and that is to be tabulated on a vote
36 tallying system;

37 (4) "Sample ballot" means a printed facsimile of all the issues
38 and offices on the ballot in a jurisdiction and is intended to give
39 voters notice of the issues, offices, and candidates that are to be

1 voted on at a particular primary, general election, or special
2 election;

3 (5) "Provisional ballot" means a ballot issued to a voter who
4 would otherwise be denied an opportunity to vote a regular ballot,
5 for any reason authorized by the Help America Vote Act, including but
6 not limited to the following:

7 (a) The voter's name does not appear in the list of registered
8 voters for the county;

9 (b) There is an indication in the voter registration system that
10 the voter has requested an absentee ballot or has already voted in
11 that primary, special election, or general election, but the voter
12 wishes to vote again;

13 (c) There is a question on the part of the voter concerning the
14 issues or candidates on which the voter is qualified to vote;

15 (d) Any other reason allowed by law.

16 **Sec. 3.** RCW 29A.04.019 and 2011 c 10 s 3 are each amended to
17 read as follows:

18 "Counting center" means the facility or facilities designated by
19 the county auditor to count and canvass absentee ballots and polling
20 place and voting center ballots that are transferred to a central
21 site to be counted, rather than being counted by a poll-site ballot
22 counting device.

23 **Sec. 4.** RCW 29A.04.031 and 2011 c 10 s 4 are each amended to
24 read as follows:

25 For registered voters voting an absentee ballot by mail, "date of
26 mailing" means the date of the postal cancellation on the envelope in
27 which the ballot is returned to the election official by whom it was
28 issued. For all service and overseas voters voting an absentee
29 ballot, "date of mailing" means the date stated by the voter on the
30 declaration.

31 **Sec. 5.** RCW 29A.04.223 and 2011 c 10 s 44 are each amended to
32 read as follows:

33 ~~(1) ((The legislature finds that the elimination of polling~~
34 ~~places resulting from the transition to vote by mail creates barriers~~
35 ~~that restrict the ability of many voters with disabilities from~~
36 ~~achieving the independence and privacy in voting provided by the~~
37 ~~accessible voting devices required under the help America vote act.~~

1 ~~Counties must take appropriate steps to mitigate these impacts and to~~
2 ~~address the obligation to provide voters with disabilities an equal~~
3 ~~opportunity to vote independently and privately, to the extent that~~
4 ~~this can be achieved without incurring undue administrative and~~
5 ~~financial burden.~~

6 ~~(2))~~ Each county shall establish and maintain an advisory
7 committee that includes persons with diverse disabilities and persons
8 with expertise in providing accommodations for persons with
9 disabilities. The committee shall assist election officials in
10 developing a plan to identify and implement changes to improve the
11 accessibility of elections for voters with disabilities. The plan
12 shall include recommendations for the following:

13 (a) The number of voting centers or polling places that will be
14 maintained in order to ensure that people with disabilities have
15 reasonable access to accessible voting devices, and a written
16 explanation for how the determination was made;

17 (b) The locations of polling places, absentee ballot drop-off
18 facilities, voting centers, and other election-related functions
19 necessary to maximize accessibility to persons with disabilities;

20 (c) Outreach to voters with disabilities on the availability of
21 disability accommodation, including in-person disability access
22 voting;

23 (d) Transportation of voting devices to locations convenient for
24 voters with disabilities in order to ensure reasonable access for
25 voters with disabilities; and

26 (e) Implementation of the provisions of the help America vote act
27 related to persons with disabilities.

28 Counties must update the plan at least annually. The election
29 review staff of the secretary of state shall review and evaluate the
30 plan in conformance with the review procedure identified in RCW
31 29A.04.570.

32 ~~((3))~~ (2) Counties may form a joint advisory committee to
33 develop the plan identified in subsection ~~((2))~~ (1) of this section
34 if no more than one of the participating counties has a population
35 greater than seventy thousand.

36 **Sec. 6.** RCW 29A.04.611 and 2023 c 466 s 32 are each amended to
37 read as follows:

38 The secretary of state as chief election officer shall make
39 reasonable rules in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW not

1 inconsistent with the federal and state election laws to effectuate
2 any provision of this title and to facilitate the execution of its
3 provisions in an orderly, timely, and uniform manner relating to any
4 federal, state, county, city, town, and district elections. To that
5 end the secretary shall assist local election officers by devising
6 uniform forms and procedures.

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

10 (1) The maintenance of voter registration records;

11 (2) The preparation, maintenance, distribution, review, and
12 filing of precinct maps;

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

14 (4) The examination and testing of voting systems for
15 certification;

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

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

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

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

26 (9) Standards and procedures to ensure the accurate tabulation
27 and canvassing of ballots;

28 (10) Consistency among the counties of the state in the
29 preparation of ballots, the operation of vote tallying systems, and
30 the canvassing of primaries and elections;

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

33 (12) The use of substitute devices or means of voting when a
34 voting device is found to be defective, the counting of votes cast on
35 the defective device, the counting of votes cast on the substitute
36 device, and the documentation that must be submitted to the county
37 auditor regarding such circumstances;

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

- 1 (14) The acceptance and filing of documents via electronic
2 transmission;
- 3 (15) Voter registration applications and records;
- 4 (16) The use of voter registration information in the conduct of
5 elections;
- 6 (17) The coordination, delivery, and processing of voter
7 registration records accepted by driver licensing agents or the
8 department of licensing;
- 9 (18) The coordination, delivery, and processing of voter
10 registration records accepted by agencies designated by the governor
11 to provide voter registration services;
- 12 (19) Procedures to receive and distribute voter registration
13 applications by mail;
- 14 (20) Procedures for a voter to change his or her voter
15 registration address within a county by telephone;
- 16 (21) Procedures for a voter to change the name under which he or
17 she is registered to vote;
- 18 (22) Procedures for canceling dual voter registration records and
19 for maintaining records of persons whose voter registrations have
20 been canceled;
- 21 (23) Procedures for the electronic transfer of voter registration
22 records between county auditors and the office of the secretary of
23 state;
- 24 (24) Procedures and forms related to automatic voter
25 registration;
- 26 (25) Procedures and forms for declarations of candidacy;
- 27 (26) Procedures and requirements for the acceptance and filing of
28 declarations of candidacy by electronic means;
- 29 (27) Procedures for the circumstance in which two or more
30 candidates have a name similar in sound or spelling so as to cause
31 confusion for the voter;
- 32 (28) Filing for office;
- 33 (29) The order of positions and offices on a ballot;
- 34 (30) Sample ballots;
- 35 (31) Independent evaluations of voting systems and the testing,
36 approval, and certification of voting systems;
- 37 (32) The testing of vote tallying software programming;
- 38 (33) Standards and procedures to prevent fraud and to facilitate
39 the accurate processing and canvassing of ballots, including

1 standards for the approval and implementation of hardware and
2 software for automated signature verification systems;

3 (34) Standards and procedures to guarantee the secrecy of
4 ballots;

5 (35) Uniformity among the counties of the state in the conduct of
6 elections;

7 (36) Standards and procedures to accommodate overseas voters and
8 service voters;

9 (37) The tabulation of paper ballots;

10 (38) The accessibility of voting centers and polling places;

11 (39) The aggregation of precinct results if reporting the results
12 of a single precinct could jeopardize the secrecy of a person's
13 ballot;

14 (40) Procedures for conducting a statutory recount;

15 (41) Procedures for filling vacancies in congressional offices if
16 the general statutory time requirements for availability of ballots,
17 certification, canvassing, and related procedures cannot be met;

18 (42) Procedures for the statistical sampling of signatures for
19 purposes of verifying and canvassing signatures on initiative,
20 referendum, and recall election petitions;

21 (43) Standards and deadlines for submitting material to the
22 office of the secretary of state for the voters' pamphlet;

23 (44) Deadlines for the filing of ballot titles for referendum
24 bills and constitutional amendments if none have been provided by the
25 legislature;

26 (45) Procedures for the publication of a state voters' pamphlet;

27 (46) Procedures for conducting special elections regarding
28 nuclear waste sites if the general statutory time requirements for
29 availability of ballots, certification, canvassing, and related
30 procedures cannot be met;

31 (47) Procedures for conducting partisan primary elections;

32 (48) Standards and procedures for the proper conduct of voting on
33 accessible voting devices;

34 (49) Standards for voting technology and systems used by the
35 state or any political subdivision to be accessible for individuals
36 with disabilities, including nonvisual accessibility for the blind
37 and visually impaired, in a manner that provides the same opportunity
38 for access and participation, including privacy and independence, as
39 other voters;

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

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

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

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

14 (54) Standards for the verification of signatures on ballot
15 declarations.

16 **Sec. 7.** RCW 29A.08.140 and 2022 c 69 s 2 are each amended to
17 read as follows:

18 (1) In order to vote in any primary, special election, or general
19 election, a person who is not registered to vote in Washington must:

20 (a) Submit a registration application that is received by an
21 election official no later than eight days before the day of the
22 primary, special election, or general election. For purposes of this
23 subsection (1)(a), "received" means: (i) Being physically received by
24 an election official by the close of business of the required
25 deadline; or (ii) for applications received online or electronically,
26 by midnight, of the required deadline; or

27 (b) Register in person at a county auditor's office, the division
28 of elections if in a separate location from the county auditor's
29 office, a polling place, a voting center, a student engagement hub,
30 or other location designated by the county auditor no later than 8:00
31 p.m. on the day of the primary, special election if the county is
32 conducting an election, or general election.

33 (2)(a) In order to change a residence address for voting in any
34 primary, special election, or general election, a person who is
35 already registered to vote in Washington may update his or her
36 registration by:

37 (i) Submitting an address change using a registration application
38 or making notification via any non-in-person method that is received

1 by election officials no later than eight days before the day of the
2 primary, special election, or general election; or

3 (ii) Appearing in person, at a county auditor's office, the
4 division of elections if in a separate location from the county
5 auditor's office, a polling place, a voting center, or other location
6 designated by the county auditor, no later than 8:00 p.m. on the day
7 of the primary, special election if the county is conducting an
8 election, or general election to be in effect for that primary,
9 special election if the county is conducting an election, or general
10 election.

11 (b) A registered voter who fails to update his or her residential
12 address by this deadline may vote according to his or her previous
13 registration address.

14 (3) To register or update a voting address in person at a county
15 auditor's office, a polling place, a voting center, or other location
16 designated by the county auditor, a person must appear in person at a
17 county auditor's office, a polling place, a voting center, or other
18 location designated by the county auditor at a time when the facility
19 is open and complete the voter registration application by providing
20 the information required by RCW 29A.08.010.

21 **Sec. 8.** RCW 29A.08.410 and 2024 c 56 s 1 are each amended to
22 read as follows:

23 A registered voter who changes residence from one address to
24 another may transfer the voter's registration to the new address in
25 one of the following ways:

26 (1) Sending the county auditor a request stating both the voter's
27 present address and the address from which the voter was last
28 registered received by an election official by the eighth day prior
29 to a primary or election;

30 (2) Appearing in person before a county auditor, or at a polling
31 place, voting center, or other location designated by the county
32 auditor, and making such a request up until 8:00 p.m. on the day of
33 the primary or election;

34 (3) Telephoning or emailing the county auditor to update the
35 voter's registration address by the eighth day prior to a primary or
36 election;

37 (4) Submitting a voter registration application received by an
38 election official by the eighth day prior to a primary or election;

1 (5) Submitting information to the department of licensing and
2 received by an election official by the eighth day prior to a primary
3 or election;

4 (6) Submitting voter registration information through the health
5 benefit exchange and received by an election official by the eighth
6 day prior to a primary or election; or

7 (7) Submitting information to an agency designated under RCW
8 29A.08.365 and received by an election official by the eighth day
9 prior to a primary or election once automatic voter registration is
10 implemented at the agency.

11 **Sec. 9.** RCW 29A.08.620 and 2024 c 56 s 2 are each amended to
12 read as follows:

13 (1) Each county auditor must request change of address
14 information from the postal service for all (~~mail~~) absentee
15 ballots. Each registered voter must be mailed an election-related
16 document, with change of address information requested, at least once
17 every two years and at least 90 days prior to the date of a primary
18 or general election for federal office.

19 (2)(a) If change of address information received by the county
20 auditor from the postal service, the department of licensing, or
21 another agency designated to provide voter registration services
22 indicates that the voter has moved within the county, the county
23 auditor shall update the registration address for the voter's
24 registration and send an acknowledgment notice to the new address
25 informing the voter of the update.

26 (b) If the change of address information indicates the voter has
27 moved out of the county but within the state:

28 (i) The county auditor shall notify the auditor of the voter's
29 new county of residence of the change; and

30 (ii) The county auditor of the voter's new county of residence
31 shall update the registration information of the voter to the new
32 address within the county and send an acknowledgment notice to the
33 new address informing the voter of the update.

34 (c) If the information indicates the voter has moved to a
35 residence outside the state, the county auditor shall place the
36 voter's registration on inactive status and send to all known
37 addresses a confirmation notice. Such information may include any of
38 the following:

1 (i) Any document mailed by the county auditor to a voter is
2 returned by the postal service as undeliverable without address
3 correction information; or

4 (ii) Change of address information received from the postal
5 service, the department of licensing, or another state agency
6 designated to provide voter registration services indicates that the
7 voter has moved out of the state.

8 **Sec. 10.** RCW 29A.08.810 and 2023 c 466 s 28 are each amended to
9 read as follows:

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

13 (a) The challenged voter has been convicted of a felony that
14 includes serving a sentence of total confinement under jurisdiction
15 of the department of corrections, or a felony conviction in another
16 state's court or federal court and the voter is serving that sentence
17 of total confinement and the person's voting rights have not been
18 restored under RCW 29A.08.520;

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

21 (c) The challenged voter resides at a different address than the
22 residential address provided, and is not subject to RCW 29A.04.151 or
23 29A.08.112, in which case the challenger must either:

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

26 (ii) Submit evidence that he or she exercised due diligence to
27 verify that the challenged voter does not reside at the address
28 provided. The challenger must, at minimum, provide evidence that the
29 challenger personally:

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

33 (B) Searched local telephone directories, including online
34 directories, to determine whether the voter maintains a telephone
35 listing at any address in the county;

36 (C) Searched county auditor property records to determine whether
37 the challenged voter owns any property in the county;

1 (D) Searched the statewide voter registration database to
2 determine if the voter is registered at any other address in the
3 state; and

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

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

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

9 (2) A person's right to vote may be challenged by another
10 registered voter or the county prosecuting attorney, or by the poll-
11 site judge or inspector if the challenge is filed on election day
12 regarding a voter who presents himself or herself to vote at the poll
13 site.

14 (3) The challenger must file a signed affidavit subject to the
15 penalties of perjury swearing that, to his or her personal knowledge
16 and belief, having exercised due diligence to personally verify the
17 evidence presented, the challenged voter either is not qualified to
18 vote or does not reside at the address given on his or her voter
19 registration record based on one of the reasons allowed in subsection
20 (1) of this section. The challenger must provide the factual basis
21 for the challenge, including any information required by subsection
22 (1)(c) of this section, in the signed affidavit. The challenge may
23 not be based on unsupported allegations or allegations by anonymous
24 third parties. All documents pertaining to the challenge are public
25 records.

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

29 **Sec. 11.** RCW 29A.12.085 and 2011 c 10 s 22 are each amended to
30 read as follows:

31 Beginning on January 1, 2006, all direct recording electronic
32 voting devices must produce a paper record of each vote that may be
33 accepted or rejected by the voter before finalizing his or her vote.
34 This record may not be removed from the voting center or polling
35 place, and must be human readable without an interface and machine
36 readable for counting purposes. If the device is programmed to
37 display the ballot in multiple languages, the paper record produced
38 must be printed in the language used by the voter. Rejected records
39 must either be destroyed or marked in order to clearly identify the

1 record as rejected. Paper records produced by direct recording
2 electronic voting devices are subject to all the requirements of
3 chapter 29A.60 RCW for ballot handling, preservation, reconciliation,
4 transit, and storage. The paper records must be preserved in the same
5 manner and for the same period of time as ballots.

6 **Sec. 12.** RCW 29A.12.120 and 2013 c 11 s 23 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (1) Before each state primary or general election at which voting
9 systems are to be used, the county auditor shall instruct all
10 counting center and polling place personnel who will operate a voting
11 system in the proper conduct of their voting system duties.

12 (2) The county auditor may waive instructional requirements for
13 counting center and polling place personnel who have previously
14 received instruction and who have served for a sufficient length of
15 time to be fully qualified to perform their duties. The county
16 auditor shall keep a record of each person who has received
17 instruction and is qualified to serve at the subsequent primary or
18 election.

19 (3) No person may operate a voting system in a counting center or
20 polling place at a primary or election unless that person has
21 received the required instruction and is qualified to perform his or
22 her duties in connection with the handling and tallying of ballots
23 for that primary or election.

24 **Sec. 13.** RCW 29A.12.160 and 2011 c 10 s 25 are each amended to
25 read as follows:

26 (1) At each voting center and polling place, at least one voting
27 unit certified by the secretary of state shall provide access to
28 individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

29 (2) For purposes of this section, the following definitions
30 apply:

31 (a) "Accessible" includes receiving, using, selecting, and
32 manipulating voter data and controls.

33 (b) "Nonvisual" includes synthesized speech, Braille, and other
34 output methods.

35 (c) "Blind and visually impaired" excludes persons who are both
36 deaf and blind.

1 **Sec. 14.** RCW 29A.32.241 and 2024 c 78 s 9 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

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

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

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

10 (c) Information on how a person may register to vote and obtain
11 ((a)) an absentee ballot;

12 (d) Candidate statements and photographs;

13 (e) The text of each measure accompanied by an explanatory
14 statement prepared by the prosecuting attorney for any county measure
15 or by the attorney for the jurisdiction submitting the measure if
16 other than a county measure. All explanatory statements for city,
17 town, or district measures not approved by the attorney for the
18 jurisdiction submitting the measure shall be reviewed and approved by
19 the county prosecuting attorney or city attorney, when applicable,
20 before inclusion in the pamphlet;

21 (f) The arguments for and against each measure submitted by
22 committees selected pursuant to RCW 29A.32.280; and

23 (g) A list of all student engagement hubs in the county as
24 designated under RCW 29A.40.180.

25 (2) The county auditor's name may not appear in the local voters'
26 pamphlet in an official capacity if the county auditor is a candidate
27 for office during the same year. The auditor's name may only be
28 included as part of the information normally included for candidates.

29 **Sec. 15.** RCW 29A.36.220 and 2011 c 10 s 34 are each amended to
30 read as follows:

31 The cost of printing regular ballots, security sheets, and
32 instructions, as well as the cost of printing and mailing absentee
33 ballots, envelopes, and instructions shall be an election cost that
34 shall be borne as determined under RCW 29A.04.410 and 29A.04.420, as
35 appropriate.

36 **Sec. 16.** RCW 29A.40.010 and 2013 c 11 s 47 are each amended to
37 read as follows:

1 (~~Each active registered voter of the state, overseas voter, and~~
2 ~~service voter shall automatically be issued a mail ballot for each~~
3 ~~general election, special election, or primary. Overseas voters and~~
4 ~~service voters are authorized to cast the same ballots, including~~
5 ~~those for special elections, as a registered voter of the state would~~
6 ~~receive under this chapter. Each active registered voter shall~~
7 ~~continue to receive a ballot by mail until the death or~~
8 ~~disqualification of the voter, cancellation of the voter's~~
9 ~~registration, or placing the voter on inactive status.)) (1) An~~

10 active registered voter and overseas voters and service voters are
11 eligible to submit an absentee ballot request to the voter's county
12 auditor if the voter:

13 (a) Is or will be at least 65 years old on the date of the
14 elections;

15 (b) Has a disability or illness that prevents the voter from
16 voting in person;

17 (c) Is military personnel or a dependent of military personnel;

18 (d) Is a student who temporarily resides outside the county;

19 (e) Temporarily resides outside the state but maintains
20 eligibility to vote in the state;

21 (f) Is incarcerated but has not had their voting rights revoked,
22 or has had their voting rights automatically restored under RCW
23 29A.08.520;

24 (g) Is employed outside of the county during all hours the
25 polling place is open; or

26 (h) Participates in the address confidentiality program under
27 chapter 40.24 RCW.

28 (2) The county auditor must approve a request for an absentee
29 ballot if the voter meets any of the criteria in subsection (1) of
30 this section. The auditor may not approve requests for an absentee
31 ballot in any other circumstances.

32 **Sec. 17.** RCW 29A.40.020 and 2011 c 10 s 36 are each amended to
33 read as follows:

34 (1) A voter's absentee ballot request must be sent to the voter's
35 county auditor no earlier than 90 days nor later than the day before
36 the election or primary at which the person seeks to vote. Except as
37 otherwise provided by law, the request may be made orally in person,
38 by telephone, electronically, or in writing. An application or
39 request for an absentee ballot made under the authority of a federal

1 statute or regulation will be considered and given the same effect as
2 a request for an absentee ballot under this chapter.

3 (2) A voter requesting an absentee ballot for a primary may also
4 request an absentee ballot for the following general election. A
5 request by an overseas voter or service voter for an absentee ballot
6 for a primary election will also be considered as a request for an
7 absentee ballot for the following general election.

8 (3) In requesting an absentee ballot, the voter must state the
9 address to which the absentee ballot should be sent. A request for
10 ((a)) an absentee ballot from an overseas voter or service voter must
11 include the address of the last residence in the state of Washington.

12 ((+2)) (4) No person, organization, or association may
13 distribute any absentee ballot materials that contain a return
14 address other than that of the appropriate county auditor.

15 **Sec. 18.** RCW 29A.40.050 and 2011 c 10 s 37 are each amended to
16 read as follows:

17 (1) County auditors shall provide special absentee ballots to be
18 used for state primary or state general elections. An auditor shall
19 provide a special absentee ballot only to a registered voter who
20 completes an application stating that she or he will be unable to
21 vote and return a regular absentee ballot by normal mail delivery
22 within the period provided for regular absentee ballots.

23 A special absentee ballot may not be requested more than ninety
24 days before the applicable state primary or general election. The
25 special absentee ballot will list the offices and measures, if known,
26 scheduled to appear on the state primary or general election ballot.
27 The voter may use the special absentee ballot to write in the name of
28 any eligible candidate for each office and vote on any measure.

29 (2) The county auditor shall include a listing of any candidates
30 who have filed before the time of the application for offices that
31 will appear on the ballot at that primary or election and a list of
32 any issues that have been referred to the ballot before the time of
33 the application.

34 (3) Write-in votes on special absentee ballots must be counted in
35 the same manner provided by law for the counting of other write-in
36 votes. The county auditor shall process and canvass the special
37 absentee ballots provided under this section in the same manner as
38 other ballots under this chapter and chapter 29A.60 RCW.

1 (4) A voter who requests a special absentee ballot under this
2 section may also request a regular absentee ballot. If the regular
3 absentee ballot is properly voted and returned, the special absentee
4 ballot is void, and the county auditor shall reject it in whole when
5 special absentee ballots are canvassed.

6 **Sec. 19.** RCW 29A.40.070 and 2013 c 11 s 48 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (1) Except where a recount or litigation is pending, the county
9 auditor must mail absentee ballots to each voter for whom an absentee
10 ballot request has been approved at least eighteen days before each
11 primary or election, and as soon as possible for all subsequent
12 absentee ballot requests and registration changes.

13 (2) Except where a recount or litigation is pending, the county
14 auditor must mail absentee ballots to each service and overseas voter
15 for whom an absentee ballot request has been approved at least thirty
16 days before each special election, and at least forty-five days
17 before each primary or general election, or any special election that
18 involves federal office. A request for ((a)) an absentee ballot made
19 by an overseas or service voter after that day must be processed
20 immediately.

21 (3) A registered voter may obtain a replacement absentee ballot
22 if the ballot is destroyed, spoiled, lost, or not received by the
23 voter. The voter may obtain the replacement absentee ballot by
24 telephone request, by mail, electronically, or in person. The county
25 auditor shall keep a record of each request for a replacement
26 absentee ballot.

27 (4) ((Each)) Within 24 hours of mailing the absentee ballots, the
28 county auditor shall certify to the office of the secretary of state
29 the dates the ballots were mailed((, — or)). If the absentee ballots
30 are not mailed within timelines specified under subsections (1) and
31 (2) of this section, the auditor must notify the secretary within 24
32 hours of the reason for the delay and the date the ballots will be
33 mailed ((if the ballots were not mailed timely)). If the county
34 auditor has not provided such information to the secretary by the
35 Monday 15 days before the election, the secretary must contact the
36 county auditor to inquire about the reason for the delay and the date
37 that the auditor expects the absentee ballots will be sent.

38 (5) Failure to mail absentee ballots as prescribed in this
39 section does not by itself provide a basis for an election contest or

1 other legal challenge to the results of a primary, general election,
2 or special election.

3 **Sec. 20.** RCW 29A.40.091 and 2024 c 269 s 7 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

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

15 (2) The voter must swear under penalty of perjury that he or she
16 meets the qualifications to vote, and has not voted in any other
17 jurisdiction at this election. The declaration must clearly inform
18 the voter that it is illegal to vote if he or she is not a United
19 States citizen; it is illegal to vote if he or she is serving a
20 sentence of total confinement under the jurisdiction of the
21 department of corrections for a felony conviction or is currently
22 incarcerated for a federal or out-of-state felony conviction; it is
23 illegal to cast a ballot or sign a ballot declaration on behalf of
24 another voter; and that the signature on the declaration will be
25 compared to the signature in the voter's registration file. The
26 absentee ballot materials must provide space for the voter to sign
27 the declaration, indicate the date on which the ballot was voted, and
28 include a telephone number.

29 (3) For overseas and service voters, the signed declaration
30 constitutes the equivalent of a voter registration. Return envelopes
31 for overseas and service voters must enable the absentee ballot to be
32 returned postage free if mailed through the United States postal
33 service, United States armed forces postal service, or the postal
34 service of a United States foreign embassy under 39 U.S.C. 3406.

35 (4) The voter must be instructed to either return the absentee
36 ballot to the county auditor no later than 8:00 p.m. the day of the
37 election or primary, or mail the absentee ballot to the county
38 auditor with a postmark no later than the day of the election or
39 primary. Return envelopes for all election ballots must include

1 prepaid postage. Service and overseas voters must be provided with
2 instructions and a privacy sheet for returning the ballot and signed
3 declaration by fax or email. A voted ballot and signed declaration
4 returned by fax or email must be received by 8:00 p.m. on the day of
5 the election or primary.

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

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

12 **Sec. 21.** RCW 29A.40.100 and 2024 c 28 s 3 are each amended to
13 read as follows:

14 County auditors must request that observers be appointed by the
15 major political parties to be present during the processing of
16 ballots at ~~((the))~~ polling places and counting centers. County
17 auditors have discretion to also request that observers be appointed
18 by any campaigns or organizations. The absence of the observers will
19 not prevent the processing of ballots if the county auditor has
20 requested their presence. Observers may not touch any ballots, ballot
21 materials, or election systems. Unauthorized physical contact, or
22 access to ballots or election systems ~~((+,+))~~ is a crime subject to
23 punishment under chapter 29A.84 RCW.

24 **Sec. 22.** RCW 29A.40.110 and 2024 c 269 s 8 and 2024 c 138 s 2
25 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

26 (1) The opening and subsequent processing of return envelopes for
27 any primary or election may begin upon receipt. The tabulation of
28 absentee ballots must not commence until after 8:00 p.m. on the day
29 of the primary or election.

30 (2) All received return envelopes must be placed in secure
31 locations from the time of delivery to the county auditor until their
32 subsequent opening. After opening the return envelopes, the county
33 canvassing board shall place all of the absentee ballots in secure
34 storage until processing. Ballots may be taken from the inner
35 envelopes and all the normal procedural steps may be performed to
36 prepare these ballots for tabulation.

37 (3) The canvassing board, or its designated representatives,
38 shall examine the postmark on the return envelope and signature on

1 the declaration before processing the absentee ballot. The ballot
2 must either be received no later than 8:00 p.m. on the day of the
3 primary or election, or must be postmarked no later than the day of
4 the primary or election. All personnel assigned to verify signatures
5 must receive training on statewide standards for signature
6 verification. The county auditor shall publish on its website the
7 names of all canvassing board members who received training on
8 statewide standards for signature verification and the dates on which
9 the training was completed. Personnel shall verify that the voter's
10 signature on the ballot declaration is the same as the signature of
11 that voter in the registration files of the county. Verification may
12 be conducted by an automated verification system approved by the
13 secretary of state. A variation between the signature of the voter on
14 the ballot declaration and the signature of that voter in the
15 registration files due to the substitution of initials or the use of
16 common nicknames is permitted so long as the surname and handwriting
17 are clearly the same. A county that is participating in the
18 alternative verification options pilot project under RCW 29A.40.111
19 may also verify a voter's ballot using an alternative verification
20 method approved by the office of the secretary of state.

21 (4) If the postmark is (~~missing or~~) illegible, the date on the
22 absentee ballot declaration to which the voter has attested
23 determines the validity, as to the time of voting, for that ballot.

24 (5) If the postmark is missing on a ballot that is received by
25 the county auditor after election day, the ballot may be counted only
26 if the voter signs a declaration attesting, under penalty of perjury,
27 that the ballot was mailed on or before election day. The county
28 auditor must notify every such voter by first-class mail. If the
29 voter has not responded at least three business days before the final
30 meeting of the canvassing board, then the auditor must attempt to
31 notify the voter by telephone, using the voter registration record
32 information.

33 (6) For overseas voters and service voters, the date on the
34 declaration to which the voter has attested determines the validity,
35 as to the time of voting, for that ballot. Any overseas voter or
36 service voter may return the signed declaration and voted ballot by
37 fax or email by 8:00 p.m. on the day of the primary or election, and
38 the county auditor must use established procedures to maintain the
39 secrecy of the ballot.

1 **Sec. 23.** RCW 29A.40.110 and 2024 c 269 s 8 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (1) The opening and subsequent processing of return envelopes for
4 any primary or election may begin upon receipt. The tabulation of
5 absentee ballots must not commence until after 8:00 p.m. on the day
6 of the primary or election.

7 (2) All received return envelopes must be placed in secure
8 locations from the time of delivery to the county auditor until their
9 subsequent opening. After opening the return envelopes, the county
10 canvassing board shall place all of the absentee ballots in secure
11 storage until processing. Ballots may be taken from the inner
12 envelopes and all the normal procedural steps may be performed to
13 prepare these ballots for tabulation.

14 (3) The canvassing board, or its designated representatives,
15 shall examine the postmark on the return envelope and signature on
16 the declaration before processing the absentee ballot. The ballot
17 must either be received no later than 8:00 p.m. on the day of the
18 primary or election, or must be postmarked no later than the day of
19 the primary or election. All personnel assigned to verify signatures
20 must receive training on statewide standards for signature
21 verification. The county auditor shall publish on its website the
22 names of all canvassing board members who received training on
23 statewide standards for signature verification and the dates on which
24 the training was completed. Personnel shall verify that the voter's
25 signature on the ballot declaration is the same as the signature of
26 that voter in the registration files of the county. Verification may
27 be conducted by an automated verification system approved by the
28 secretary of state. A variation between the signature of the voter on
29 the ballot declaration and the signature of that voter in the
30 registration files due to the substitution of initials or the use of
31 common nicknames is permitted so long as the surname and handwriting
32 are clearly the same.

33 (4) If the postmark is (~~missing or~~) illegible, the date on the
34 absentee ballot declaration to which the voter has attested
35 determines the validity, as to the time of voting, for that ballot.

36 (5) If the postmark is missing on a ballot that is received by
37 the county auditor after election day, the ballot may be counted only
38 if the voter signs a declaration attesting, under penalty of perjury,
39 that the ballot was mailed on or before election day. The county
40 auditor must notify every such voter by first-class mail. If the

1 voter has not responded at least three business days before the final
2 meeting of the canvassing board, then the auditor must attempt to
3 notify the voter by telephone, using the voter registration record
4 information.

5 (6) For overseas voters and service voters, the date on the
6 declaration to which the voter has attested determines the validity,
7 as to the time of voting, for that ballot. Any overseas voter or
8 service voter may return the signed declaration and voted ballot by
9 fax or email by 8:00 p.m. on the day of the primary or election, and
10 the county auditor must use established procedures to maintain the
11 secrecy of the ballot.

12 **Sec. 24.** RCW 29A.40.130 and 2011 c 10 s 42 are each amended to
13 read as follows:

14 Each county auditor shall maintain in his or her office, open for
15 public inspection, a record of all voters who have voted in person
16 and all voters who have been issued ((a)) an absentee ballot and all
17 voters who returned ((a)) an absentee ballot. For each primary,
18 special election, or general election, any political party,
19 committee, or person may request a list of all registered voters who
20 have or have not voted. Such requests shall be handled as public
21 records requests pursuant to chapter 42.56 RCW.

22 **Sec. 25.** RCW 29A.40.160 and 2024 c 28 s 4 are each amended to
23 read as follows:

24 (1) Each county auditor (~~shall~~) may open a voting center each
25 primary, special election if the county is conducting an election,
26 and general election. The voting center shall be open during business
27 hours during the voting period(~~(, which)~~). The voting period for
28 voters voting an absentee ballot begins eighteen days before((,)) and
29 ends at 8:00 p.m. on the day of((,)) the primary, special election if
30 the county is conducting an election, or general election. For
31 service and overseas voters voting an absentee ballot, the voting
32 period begins 30 days before each special election and 45 days before
33 each primary and general election and ends at 8:00 p.m. the day of
34 the primary. The voting period for all other voters begins five days
35 before and ends at 8:00 p.m. on the day of the primary, special
36 election if applicable, or general election. The voting center may
37 serve as a location, in addition to polling places, where voters can
38 cast a ballot in person.

1 (2) Each county auditor shall open a voting center at each of the
2 following locations in the county:

3 (a) At the county auditor's office or at the division of
4 elections that is in a separate location from the county auditor's
5 office; and

6 (b) For each presidential general election, in each city in the
7 county with a population of one hundred thousand or greater which
8 does not have a voting center as required in (a) of this subsection.
9 A voting center opened pursuant to this subsection (2) is not
10 required to be open on the Sunday before the presidential election.

11 (3) Voting centers shall be located in public buildings or
12 buildings that are leased by a public entity including, but not
13 limited to, libraries.

14 (4) Each voting center, and at least one of the other locations
15 designated by the county auditor to allow voters to register in
16 person pursuant to RCW 29A.08.140(1)(b), must provide voter
17 registration materials, ballots, provisional ballots, information
18 about polling places in the county, information about requesting an
19 absentee ballot, disability access voting units, sample ballots,
20 instructions on how to properly vote the ballot, ((a)) an absentee
21 ballot drop box, and voters' pamphlets, if a voters' pamphlet has
22 been published.

23 (5) Each voting center must be accessible to persons with
24 disabilities. Each state agency and entity of local government shall
25 permit the use of any of its accessible facilities as voting centers
26 when requested by a county auditor.

27 (6) Each voting center must provide at least one voting unit
28 certified by the secretary of state that provides access to
29 individuals who are blind or visually impaired, enabling them to vote
30 with privacy and independence.

31 (7) No person may interfere with a voter attempting to vote in a
32 voting center. Interfering with a voter attempting to vote is a
33 violation of RCW 29A.84.510. The county auditor shall designate by
34 administrative rule a specific point or points as the entrance to
35 each voting center, taking into account the unique attributes of the
36 voting center, to assure that voters have the ability to arrive and
37 depart unimpeded.

38 (8) No person may interfere with the operation of a voting
39 center. Interfering with the operation of a voting center is a
40 violation of RCW 29A.84.510. This prohibition includes unauthorized

1 access or handling of ballots, and unauthorized access to any voting
2 equipment or election systems. Unauthorized access includes elected
3 officials and county staff accessing systems in any manner not
4 required by their job function.

5 (9) Before opening the voting center, the voting equipment shall
6 be inspected to determine if it has been properly prepared for
7 voting. If the voting equipment is capable of direct tabulation of
8 each voter's choices, the county auditor shall verify that no votes
9 have been registered for any issue or office, and that the device has
10 been sealed with a unique numbered seal at the time of final
11 preparation and logic and accuracy testing. A log must be made of all
12 device numbers and seal numbers.

13 (10) The county auditor shall require any person desiring to vote
14 at a voting center to either sign a ballot declaration or provide
15 identification.

16 (a) The signature on the declaration must be compared to the
17 signature on the voter registration record before the ballot may be
18 counted. If the voter registered using a mark, or can no longer sign
19 the voter's name, the election officers shall require the voter to be
20 identified by another registered voter.

21 (b) The identification must be valid photo identification, such
22 as a driver's license, state identification card, student
23 identification card, tribal identification card, or employer
24 identification card. A tribal identification card is not required to
25 include a residential address or an expiration date to be considered
26 valid under this section. Any individual who desires to vote in
27 person but cannot provide identification shall be issued a
28 provisional ballot, which shall be accepted if the signature on the
29 declaration matches the signature on the voter's registration record.

30 (11) Provisional ballots must be accompanied by a declaration and
31 security envelope, as required by RCW 29A.40.091, and space for the
32 voter's name, date of birth, current and former registered address,
33 reason for the provisional ballot, and disposition of the provisional
34 ballot. The voter shall vote and return the provisional ballot at the
35 voting center. The voter must be provided information on how to
36 ascertain whether the provisional ballot was counted and, if
37 applicable, the reason why the vote was not counted.

38 (12) Any voter may take printed or written material into the
39 voting (~~device~~) booth to assist in casting votes. The voter shall

1 not use this material to electioneer and shall remove it when leaving
2 the voting center.

3 (13) If any voter states that the voter is unable to cast a vote
4 due to a disability, the voter may designate a person of the voter's
5 choice, or two election officers, to enter the voting booth and
6 record the votes as the voter directs.

7 (14) No voter is entitled to vote more than once at a primary,
8 special election, or general election. If a voter incorrectly marks a
9 ballot, the voter may be issued a replacement ballot.

10 (15) A voter who has already returned a ballot but requests to
11 vote at a voting center shall be issued a provisional ballot. The
12 canvassing board shall not count the provisional ballot if it finds
13 that the voter has also voted a regular ballot in that primary,
14 special election, or general election.

15 (16) Any voter who is inside or in line at the voting center at
16 8:00 p.m. on the day of the primary, special election, or general
17 election must be allowed to vote.

18 (17) For each primary, special election, and general election,
19 the county auditor may provide election services at locations in
20 addition to the voting center. The county auditor has discretion to
21 establish which services will be provided at the additional
22 locations, and which days and hours the locations will be open.
23 Voting a ballot may only take place in person at a voting center or
24 polling place.

25 **Sec. 26.** RCW 29A.40.170 and 2019 c 6 s 5 are each amended to
26 read as follows:

27 (~~(1)~~) The county auditor may establish drop boxes to collect
28 absentee ballots. The county auditor must prevent overflow of each
29 ballot drop box to allow a voter to deposit his or her absentee
30 ballot securely. Ballots must be removed from a ballot drop box by at
31 least two people, with a record kept of the date and time ballots
32 were removed, and the names of people removing them. Ballots from
33 drop boxes must be returned to the counting center in secured
34 transport containers. A copy of the record must be placed in the
35 container, and one copy must be transported with the ballots to the
36 counting center, where the seal number must be verified by the county
37 auditor or a designated representative. All ballot drop boxes must be
38 secured at 8:00 p.m. on the day of the primary, special election, or
39 general election.

1 ~~((2) The county auditor must establish a minimum of one ballot~~
2 ~~drop box per fifteen thousand registered voters in the county and a~~
3 ~~minimum of one ballot drop box in each city, town, and census-~~
4 ~~designated place in the county with a post office.~~

5 ~~(3) At the request of a federally recognized Indian tribe with a~~
6 ~~reservation in the county, the county auditor must establish at least~~
7 ~~one ballot drop box on the Indian reservation on a site selected by~~
8 ~~the tribe that is accessible to the county auditor by a public road.~~

9 ~~(4) A federally recognized Indian tribe may designate at least~~
10 ~~one building as a ballot pickup and collection location at no cost to~~
11 ~~the tribe. The designated building must be accessible to the county~~
12 ~~auditor by a public road. The county auditor of the county in which~~
13 ~~the building is located must collect ballots from that location in~~
14 ~~compliance with the procedures in subsection (1) of this section.)~~

15 **Sec. 27.** RCW 29A.40.180 and 2020 c 208 s 10 are each amended to
16 read as follows:

17 (1) Each state university, regional university, and The Evergreen
18 State College as defined in RCW 28B.10.016 and each higher education
19 campus as defined in RCW 28B.45.012 shall open a nonpartisan student
20 engagement hub on its campus. The student engagement hub may be open
21 during business hours beginning eight days before, and ending at 8:00
22 p.m. on the day of, the general election. ~~((All student engagement~~
23 ~~hubs must allow students to download their exact ballot from an~~
24 ~~online portal.))~~ Upon request of the student government organization
25 to the administration and the county auditor, the student engagement
26 hub at a state university, regional university, or The Evergreen
27 State College as defined in RCW 28B.10.016 must allow voters to
28 register in person pursuant to RCW 29A.08.140(1)(b) and provide voter
29 registration materials ~~((and ballots))~~.

30 (2) Each institution shall contract with the county auditor for
31 the operation of a student engagement hub under this section.

32 (3) Student engagement hubs are not voting centers as outlined in
33 RCW 29A.40.160 or polling places and must be operated in a manner
34 that avoids partisan influence or electioneering.

35 **Sec. 28.** RCW 29A.60.050 and 2011 c 10 s 48 are each amended to
36 read as follows:

37 Whenever the polling place or counting center personnel have a
38 question about the validity of a ballot or the votes for an office or

1 issue that they are unable to resolve, they shall prepare and sign a
2 concise record of the facts in question or dispute. These ballots
3 shall be delivered to the canvassing board for processing. A ballot
4 is not considered rejected until the canvassing board has rejected
5 the ballot individually, or the ballot was included in a batch or on
6 a report of ballots that was rejected in its entirety by the
7 canvassing board. All ballots shall be preserved in the same manner
8 as valid ballots for that primary or election.

9 **Sec. 29.** RCW 29A.60.110 and 2018 c 218 s 4 are each amended to
10 read as follows:

11 (1) Immediately after their tabulation, all ballots counted at a
12 ballot counting center must be sealed in containers that identify the
13 primary or election and be retained for at least sixty days or
14 according to federal law, whichever is longer. All ballots tallied by
15 poll-site ballot counting devices must be returned to the elections
16 department in sealed ballot containers on election day. Counties
17 composed entirely of islands or portions of counties composed of
18 islands shall collect the ballots within 24 hours of the close of the
19 polls. Ballots tabulated in poll-site ballot counting devices must be
20 sealed by two of the election precinct officers at the polling place,
21 and a log of the seal and the names of the people sealing the
22 container must be completed. One copy of this log must be retained by
23 the inspector, one copy must be placed in the ballot transfer case,
24 and one copy must be transported with the ballots to the elections
25 department, where the seal number must be verified by the county
26 auditor or a designated representative. Auditors using poll-site
27 ballot counting devices may conduct early pickup of counted ballots
28 on election day.

29 (2) In the presence of major party observers who are available,
30 ballots may be removed from the sealed containers at the elections
31 department and consolidated into one sealed container for storage
32 purposes. The containers may only be opened by the canvassing board
33 as part of the canvass, to conduct recounts, to conduct a random
34 check under RCW 29A.60.170, to conduct an audit under RCW 29A.60.185,
35 or by order of the superior court in a contest or election dispute.
36 If the canvassing board opens a ballot container, it shall make a
37 full record of the additional tabulation or examination made of the
38 ballots. This record must be added to any other record of the
39 canvassing process in that county.

1 **Sec. 30.** RCW 29A.60.120 and 2011 c 10 s 51 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (1) All voted ballots must be manually inspected for damage,
4 write-in votes, and incorrect or incomplete marks. If it is found
5 that any ballot is damaged so that it cannot properly be counted by
6 the vote tallying system, a true duplicate copy must be made of the
7 damaged ballot in the presence of witnesses and substituted for the
8 damaged ballot. All damaged ballots must be kept by the county
9 auditor until sixty days after the primary or election or according
10 to federal law, whichever is longer.

11 (2) The returns produced by the vote tallying system, to which
12 have been added the counts of questioned ballots that have been
13 accepted, (~~and~~) write-in votes, and absentee ballots, constitute
14 the official returns of the primary or election in that county.

15 **Sec. 31.** RCW 29A.60.165 and 2024 c 269 s 1 are each amended to
16 read as follows:

17 (1) If the voter neglects to sign the absentee ballot
18 declaration, the auditor shall notify the voter by first-class mail
19 and, if the auditor has a telephone number or email address on file
20 for a voter, by telephone, text message, or email, and advise the
21 voter both that their ballot is unsigned and of the correct
22 procedures for completing the unsigned declaration. If the ballot is
23 received (~~within~~) at least five business days (~~of~~) before the
24 final meeting of the canvassing board, or the voter has been notified
25 by first-class mail and has not responded at least five business days
26 before the final meeting of the canvassing board, then the auditor
27 shall attempt to notify the voter by telephone, using the voter
28 registration record information.

29 (2)(a) If the handwriting of the signature on (~~a~~) an absentee
30 ballot declaration is not the same as the handwriting of the
31 signature on the registration file, the auditor shall notify the
32 voter by first-class mail, and, if the auditor has a telephone number
33 or email address on file for a voter, by telephone, text message, or
34 email, enclosing a copy of the declaration if notified by first-class
35 mail or email, and advise the voter both that the signature on the
36 ballot declaration does not match the signature on file and of the
37 correct procedures for updating his or her signature on the voter
38 registration file. If the ballot is received (~~within~~) at least five
39 business days (~~of~~) before the final meeting of the canvassing

1 board, or the voter has been notified by first-class mail and has not
2 responded at least five business days before the final meeting of the
3 canvassing board, then the auditor shall attempt to notify the voter
4 by telephone, text message, or email, using the voter registration
5 record information.

6 (b) If the signature on ((a)) an absentee ballot declaration is
7 not the same as the signature on the registration file because the
8 voter's name has changed, the ballot may be counted as long as the
9 handwriting is clearly the same. The auditor shall send the voter a
10 change-of-name form under RCW 29A.08.440 and direct the voter to
11 complete the form.

12 (c) If the signature on ((a)) an absentee ballot declaration is
13 not the same as the signature on the registration file because the
14 voter used initials or a common nickname, the ballot may be counted
15 as long as the surname and handwriting are clearly the same.

16 (3) If the auditor calls a voter who neglected to sign the
17 absentee ballot declaration or whose signature on the absentee ballot
18 declaration does not match the signature in the registration file and
19 the voter does not answer, but voice mail is available, the auditor
20 shall leave a voice mail message.

21 (4) An auditor who provides electronic means for submission of
22 ((a)) an absentee ballot declaration signature shall establish
23 appropriate privacy and security protocols that ensure that the
24 information transmitted is received directly and securely by the
25 auditor and is only used for the stated purposes of verifying the
26 signature on the voter's ballot.

27 (5) If a voter's absentee ballot is rejected in two consecutive
28 primary or general elections due to a mismatched signature, the
29 auditor must contact the voter by telephone, text message, or email,
30 if the auditor has a telephone number or email address on file for
31 the voter, and request that the voter update their signature for the
32 voter's registration file.

33 (6) A voter may not cure a missing or mismatched signature for
34 purposes of counting the absentee ballot in a recount.

35 (7) A record must be kept of all absentee ballots with missing
36 and mismatched signatures. The record must contain the date on which
37 the voter was contacted or the notice was mailed, as well as the date
38 on which the voter submitted updated information. The record must be
39 updated each day that ballots are processed under RCW 29A.60.160,
40 each time a voter was contacted or the notice was mailed, and when

1 the voter submitted updated information. The auditor shall send the
2 record, and any updated records, to the secretary of state no later
3 than forty-eight hours after the record is created or updated. The
4 secretary of state shall make all records publicly available no later
5 than twenty-four hours after receiving the record.

6 **Sec. 32.** RCW 29A.60.170 and 2018 c 218 s 3 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (1) At least twenty-eight days prior to any special election,
9 general election, or primary, the county auditor shall request from
10 the chair of the county central committee of each major political
11 party a list of individuals who are willing to serve as observers.
12 The county auditor has discretion to also request observers from any
13 campaign or organization. The county auditor may delete from the
14 lists names of those persons who indicate to the county auditor that
15 they cannot or do not wish to serve as observers, and names of those
16 persons who, in the judgment of the county auditor, lack the ability
17 to properly serve as observers after training has been made available
18 to them by the auditor.

19 (2) The counting center (~~(is)~~), voting center, and polling places
20 are under the direction of the county auditor and must be open to
21 observation by one representative from each major political party, if
22 representatives have been appointed by the respective major political
23 parties and these representatives are present while the counting
24 center (~~(is)~~), voting center, and polling places are operating. The
25 proceedings must be open to the public, but no persons except those
26 employed and authorized by the county auditor may touch any ballot or
27 ballot container or operate a vote tallying system.

28 (3) A random check of the ballot counting equipment must be
29 conducted upon mutual agreement of the political party observers or
30 at the discretion of the county auditor. The random check procedures
31 must be adopted by the county canvassing board, and consistent with
32 rules adopted under RCW 29A.60.185(4), prior to the processing of
33 ballots. The random check process shall involve a comparison of a
34 manual count or electronic count if an audit under RCW
35 29A.60.185(1)(d) is conducted to the machine count from the original
36 ballot counting equipment and may involve up to either three
37 precincts or six batches depending on the ballot counting procedures
38 in place in the county. The random check will be limited to one
39 office or issue on the ballots in the precincts or batches that are

1 selected for the check. The selection of the precincts or batches to
2 be checked must be selected according to procedures established by
3 the county canvassing board. The random check procedures must include
4 a process, consistent with RCW 29A.60.185(3) and rules adopted under
5 RCW 29A.60.185(4), for expanding the audit to include additional
6 ballots when a random check conducted under this section results in a
7 discrepancy. The procedure must specify under what circumstances a
8 discrepancy will lead to an audit of additional ballots and the
9 method to determine how many additional ballots will be selected.
10 Procedures adopted under RCW 29A.60.185 pertaining to investigations
11 of any discrepancy found during an audit must be followed. The check
12 must be completed no later than forty-eight hours after election day.

13 ~~(4) ((a) By November 1, 2018, the secretary of state shall:~~

14 ~~(i) For each county, survey all random check procedures adopted~~
15 ~~by the county canvassing board under subsection (3) of this section;~~
16 ~~and~~

17 ~~(ii) Evaluate the procedures to identify the best practices and~~
18 ~~any discrepancies.~~

19 ~~(b) By December 15, 2018, the secretary of state shall submit a~~
20 ~~report, in compliance with RCW 43.01.036, to the appropriate~~
21 ~~committees of the legislature that provides recommendations, based on~~
22 ~~the evaluation performed under (a) of this subsection, for adopting~~
23 ~~best practices and uniform procedures.)~~ In counties using poll-site
24 ballot counting devices, the political party observers, upon mutual
25 agreement, may choose as many as three precincts and request that a
26 manual count be made of the number of ballots and the votes cast on
27 any office or issue. The results of this count will be compared to
28 the count of the precinct made by the poll-site ballot counting
29 device. These selections must be made no later than 30 minutes after
30 the close of the polls. The manual count must be completed within 48
31 hours after the close of the polls. The process must take place at a
32 location designated by the county auditor for that purpose. The
33 political party observers must receive timely notice of the time and
34 location, and have the right to be present. However, the process must
35 proceed as scheduled if the observers are unable to attend.

36 **Sec. 33.** RCW 29A.60.190 and 2019 c 7 s 5 are each amended to
37 read as follows:

38 Ten days after a special election held in February or April, ten
39 days after a presidential primary held pursuant to chapter 29A.56

1 RCW, fourteen days after a primary, or twenty-one days after a
2 general election, the county canvassing board shall complete the
3 canvass and certify the results. Each ballot (~~(that was returned~~
4 ~~before)~~) returned by an eligible voter who was in line at the polling
5 place or voting center by 8:00 p.m. on the day of the special
6 election, general election, primary, or presidential primary, and
7 each absentee ballot bearing a postmark on or before the date of the
8 special election, general election, primary, or presidential primary
9 and received no later than the day before certification, must be
10 included in the canvass report.

11 **Sec. 34.** RCW 29A.60.235 and 2018 c 218 s 9 are each amended to
12 read as follows:

13 (1) The county auditor shall prepare at the time of certification
14 an election reconciliation report that discloses the following
15 information:

- 16 (a) The number of registered voters;
- 17 (b) The number of absentee ballots issued;
- 18 (c) The number of absentee ballots received;
- 19 (d) The number of absentee ballots counted;
- 20 (e) The number of absentee ballots rejected;
- 21 (f) The number of provisional ballots issued;
- 22 (g) The number of provisional ballots received;
- 23 (h) The number of provisional ballots counted;
- 24 (i) The number of provisional ballots rejected;
- 25 (j) The number of federal write-in ballots received;
- 26 (k) The number of federal write-in ballots counted;
- 27 (l) The number of federal write-in ballots rejected;
- 28 (m) The number of overseas and service ballots issued by mail,
29 email, web site link, or facsimile;
- 30 (n) The number of overseas and service ballots received by mail,
31 email, or facsimile;
- 32 (o) The number of overseas and service ballots counted by mail,
33 email, or facsimile;
- 34 (p) The number of overseas and service ballots rejected by mail,
35 email, or facsimile;
- 36 (q) The number of nonoverseas and nonservice ballots sent by
37 email, web site link, or facsimile;
- 38 (r) The number of nonoverseas and nonservice ballots received by
39 email or facsimile;

1 (s) The number of nonoverseas and nonservice ballots that were
2 rejected for:

3 (i) Failing to send an original or hard copy of the ballot by the
4 certification deadline; or

5 (ii) Any other reason, including the reason for rejection;

6 (t) The number of voters credited with voting;

7 (u) The number of replacement ballots requested;

8 (v) The number of replacement ballots issued;

9 (w) The number of replacement ballots received;

10 (x) The number of replacement ballots counted;

11 (y) The number of replacement ballots rejected; (~~and~~)

12 (z) The total number of ballots counted; and

13 (aa) Any other information the auditor or secretary of state
14 deems necessary to reconcile the number of ballots counted with the
15 number of voters credited with voting, and to maintain an audit
16 trail.

17 (2) The county auditor must make the report available to the
18 public at the auditor's office and must publish the report on the
19 auditor's web site at the time of certification. The county auditor
20 must submit the report to the secretary of state at the time of
21 certification in any form determined by the secretary of state.

22 (3)(a) The secretary of state must collect the reconciliation
23 reports from each county auditor and prepare a statewide
24 reconciliation report for each state primary and general election.
25 The report may be produced in a form determined by the secretary that
26 includes the information as described in this subsection (3). The
27 report must be prepared and published on the secretary of state's web
28 site within two months after the last county's election results have
29 been certified.

30 (b) The state report must include a comparison among counties on
31 rates of votes received, counted, and rejected, including absentee,
32 provisional, write-in, overseas ballots, and ballots transmitted
33 electronically. The comparison information may be in the form of
34 rankings, percentages, or other relevant quantifiable data that can
35 be used to measure performance and trends.

36 (c) The state report must also include an analysis of the data
37 that can be used to develop a better understanding of election
38 administration and policy. The analysis must combine data, as
39 available, over multiple years to provide broader comparisons and
40 trends regarding voter registration and turnout and ballot counting.

1 The analysis must incorporate national election statistics to the
2 extent such information is available.

3 **Sec. 35.** RCW 29A.84.510 and 2022 c 69 s 3 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 (1) During the voting period (~~that begins eighteen days before~~
6 ~~and ends the day of a special election, general election, or~~
7 ~~primary~~) specified in RCW 29A.40.160, no person may:

8 (a) Within a polling place, voting center, or student engagement
9 hub or in any public street or room in any public manner within 100
10 feet measured radially from the entrance to a polling center, voting
11 center, or student engagement hub or 25 feet measured radially from
12 ((a)) an absentee ballot drop box as described in RCW 29A.40.170:

13 (i) Suggest or persuade or attempt to suggest or persuade any
14 voter to vote for or against any candidate or ballot measure;

15 (ii) Circulate cards or handbills of any kind;

16 (iii) Solicit signatures to any kind of petition; or

17 (iv) Engage in any practice which interferes with the freedom of
18 voters to exercise their franchise or disrupts the administration of
19 the polling place or voting center;

20 (b) Engage in any activities restricted under (a) of this
21 subsection through electronic amplification located more than 100
22 feet from an entrance to a polling place, voting center, or student
23 engagement hub or 25 feet from an entrance to ((a)) an absentee
24 ballot drop box if the person is capable of being understood within
25 100 feet of the polling place, voting center, or student engagement
26 hub or 25 feet of the absentee ballot drop box;

27 (c) Obstruct the doors or entries to a building in which a
28 polling place, voting center, or absentee ballot drop location is
29 located or prevent free access to and from any polling place, voting
30 center, or absentee ballot drop location.

31 (2) The auditor shall post a sign at the point or points
32 specified at each polling place and voting center as required by RCW
33 29A.40.160 during the voting period providing notice of the
34 prohibition in subsection (1)(a) of this section.

35 (3) Any sheriff, deputy sheriff, or municipal law enforcement
36 officer shall stop the prohibited activity, and may arrest any person
37 engaging in the prohibited activity.

38 (4) Any violation of this section is a gross misdemeanor,
39 punishable to the same extent as a gross misdemeanor that is

1 punishable under RCW 9A.20.021, and the person convicted may be
2 ordered to pay the costs of prosecution.

3 (5) Nothing in this section may be construed to limit or
4 otherwise restrict the access of an authorized political party
5 observer to a polling place, voting center, student engagement hub,
6 or absentee ballot drop box for the purpose of observing the election
7 process.

8 **Sec. 36.** RCW 29A.84.520 and 2013 c 11 s 83 are each amended to
9 read as follows:

10 Any election officer who does any electioneering at a polling
11 place, voting center, or absentee ballot drop location during the
12 voting period (~~((that begins eighteen days before and ends the day of~~
13 ~~a special election, general election, or primary))~~), as specified in
14 RCW 29A.40.160, is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction must
15 be fined in any sum not exceeding one hundred dollars and pay the
16 costs of prosecution.

17 **Sec. 37.** RCW 29A.84.540 and 2017 c 283 s 3 are each amended to
18 read as follows:

19 Any person who, without lawful authority, removes a ballot from a
20 polling place, voting center, or absentee ballot drop location is
21 guilty of a class C felony punishable to the same extent as a class C
22 felony that is punishable under RCW 9A.20.021.

23 **Sec. 38.** RCW 29A.84.545 and 2011 c 10 s 73 are each amended to
24 read as follows:

25 Anyone who, without authorization, removes from a polling place
26 or voting center a paper record produced by a direct recording
27 electronic voting device is guilty of a class C felony punishable
28 under RCW 9A.20.021.

29 **Sec. 39.** RCW 29A.84.550 and 2024 c 28 s 6 are each amended to
30 read as follows:

31 Any person who willfully defaces, removes, or destroys any of the
32 supplies or materials that the person knows are intended both for use
33 in a polling place, voting center, election office, ballot counting
34 area, ballot storage area, or election system including materials and
35 systems meant for enabling a voter to prepare the voter's ballot is
36 guilty of a class C felony punishable under RCW 9A.20.021.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 40.** A new section is added to chapter 29A.04
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 "Poll-site ballot counting device" and other similar terms mean a
4 device programmed to accept voted ballots at a polling place or
5 voting center for the purpose of tallying and storing the ballots on
6 election day.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 41.** The intent of this chapter is to require
8 state and local election officials to designate and use polling
9 places and disability access voting locations in all elections and
10 permanent registration locations that are accessible to elderly and
11 disabled persons. County auditors shall:

- 12 (1) Make modifications such as installation of temporary ramps or
13 relocation of polling places within buildings, where appropriate;
14 (2) Designate new, accessible polling places to replace those
15 that are inaccessible; and
16 (3) Continue to use polling places and voter registration
17 locations which are accessible to elderly and disabled persons.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 42.** The secretary of state shall establish
19 procedures to assure that, in any primary or election, any disabled
20 or elderly voter assigned to an inaccessible polling place will, upon
21 advance request of that voter, either be permitted to vote at an
22 alternative accessible polling place not overly inconvenient to that
23 voter or be provided with an alternative means of casting a ballot on
24 the day of the primary or election. The county auditor shall make any
25 reasonable accommodations in voting procedures necessary to allow the
26 use of alternative polling places by elderly or disabled voters under
27 this section.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 43.** (1) County auditors shall seek
29 alternative polling places or other low-cost alternatives including,
30 but not limited to, procedural changes and assistance from local
31 disabled groups, service organizations, and other private sources
32 before incurring costs for modifications under this chapter.

33 (2) The cost of those modifications to buildings or other
34 facilities, including signs designating disabled accessible parking
35 and entrances, that are necessary to permit the use of those
36 facilities for polling places under this chapter or any procedures

1 established under section 42 of this act are treated as election
2 costs and prorated under RCW 29A.04.410.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 44.** Polling places for the various voting
4 precincts may be located outside the boundaries of the respective
5 precincts, when the officers conducting the primary or election shall
6 deem it feasible. However, such polling places must be located within
7 a reasonable distance of their respective precincts. The purpose of
8 this section is to furnish adequate voting facilities at readily
9 accessible and identifiable locations, and nothing in this section
10 affects the number, method of selection, or duties of precinct
11 election officers.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 45.** The legislative authority of each county,
13 municipality, and special district shall, at the request of the
14 county auditor, make its facilities available for use as polling
15 places for primaries, special elections, and state general elections
16 held within that county. When, in the judgment of the county auditor,
17 a facility of a county, municipality, or special district would
18 provide a location for a polling place that would best satisfy the
19 requirements of this chapter, the auditor must notify the legislative
20 authority of that county, municipality, or district of the number of
21 facilities needed for use as polling places. Payment for polling
22 places and any other conditions or obligations regarding these
23 polling places shall be provided for by contract between the county
24 auditor and the county, municipality, or district.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 46.** Each state agency and entity of local
26 government must permit the use of any of its buildings and the most
27 suitable locations therein as polling places or disability access
28 voting locations when required by a county auditor to provide
29 accessible places in each precinct.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 47.** No later than April 1st of each even-
31 numbered year, each county auditor must submit to the secretary of
32 state a list showing the number of polling places in the county and
33 specifying any that have been found inaccessible. The auditor shall
34 indicate the reasons for inaccessibility, and what efforts have been
35 made pursuant to this chapter to locate alternative polling places or
36 to make the existing facilities temporarily accessible. If a county

1 auditor's list shows, for two consecutive reporting periods, that no
2 polling places have been found inaccessible, the auditor need not
3 submit further reports unless the secretary of state specifically
4 reinstates the requirement for that county. Notice of reinstatement
5 must be in writing and delivered at least 60 days before the
6 reporting date.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 48.** Each polling place must be accessible
8 unless:

9 (1) The county auditor has determined that it is inaccessible,
10 that no alternative accessible polling place is available, that no
11 temporary modification of that polling place or any alternative
12 polling place is possible, and that the county auditor has complied
13 with the procedures established under section 42 of this act; or

14 (2) The secretary of state determines that a state of emergency
15 exists that would otherwise interfere with the efficient
16 administration of the primary or election.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 49.** County auditors shall, as feasible,
18 solicit and use the assistance of disabled voters in reviewing sites
19 and recommending inexpensive remedies to improve accessibility.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 50.** Each county auditor shall include a
21 notice of the accessibility of polling places in the notice of
22 election published under chapter 29A.52 RCW.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 51.** The delivery of an absentee ballot for
24 any primary or election is subject to the following qualifications:

25 (1)(a) An absentee ballot may be picked up at the office of the
26 issuing officer by:

27 (i) The registered voter personally; or

28 (ii) A member of the registered voter's immediate family.

29 (b) If the voter is a resident of a health care facility, as
30 defined by RCW 70.37.020, on election day, the voter may apply by
31 messenger for an absentee ballot and the messenger may pick up the
32 voter's absentee ballot.

33 (2) Except as noted in subsection (1) of this section, the
34 issuing officer must mail or deliver the absentee ballot directly to
35 each voter who qualifies for an absentee ballot.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 52.** The absentee ballots must be reported at
2 a minimum on a congressional and legislative district basis. Absentee
3 ballots may be counted by congressional or legislative district or by
4 individual precinct, except as required under RCW 29A.60.230. These
5 returns must be added to the total of the votes cast at the polling
6 places and voting centers.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 53.** The qualifications of any absentee voter
8 may be challenged before the voted ballot is received. The board has
9 the authority to determine the legality of any absentee ballot
10 challenged under this section. Challenged ballots must be handled in
11 accordance with chapter 29A.08 RCW.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 54.** No person may interfere with a voter in
13 any way within the polling place, voting center, or absentee ballot
14 drop box. Interfering with a voter attempting to vote is a violation
15 of RCW 29A.84.510. This section does not prevent the voter from
16 receiving assistance in preparing his or her ballot as specifically
17 permitted in this chapter.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 55.** At any election, general or special, or
19 at any primary, any political party or committee may designate a
20 person other than a precinct election officer, for each polling place
21 or voting center to check a list of registered voters of the precinct
22 to determine who has and who has not voted. The lists must be
23 furnished by the party or committee concerned.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 56.** Any voter may take into the voting booth
25 or voting device any printed or written material to assist in casting
26 his or her vote. The voter may not use this material to electioneer
27 and must remove the material when he or she leaves the polls or the
28 disability access voting location.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 57.** No ballots other than those prepared by
30 the county auditor may be used in any polling place, voting center,
31 or disability access voting location. No voter is entitled to vote
32 more than once at a primary or a general or special election, except
33 that if a voter incorrectly marks a ballot, he or she may return it
34 and be issued a new ballot. The precinct election officers shall void
35 the incorrectly marked ballot and return it to the county auditor.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 58.** Paper records produced by electronic
2 voting devices are subject to all the requirements of this chapter
3 and chapter 29A.60 RCW for ballot handling, preservation,
4 reconciliation, transit to the counting center, and storage. The
5 paper records must be preserved in the same manner and for the same
6 period of time as ballots.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 59.** (1) At the direction of the county
8 auditor, a team or teams composed of a representative of at least two
9 major political parties must stop at designated polling places,
10 absentee drop box locations, and voting centers and pick up the
11 sealed containers of voted, untallied ballots for delivery to the
12 counting center. There may be more than one delivery from each
13 polling place, absentee drop box location, or voting center. Two
14 precinct election officials, representing two major political
15 parties, shall seal the voted ballots in containers furnished by the
16 county auditor and properly identified with his or her address with
17 uniquely prenumbered seals. Before the ballots are given to the teams
18 of representatives, the representatives must show a government-issued
19 photo identification card to prove their identity.

20 (2) At the counting center or the collection stations where the
21 sealed ballot containers are delivered by the designated
22 representatives of the major political parties, the county auditor or
23 a designated representative of the county auditor shall receive the
24 sealed ballot containers, record the time, date, precinct name or
25 number, and seal number of each ballot container, and ensure that the
26 seal has not been tampered with.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 60.** The county auditor must provide in each
28 polling place and voting center a sufficient number of voting booths
29 or voting devices along with any supplies necessary to enable the
30 voter to mark or register the voter's choices on the ballot and
31 within which the voters may cast their votes in secrecy.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 61.** At all primaries and elections, general
33 or special, in all counties the polls must be kept open from 7:00
34 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. each day of the voting period as specified in RCW
35 29A.40.160. All qualified electors who are in line at the polling
36 place or voting center at 8:00 p.m. on the day of the primary,
37 special, or general election must be allowed to cast their votes. The

1 precinct election officers shall identify the last person in line at
2 that time. The polls for a precinct must remain open continuously
3 until that person has voted, at which point the precinct election
4 officers shall announce that the polls for that precinct are closed.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 62.** A registered voter is not allowed to vote
6 in the precinct in which the voter is registered at any election or
7 primary for which the voter has already cast an absentee ballot. A
8 registered voter who has requested an absentee ballot for a primary
9 or special or general election but chooses to vote at the voter's
10 precinct polling place or voting center in that primary or election
11 may cast a provisional ballot. The canvassing board may not count the
12 ballot if it finds that the voter has also voted by absentee ballot
13 in that primary or election.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 63.** (1) No later than the day before the
15 voting period specified in RCW 29A.40.160, the county auditor shall
16 provide to the inspector, or one of the judges of each precinct or to
17 one of the inspectors of a polling place or voting center where more
18 than one precinct will be voting, all of the ballots, precinct lists
19 of registered voters, and other supplies necessary for conducting the
20 election or primary.

21 (2) Upon closing the registration files preceding an election,
22 the county auditor shall deliver the precinct lists of registered
23 voters to the inspector or one of the judges of each precinct or
24 group of precincts located at the polling place or voting center
25 before the polls open.

26 (3) In precincts where votes are cast on paper ballots, the
27 following supplies, in addition to those specified in subsection (1)
28 of this section, must be provided:

29 (a) Two tally books in which the names of the candidates must be
30 listed in the order in which they appear on the sample ballots and in
31 each case have the proper party designation at the head thereof; and

32 (b) Two certificates or two sample ballots prepared as blanks,
33 for recording the unofficial results by the precinct election
34 officers.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 64.** (1) Each county auditor shall provide
36 voting and registration instructions, printed in large type, to be

1 conspicuously displayed at each polling place, voting center, and
2 permanent registration facility.

3 (2) The county auditor shall make information available for deaf
4 persons throughout the state by telecommunications.

5 (3) Each polling place and voting center must provide at least
6 one voting unit certified by the secretary of state that provides
7 access to individuals who are blind or visually impaired, enabling
8 them to vote with privacy and independence.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 65.** The precinct election officers for each
10 precinct shall meet at the designated polling place or voting center
11 at the time set by the county auditor.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 66.** Before opening the polls for a precinct,
13 the voting equipment must be inspected to determine if it has been
14 properly prepared for voting. If the voting equipment is capable of
15 direct tabulation of each voter's choices, the precinct election
16 officers must verify that no votes have been registered for any issue
17 or office to be voted on at that primary or election. Every ballot
18 box must be carefully examined by the election judges to determine
19 that it is empty. The ballot box must then be sealed or locked with a
20 unique numbered seal at the time of final preparation and logic and
21 accuracy testing. A log must be made of all device numbers and seal
22 numbers. The ballot box may not be opened before the certification of
23 the primary or election except in the manner and for the purposes
24 provided under this title.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 67.** At all primaries and elections, the flag
26 of the United States must be conspicuously displayed in front of each
27 polling place and voting center.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 68.** The precinct election officers,
29 immediately before they start to issue ballots or permit a voter to
30 vote, shall announce at the place of voting that the polls for that
31 precinct are open.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 69.** The precinct election officers shall
33 periodically examine the voting devices to determine if they have
34 been tampered with.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 70.** (1) A voter desiring to vote must give
2 his or her name to the precinct election officer who has the precinct
3 list of registered voters.

4 (2) Any person desiring to vote at any primary or election is
5 required to provide valid photo identification to the election
6 officer before being issued a ballot or being permitted to enter the
7 voting booth. The identification required in this section must be a
8 driver's license, state identification card, tribal identification
9 card, or a voter identification issued by a county elections officer.
10 A tribal identification card is not required to include a residential
11 address or an expiration date to be considered valid under this
12 section.

13 (3) Upon receiving valid identification from the voter, the
14 precinct election officer shall announce the voter's name to the
15 precinct election officer who has the copy of the inspector's poll
16 book for that precinct. If the right of this voter to participate in
17 the primary or election is not challenged, the voter must be issued a
18 ballot or permitted to enter a voting booth or to operate a voting
19 device. The number of the ballot or the voter must be recorded by the
20 precinct election officers. If the right of the voter to participate
21 is challenged, RCW 29A.08.810 and 29A.08.820 apply to that voter.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 71.** Provisional ballots must be issued, along
23 with a provisional ballot outer envelope and a security envelope, to
24 voters as appropriate under this title. The provisional ballot outer
25 envelope must include a place for the voter's name; registered
26 address, both present and former if applicable; date of birth; reason
27 for the provisional ballot; the precinct number and the precinct
28 polling location or voting center location at which the voter has
29 voted; and a space for the county auditor to list the disposition of
30 the provisional ballot. The provisional ballot outer envelope must
31 also contain a declaration as required for absentee ballot outer
32 envelopes under RCW 29A.40.091; a place for the voter to sign the
33 oath; and a summary of the applicable penalty provisions of this
34 chapter. The voter shall vote the provisional ballot in secrecy and,
35 when done, place the provisional ballot in the security envelope,
36 then place the security envelope into the outer envelope, and return
37 it to the precinct election official. The election official shall
38 ensure that the required information is completed on the outer
39 envelope, have the voter sign it in the appropriate space, and place

1 the envelope in a secure container. The official shall then give the
2 voter written information advising the voter how to ascertain whether
3 the vote was counted and, if applicable, the reason why the vote was
4 not counted.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 72.** (1) Any person desiring to vote at any
6 primary or election is required to sign his or her name on the
7 appropriate precinct list of registered voters. If the voter
8 registered using a mark, or can no longer sign his or her name, the
9 election officers shall require the voter to be identified by another
10 registered voter. The precinct election officers shall then record
11 the voter's name.

12 (2) On signing the precinct list of registered voters or being
13 issued a ballot, the voter shall, without leaving the polling place,
14 voting center, or disability access location, proceed to one of the
15 voting booths or voting devices to cast his or her vote. When county
16 election procedures so provide, the election officers may tear off
17 and retain the numbered stub from the ballot before delivering it to
18 the voter. If an election officer has not already done so, when the
19 voter has finished, he or she shall either (a) remove the numbered
20 stub from the ballot, place the ballot in the ballot box, and return
21 the number to the election officers, or (b) deliver the entire ballot
22 to the election officers, who shall remove the numbered stub from the
23 ballot and place the ballot in the ballot box. For a partisan primary
24 in a jurisdiction using the physically separate ballot format, the
25 voter shall also return unvoted party ballots to the precinct
26 election officers, who shall void the unvoted party ballots and
27 return them to the county auditor. If poll-site ballot counting
28 devices are used, the voter shall put the ballot in the device.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 73.** (1) A voter voting on an electronic
30 voting device may not leave the device during the voting process,
31 except to request assistance from the precinct election officers,
32 until the voting process is completed.

33 (2) Any voter may take printed or written material into the
34 voting device to assist in casting his or her vote. The voter may not
35 use this material to electioneer and must remove it when he or she
36 leaves the polling place or voting center.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 74.** As each voter casts his or her vote, the
2 precinct election officers shall insert in the poll books or precinct
3 list of registered voters opposite that voter's name, a notation to
4 credit the voter with having participated in that primary or
5 election. No record may be made of a voter's party affiliation in a
6 partisan primary. The precinct election officers shall record the
7 voter's name so that a separate record is kept.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 75.** (1) Voting must be secret except to the
9 extent necessary to assist sensory or physically disabled voters.

10 (2) If any voter declares in the presence of the election
11 officers that because of sensory or physical disability he or she is
12 unable to register or record his or her vote, he or she may designate
13 a person of his or her choice or two election officers from opposite
14 political parties to enter the voting machine booth with him or her
15 and record his or her vote as he or she directs.

16 (3) A person violating this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 76.** (1) Paper ballots may be tabulated at the
18 precinct polling place or voting center before the closing of the
19 polls. The tabulation of ballots, paper or otherwise, must be open to
20 the public, but no persons except those employed and authorized by
21 the county auditor may touch a ballot card or ballot container or
22 operate vote tallying equipment.

23 (2) The results of the tabulation of paper ballots at the polls
24 must be delivered to the county auditor as soon as the tabulation is
25 complete.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 77.** (1) An individual who votes in an
27 election for federal office as a result of a federal or state court
28 order or any other order extending the time for closing the polls may
29 vote in that election only by casting a provisional ballot. As to
30 court orders extending the time for closing the polls, this section
31 does not apply to any voters who were present in the polling place or
32 voting center at the statutory closing time and are permitted to vote
33 under this chapter. This section does not, by itself, authorize any
34 court to order that any individual be permitted to vote or to extend
35 the time for closing the polls, but this section is intended to
36 comply with 52 U.S.C. Sec. 21082(c) with regard to federal elections.

1 (2) Any ballot cast under subsection (1) of this section must be
2 separated and held apart from other provisional ballots cast by those
3 not affected by the order.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 78.** At each precinct immediately after the
5 last qualified voter has cast his or her vote, the precinct election
6 officers shall render unusable and secure in a container all unused
7 ballots for that precinct and return them to the county auditor.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 79.** Immediately after the unused ballots are
9 secure, the precinct election officers shall count the number of
10 voted ballots and make a record of any discrepancy between this
11 number and the number of voters who signed the poll book for that
12 precinct, voting center, or polling place, complete the
13 certifications in the poll book, prepare the ballots for transfer to
14 the counting center if necessary, and seal the voting devices.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 80.** The precinct list of registered voters
16 for each precinct or group of precincts delivered to the precinct
17 election officers for use on the day of an election held in that
18 precinct shall be returned by them to the county auditor upon the
19 completion of the count of the votes cast in the precinct at that
20 election. While in possession of the county auditor they shall be
21 open to public inspection under such reasonable rules and regulations
22 as may be prescribed therefor.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 81.** In precincts where poll-site ballot
24 counting devices are used, the election officers, before initializing
25 the device for voting, must proceed as follows:

26 (1) They must verify that the device is placed where it can be
27 conveniently attended by the election officers and conveniently
28 operated by the voters;

29 (2) They must verify that the number or other designating mark on
30 the device's seal agrees with the control number provided by the
31 elections department. If the numbers do not agree, the officers must
32 at once notify the elections department and delay initializing the
33 device. The polls may be opened pending reexamination of the device;

34 (3) If the numbers do agree, the officers shall proceed to
35 initialize the device and verify that the public counter registers
36 "000." If the counter is found to register a number other than "000,"

1 one of the judges must at once set the counter at "000" and confirm
2 that the ballot box is empty;

3 (4) Before processing any ballots through a poll-site ballot
4 counting device, a zero report must be produced. The inspector and at
5 least one of the judges must carefully verify that zero ballots have
6 been run through the poll-site ballot counting device and that all
7 vote totals for each office are zero. If the totals are not zero, the
8 inspector must either reset the device to zero or contact the
9 elections department to reset the device and allow voting to continue
10 using the auxiliary or emergency device.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 82.** Whenever poll-site ballot counting
12 devices are used, the devices may either be included with the
13 supplies required in this chapter or they may be delivered to the
14 polling place or voting center separately. All poll-site ballot
15 counting devices must be sealed with a unique numbered seal at the
16 time of final preparation and logic and accuracy testing. A log must
17 be made of all seal numbers and device numbers used.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 83.** The programmed memory pack for each poll-
19 site ballot counting device must be sealed into the device during
20 final preparation and logic and accuracy testing. Except in the case
21 of a device breakdown, the memory pack must remain sealed in the
22 device until after the polls have closed and all reports and
23 telephonic or electronic transfer of results are completed. After all
24 reporting is complete, the precinct election officers responsible for
25 transferring the sealed voted ballots under RCW 29A.60.110 must
26 ensure that the memory pack is returned to the elections department.
27 If the entire poll-site ballot counting device is returned, the
28 memory pack must remain sealed in the device. If the poll-site ballot
29 counting device is to remain at the polling place or voting center,
30 the precinct election officer shall break the seal on the device and
31 remove the memory pack and seal and return it along with the
32 irregularly voted ballots and special ballots to the elections
33 department on election day.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 84.** Each poll-site ballot counting device
35 must be programmed to return all blank ballots and overvoted ballots
36 to the voter for private reexamination. The election officer must
37 take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that the secrecy of the

1 ballot is maintained. The precinct election officer must provide
2 information and instruction on how to properly mark the ballot. The
3 voter may remark the original ballot, request a new ballot under this
4 chapter, or choose to complete a special ballot envelope and return
5 the ballot as a special ballot.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 85.** If a poll-site ballot counting device
7 fails to operate at any time during polling hours, voting center
8 hours, or disability access voting hours, voting must continue, and
9 the ballots must be deposited for later tabulation in a secure ballot
10 compartment separate from the tabulated ballots.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 86.** (1) At least 10 days prior to any primary
12 or election, general or special, the county auditor shall appoint one
13 inspector and two judges of election for each precinct or each
14 combination of precincts temporarily consolidated as a single
15 precinct for that primary or election. Except as provided in
16 subsection (4) of this section, the persons appointed must be among
17 those whose names are contained on the lists furnished by the
18 chairpersons of the county central committees of the political
19 parties entitled to representation thereon. Such precinct election
20 officers, whenever possible, should be residents of the precinct in
21 which they serve.

22 (2) The county auditor may delete from the lists of names
23 submitted to the auditor by the chairpersons of the county central
24 committees:

25 (a) The names of those persons who indicate to the auditor that
26 they cannot or do not wish to serve as precinct election officers for
27 the primary or election or who otherwise cannot so serve; and

28 (b) The names of those persons who lack the ability to conduct
29 properly the duties of an inspector or judge of election after
30 training in that proper conduct has been made available to them by
31 the auditor.

32 (3) The lists which are submitted to the auditor in a timely
33 manner under this chapter, less the deletions authorized by this
34 section, constitute the official nomination lists for inspectors and
35 judges of election.

36 (4) If the number of persons whose names are on the official
37 nomination list for a political party is not sufficient to satisfy
38 the requirements of subsection (5) of this section as it applies to

1 that political party or is otherwise insufficient to provide the
2 number of precinct election officials required from that political
3 party, the auditor must notify the chair of the party's county
4 central committee regarding the deficiency. The chair may, within
5 five business days of being notified by the auditor, add to the
6 party's nomination list the names of additional persons belonging to
7 that political party who are qualified to serve on the election
8 boards. To the extent that, following this procedure, the number of
9 persons whose names appear on the official nomination lists of the
10 political parties is insufficient to provide the number of election
11 inspectors and judges required for a primary or election, the auditor
12 may appoint a properly trained person whose name does not appear on
13 such a list as an inspector or judge of election for a precinct.

14 (5) The county auditor shall designate the inspector and one
15 judge in each precinct from that political party which polled the
16 highest number of votes in the county for its candidate for president
17 at the last preceding presidential election and one judge from that
18 political party polling the next highest number of votes in the
19 county for its candidate for president at the same election. The
20 provisions of this subsection apply only if the number of names on
21 the official nomination list for inspectors and judges of election
22 for a political party is sufficient to satisfy the requirements
23 imposed by this subsection.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 87.** At the same time the officer having
25 jurisdiction of the election appoints the inspector and two judges as
26 provided in section 86 of this act, he or she may appoint one or more
27 persons to act as clerks if in his or her judgment such additional
28 persons are necessary, except that in precincts in which voting
29 machines are used, the judges of election shall perform the duties
30 required to be performed by clerks. Each clerk appointed shall
31 represent a major political party. The political party representation
32 of a single set of precinct election officers shall, whenever
33 possible, be equal but, in any event, no single political party shall
34 be represented by more than a majority of one at each polling place
35 or voting center. The election officer having jurisdiction of the
36 election may designate at what hour the clerks must report for duty.
37 The hour may vary among the precincts according to the judgment of
38 the appointing officer.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 88.** The precinct committee officer of each
2 major political party shall certify to the officer's county chair a
3 list of those persons belonging to the officer's political party
4 qualified to act upon the election board in the officer's precinct.
5 By the first day of June each year, the chair of the county central
6 committee of each major political party shall certify to the officer
7 having jurisdiction of the election a list of those persons belonging
8 to the county chair's political party in each precinct who are
9 qualified to act on the election board therein. The county chair
10 shall compile this list from the names certified by the various
11 precinct committee officers unless no names or not a sufficient
12 number of names have been certified from a precinct, in which event
13 the county chair may include therein the names of qualified members
14 of the county chair's party selected by the county chair. The county
15 chair shall also have the authority to substitute names of persons
16 recommended by the precinct committee officers if in the judgment of
17 the county chair such persons are not qualified to serve as precinct
18 election officers.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 89.** If no election officers have been
20 appointed for a precinct, or if at the hour for opening the polls
21 none of those appointed is present at the polling place or voting
22 center therein, the county auditor may appoint the election board for
23 that precinct. One of the judges may perform the duties of clerk of
24 election. The inspector shall have the power to fill any vacancy that
25 may occur in the board of judges, or by absence or refusal to serve
26 of either of the clerks after the polls shall have been opened.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 90.** There must be just one set of election
28 officers at any one time in each precinct, except as provided in this
29 section. In every precinct using paper ballots having 200 or more
30 registered voters there shall be appointed, and in every precinct
31 having less than 200 registered voters, there may be appointed, at a
32 state primary or state general election, two or more sets of precinct
33 election officers as provided in this chapter. The officer in charge
34 of the election may appoint one or more counting boards at his or her
35 discretion, when he or she decides that because of a long or
36 complicated ballot or because of the number of expected voters, there
37 is need of additional counting board or boards to improve the speed
38 and accuracy of the count. In making such appointments, one or more

1 sets of precinct election officers shall be designated as the
2 counting board or boards, the first of which shall consist of an
3 inspector, two judges, and a clerk and the second set, if activated,
4 shall consist of two judges and two clerks. The duties of the
5 counting board or boards shall be the count of ballots cast and the
6 return of the election records and supplies to the officer having
7 jurisdiction of the election. One set of precinct election officers
8 shall be designated as the receiving board which shall have all other
9 powers and duties imposed by law for such elections. Nothing in this
10 section prevents the county auditor from appointing relief or
11 replacement precinct election officers at any time during election
12 day. Relief or replacement precinct election officers must be of the
13 same political party as the officer they are relieving or replacing.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 91.** The inspector and judges of election in
15 each precinct shall conduct the elections therein and receive,
16 deposit, and count the ballots cast thereat and make returns to the
17 proper canvassing board or officer except that when two or more sets
18 of precinct election officers are appointed, the ballots shall be
19 counted by the counting board or boards as provided in this title and
20 RCW 29A.84.730.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 92.** All of the provisions of this chapter
22 relating to counting boards may be applied on an optional basis to
23 any other primary or election, regular or special, at the discretion
24 of the officer in charge of the election.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 93.** The inspector is the chair of the board
26 and is responsible for administering all necessary oaths that may be
27 required in the progress of the election.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 94.** (1) The inspector, judges, and clerks of
29 election, before entering upon the duties of their offices, must take
30 and subscribe the prescribed oath or affirmation, as administered to
31 them by any person authorized to administer oaths and verified under
32 the hand of the person by whom such oath or affirmation is
33 administered. If no such person is present, the inspector must
34 administer the same to the judges and clerks, and one of the judges
35 must administer the oath to the inspector. The county auditor shall
36 furnish two copies of the proper form of oath to each precinct

1 election officer, one copy thereof, after execution, to be placed and
2 transmitted with the election returns.

3 (2) The following is the form of the oath or affirmation to be
4 taken by each inspector: "I, (full name), do swear (or affirm) that I
5 will duly attend to the ensuing election, during the continuance
6 thereof, as an inspector, and that I will not receive any ballot or
7 vote from any person other than such as I firmly believe to be
8 entitled to vote at such election, without requiring such evidence of
9 the right to vote as is directed by law; nor will I vexatiously delay
10 the vote of, or refuse to receive, a ballot from any person whom I
11 believe to be entitled to vote; but that I will in all things truly,
12 impartially, and faithfully perform my duty therein to the best of my
13 judgment and abilities; and that I am not, directly nor indirectly,
14 interested in any bet or wager on the result of this election."

15 (3) The following is the form of the oath to be taken by the
16 judges: "We, (full name), do swear (or affirm) that we will as judges
17 duly attend the ensuing election, during the continuance thereof, and
18 faithfully assist the inspector in carrying on the same; that we will
19 not give our consent to the receipt of any vote or ballot from any
20 person, other than one whom we firmly believe to be entitled to vote
21 at such election; and that we will make a true and perfect return of
22 the said election and will in all things truly, impartially, and
23 faithfully perform our duty respecting the same to the best of our
24 judgment and abilities; and that we are not directly nor indirectly
25 interested in any bet or wager on the result of this election."

26 (4) The following is the form of the oath to be taken by the
27 clerks: "We, and each of us, (full name), do swear (or affirm) that
28 we will impartially and truly write down the name of each elector who
29 votes at the ensuing election, and also the name of the county and
30 precinct wherein the elector resides; that we will carefully and
31 truly write down the number of votes given for each candidate at the
32 election as often as his or her name is read to us by the inspector
33 and in all things truly and faithfully perform our duty respecting
34 the same to the best of our judgment and abilities, and that we are
35 not directly nor indirectly interested in any bet or wager on the
36 result of this election."

37 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 95.** The fees of officers of election shall be
38 as follows:

1 (1) To the judges and clerks of an election not less than the
2 minimum hourly wage per hour as provided under RCW 49.46.020, the
3 exact amount to be fixed by the respective boards of county
4 commissioners for each county.

5 (2) To inspectors, the rate paid to judges and clerks plus an
6 additional two hours' compensation.

7 (3) The precinct election officer picking up the election
8 supplies and returning the election returns to the county auditor
9 shall be entitled to additional compensation, the exact amount to be
10 determined by the respective boards of county commissioners for each
11 county.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 96.** 2011 c 10 s 85 (uncodified) is repealed.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 97.** (1) Sections 41 through 50 of this act
14 are each added to chapter 29A.16 RCW.

15 (2) Sections 51 through 53 of this act are each added to chapter
16 29A.40 RCW.

17 (3) Sections 54 through 95 of this act constitute a new chapter
18 in Title 29A RCW.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 98.** Section 22 of this act expires January 1,
20 2029.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 99.** Section 23 of this act takes effect
22 January 1, 2029.

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