
HOUSE BILL 1585

State of Washington

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2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Marshall, Eslick, Graham, Couture, Burnett, Penner, McEntire, Corry, Griffey, Barkis, Chase, Volz, Keaton, Waters, Walsh, and Barnard

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

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring verification of citizenship for
2 voter registration; amending RCW 29A.08.010, 29A.08.123, 29A.08.210,
3 and 29A.08.350; adding a new section to chapter 29A.08 RCW; providing
4 an expiration date; and declaring an emergency.

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

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

8 (1) By July 1, 2025, each county auditor must consult with the
9 department of licensing to determine whether each registered voter in
10 the county has demonstrated proof of citizenship by applying for and
11 receiving an enhanced driver's license or identicard under chapter
12 46.20 RCW.

13 (2) If the registered voter has demonstrated proof of
14 citizenship, the voter shall remain registered.

15 (3)(a) If the registered voter has not demonstrated proof of
16 citizenship, the county auditor shall:

17 (i) Send a notice to the voter informing the voter that the voter
18 must appear in person at the auditor's office and demonstrate proof
19 of citizenship;

20 (ii) If the voter has not demonstrated proof of citizenship 30
21 days prior to the 2025 general election, send a second notice to the

1 voter informing the voter that the voter must appear in person at the
2 auditor's office and demonstrate proof of citizenship; and

3 (iii) If the voter has not demonstrated proof of citizenship 14
4 days prior to the 2025 general election, cancel the registration and
5 send a notice to the voter. The notice must inform the voter that the
6 voter's registration is canceled and provide instructions for
7 registering to vote pursuant to RCW 29A.08.140(1)(b).

8 (b) The following documents are proof of citizenship for the
9 purposes of (a) of this subsection:

10 (i) A valid United States passport;

11 (ii) A United States certificate of naturalization;

12 (iii) A United States department of state consular report of
13 birth abroad; or

14 (iv) An original, certified birth certificate from a United
15 States birth place, issued by a city, county, state, or territory,
16 that contains all of the following:

17 (A) Full name and date of birth;

18 (B) Place of birth, which must be a United States location;

19 (C) A registrar's raised, embossed, impressed, or multicolored
20 seal;

21 (D) A control or file number that the issuing authority can
22 confirm;

23 (E) A registrar's signature; and

24 (F) The date the certificate was filed with the registrar's
25 office.

26 (c) Birth certificates from Puerto Rico issued before July 1,
27 2010, are not accepted to satisfy the requirement in (b)(iv) of this
28 subsection.

29 (d) Washington wallet-sized birth registrations are not accepted
30 to satisfy the requirement in (b)(iv) of this subsection.

31 (e) Upon being presented with proof of citizenship as described
32 in (a) and (b) of this subsection, the county auditor must
33 immediately reinstate the voter's registration.

34 (4) This section expires January 1, 2027.

35 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.08.010 and 2023 c 466 s 2 are each amended to
36 read as follows:

37 (1) The minimum required information (~~(provided on a voter~~
38 ~~registration application))~~) in order to place a voter registration
39 applicant on the voter registration rolls includes:

- 1 (a) Name;
- 2 (b) Residential address;
- 3 (c) Date of birth;
- 4 (d) A signature attesting to the truth of the information
5 provided on the application;
- 6 (e) An address where the person receives mail, if different from
7 the residence address; (~~and~~)
- 8 (f) Affirmation of citizenship which confirms the individual is a
9 United States citizen, in one of the following forms:
- 10 (i) A check or indication in the box on a voter registration form
11 confirming citizenship; or
- 12 (ii) Presentation of documents as part of another government
13 transaction confirming citizenship; and
- 14 (g) (i) Proof of United States citizenship through:
- 15 (A) A valid enhanced driver's license or identicard for which
16 proof of United State citizenship is required;
- 17 (B) A valid United States passport;
- 18 (C) A United States certificate of naturalization;
- 19 (D) A United States department of state consular report of birth
20 abroad; or
- 21 (E) An original, certified birth certificate from a United States
22 birth place, issued by a city, county, state, or territory, that
23 contains all of the following:
- 24 (I) Full name and date of birth;
- 25 (II) Place of birth which must be a United States location;
- 26 (III) A registrar's raised, embossed, impressed, or multicolored
27 seal;
- 28 (IV) A control or file number that the issuing authority can
29 confirm;
- 30 (V) A registrar's signature; and
- 31 (VI) The date the certificate was filed with the registrar's
32 office.
- 33 (ii) Birth certificates from Puerto Rico issued before July 1,
34 2010, are not accepted to satisfy the requirement in (g) (i) (E) of
35 this subsection.
- 36 (iii) Washington wallet-sized birth registrations are not
37 accepted to satisfy the requirement in (g) (i) (E) of this subsection.
- 38 (2) The residential address provided must identify the actual
39 physical residence of the voter in Washington, as defined in RCW
40 29A.04.151, with detail sufficient to allow the voter to be assigned

1 to the proper precinct and to locate the voter to confirm his or her
2 residence for purposes of verifying qualification to vote under
3 Article VI, section 1 of the state Constitution. A residential
4 address may be either a traditional address or a nontraditional
5 address.

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

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

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

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

20 **Sec. 3.** RCW 29A.08.123 and 2023 c 363 s 1 are each amended to
21 read as follows:

22 (1) A person qualified to vote who has a valid:

23 (a) Washington state enhanced driver's license;

24 (b) Washington state identification card for which proof of
25 United States citizenship is required;

26 (c) Washington state learner's permit;

27 (d) Current valid Washington tribal identification; or

28 (e) Social security number,

29 may submit a voter registration application electronically on the
30 secretary of state's website, and provide proof of the applicant's
31 United States citizenship from the department of licensing, the
32 federal government, the tribal government, or the applicant, and
33 either the state issued identification number, the tribal
34 identification number, or the last four digits of the person's social
35 security number.

36 (2) The applicant must attest to the truth of the information
37 provided on the application and confirm the applicant's United States
38 citizenship by reviewing the registration oath online and
39 affirmatively accepting the information as true.

1 (3) For applicants using Washington state issued identification,
2 the applicant must affirmatively assent to use of the applicant's
3 driver's license or state identification card signature for voter
4 registration purposes.

5 (4) For applicants who are not using Washington state issued
6 identification, the applicant must submit a signature image by either
7 submitting a signature image to the secretary of state, or submitting
8 a signature image as part of the confirmation notice process.

9 (5) A voter registration application submitted electronically is
10 otherwise considered a registration by mail.

11 (6) For each electronic application, the secretary of state must
12 obtain a digital copy of the applicant's driver's license or state
13 identification card signature from the department of licensing, the
14 voter, or tribal identification issuing authority.

15 (7) The secretary of state may employ additional security
16 measures to ensure the accuracy and integrity of voter registration
17 applications submitted electronically.

18 **Sec. 4.** RCW 29A.08.210 and 2024 c 269 s 11 are each amended to
19 read as follows:

20 (1) An applicant for voter registration shall complete an
21 application providing the following information concerning the
22 applicant's qualifications as a voter in this state:

23 ~~((1))~~ (a) The applicant's full name;

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

25 ~~((3))~~ (c) The address of the applicant's residence for voting
26 purposes;

27 ~~((4))~~ (d) The mailing address of the applicant if that address
28 is not the same as the address in (c) of this subsection ~~((3) of~~
29 ~~this section));~~

30 ~~((5))~~ (e) The gender of the applicant;

31 ~~((6))~~ (f) The former address of the applicant if previously
32 registered to vote;

33 ~~((7))~~ (g) The applicant's Washington state driver's license
34 number, Washington state identification card number, or the last four
35 digits of the applicant's social security number if the applicant
36 does not have a Washington state driver's license or Washington state
37 identification card;

1 ~~((8))~~ (h) A check box allowing the applicant to indicate
2 membership in the armed forces, national guard, or reserves, or
3 overseas voter status;

4 ~~((9))~~ (i) Clear and conspicuous language, designed to draw the
5 applicant's attention, stating that:

6 ~~((a))~~ (i) The applicant must be a United States citizen in
7 order to register to vote; and

8 ~~((b))~~ (ii) The applicant may register to vote if the applicant
9 is at least sixteen years old and may vote if the applicant will be
10 at least eighteen years old by the next general election, or is at
11 least eighteen years old for special elections;

12 ~~((10))~~ (j) A check box and declaration confirming that the
13 applicant is a citizen of the United States;

14 ~~((11))~~ (k) The following warning:

15 "If you knowingly provide false information on this voter
16 registration form or knowingly make a false declaration about your
17 qualifications for voter registration you will have committed a class
18 C felony that is punishable by imprisonment for up to five years, a
19 fine of up to ten thousand dollars, or both."

20 ~~((12))~~ (l) The oath required by RCW 29A.08.230 and a space for
21 the applicant's signatures. The secretary of state is encouraged to
22 provide applications for voter registration with multiple signature
23 blocks to assist in comparing signatures on ballot declarations; and

24 ~~((13))~~ (m) Any other information that the secretary of state
25 determines is necessary to establish the identity of the applicant
26 and prevent duplicate or fraudulent voter registrations.

27 (2) This information shall be recorded on a single registration
28 form to be prescribed by the secretary of state.

29 (3) Upon receipt of the applicant's registration form, the county
30 auditor shall contact the department of licensing to determine
31 whether the applicant has demonstrated proof of citizenship by
32 applying for and receiving an enhanced driver's license or identicard
33 under chapter 46.20 RCW.

34 (a) If the applicant has proven citizenship, the applicant shall
35 be registered.

36 (b) (i) If the applicant has not proven citizenship, the county
37 auditor shall send a notice to the voter stating that the voter
38 registration is incomplete and instructing the applicant that the
39 registration may be completed by appearing in person at the auditor's
40 office and demonstrating proof of citizenship through:

- 1 (A) A valid United States passport;
2 (B) A United States certificate of naturalization;
3 (C) A United States department of state consular report of birth
4 abroad; or
5 (D) An original, certified birth certificate from a United States
6 birth place, issued by a city, county, state, or territory, that
7 contains all of the following:
8 (I) Full name and date of birth;
9 (II) Place of birth, which must be a United States location;
10 (III) A registrar's raised, embossed, impressed, or multicolored
11 seal;
12 (IV) A control or file number that the issuing authority can
13 confirm;
14 (V) A registrar's signature; and
15 (VI) The date the certificate was filed with the registrar's
16 office.
17 (ii) Birth certificates from Puerto Rico issued before July 1,
18 2010, are not accepted to satisfy the requirement in (b)(i)(D) of
19 this subsection.
20 (iii) Washington wallet-sized birth registrations are not
21 accepted to satisfy the requirement in (b)(i)(D) of this subsection.
22 (c) Upon being presented with proof of citizenship as described
23 in (b) of this subsection, the county auditor must immediately
24 complete the applicant's voter registration.

25 **Sec. 5.** RCW 29A.08.350 and 2023 c 466 s 13 are each amended to
26 read as follows:

27 The department of licensing shall produce and transmit to the
28 secretary of state the following information from the records of each
29 individual who requested to register to vote or update the
30 individual's existing voter registration at a driver's license
31 facility: The name, address, date of birth, any gender information
32 provided by the applicant, the driver's license number, signature
33 image, any language preference information collected, any phone
34 number provided by the voter, any email address provided by the
35 voter, confirmation that the applicant has provided proof of United
36 States citizenship to satisfy RCW 29A.08.010, and the date on which
37 the application for voter registration or update was submitted. The
38 secretary of state shall process the registrations and updates as an
39 electronic application. If requested by the secretary of state, the

1 department shall provide copies of the documents submitted to prove
2 citizenship for an individual subject to this section.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act is necessary for the immediate
4 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
5 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
6 effect immediately.

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