
HOUSE BILL 1761

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Volz, Schmidt, and Chase

Read first time 01/31/25. Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Relations.

1 AN ACT Relating to timing of the oath of office for local elected
2 officials; and amending RCW 29A.60.280.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.60.280 and 2003 c 111 s 504 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) The legislature finds that certain laws are in conflict
7 governing the assumption of office of various local officials. The
8 purpose of this section is to provide a common date for the
9 assumption of office for all the elected officials of counties,
10 cities, towns, and special purpose districts other than school
11 districts where the ownership of property is not a prerequisite of
12 voting. A person elected to the office of school director begins his
13 or her term of office at the first official meeting of the board of
14 directors after certification of the election results. It is also the
15 purpose of this section to remove these conflicts and delete old
16 statutory language concerning such elections which is no longer
17 necessary.

18 (2) For elective offices of counties, cities, towns, and special
19 purpose districts other than school districts where the ownership of
20 property is not a prerequisite of voting, the term of incumbents ends
21 and the term of successors begins after the successor is elected and

1 qualified, and the term commences immediately after December 31st
2 following the election, except as follows:

3 (a) Where the term of office varies from this standard according
4 to statute; and

5 (b) If the election results have not been certified prior to
6 January 1st after the election, in which event the time of
7 commencement for the new term occurs when the successor becomes
8 qualified in accordance with RCW 29A.04.133.

9 (3) For elective offices governed by this section, the oath of
10 office must be taken as the last step of qualification as defined in
11 RCW 29A.04.133 but may be taken either:

12 (a) (~~Up to ten days prior to the scheduled date of assuming~~
13 ~~office~~) Any time after the last regular meeting of the governing
14 body of the applicable county, city, town, or special district held
15 before the winner is to assume office; or

16 (b) At the last regular meeting of the governing body of the
17 applicable county, city, town, or special district held before the
18 winner is to assume office.

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