
SENATE BILL 5011

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senators J. Wilson, Dozier, Fortunato, Krishnadasan, and Valdez

Prefiled 12/03/24. Read first time 01/13/25. Referred to Committee on State Government, Tribal Affairs & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to labeling ballot drop boxes; and amending RCW
2 29A.40.170.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.40.170 and 2019 c 6 s 5 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) The county auditor must prevent overflow of each ballot drop
7 box to allow a voter to deposit his or her ballot securely. Ballots
8 must be removed from a ballot drop box by at least two people, with a
9 record kept of the date and time ballots were removed, and the names
10 of people removing them. Ballots from drop boxes must be returned to
11 the counting center in secured transport containers. A copy of the
12 record must be placed in the container, and one copy must be
13 transported with the ballots to the counting center, where the seal
14 number must be verified by the county auditor or a designated
15 representative. All ballot drop boxes must be secured at 8:00 p.m. on
16 the day of the primary, special election, or general election.

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

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

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

11 (5) Each ballot drop box must prominently display on each visible
12 side of the drop box:

13 (a) "Property of" and the county or county agency name of the
14 body which purchased and placed the drop box; and

15 (b) "Tampering with this drop box may be a violation of RCW
16 29A.84.620 and other state and federal elections laws."

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