
SENATE BILL 5674

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Senators Haugen, Fairley and Kline

Read first time 01/29/2007. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to water district commissioner candidates; and
2 amending RCW 57.12.039.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 57.12.039 and 2001 c 63 s 4 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) Notwithstanding RCW 57.12.020 and 57.12.030, the board of
7 commissioners may provide by majority vote that subsequent
8 commissioners be elected from commissioner districts within the
9 district. If the board exercises this option, it shall divide the
10 district into three, five, or seven if the number of commissioners has
11 been increased under RCW 57.12.015, commissioner districts of
12 approximately equal population following current precinct and district
13 boundaries.

14 (2) Commissioner districts shall be used as follows: (a) Only a
15 registered voter who resides in a commissioner district may be a
16 candidate for, or serve as, a commissioner of the commissioner
17 district; and (b) only voters of a commissioner district may vote at a
18 primary to nominate candidates for a commissioner of the commissioner
19 district. If the commissioner district has fewer than one hundred

1 residents, and if the filing period is reopened for a district
2 commissioner under RCW 29A.24.171 or 29A.24.181, any registered voter
3 who resides or holds title or evidence of title to land in the district
4 may file as a district commissioner candidate. Voters of the entire
5 district may vote at a general election to elect a person as a
6 commissioner of the commissioner district. Commissioner districts
7 shall be redrawn as provided in chapter ((29.70)) 29A.76 RCW.

8 (3) In districts in which commissioners are nominated from
9 commissioner districts, at the inception of a five-member or a seven-
10 member board of commissioners, the new commissioner districts shall be
11 numbered one through five or one through seven and the incumbent
12 commissioners shall represent up to five commissioner districts
13 depending on the amount of commissioners. If, as a result of redrawing
14 the district boundaries two or three of the incumbent commissioners
15 reside in one of the new commissioner districts, the commissioners who
16 reside in the same commissioner district shall determine by lot which
17 of the first three or five numbered commissioner districts they shall
18 represent for the remainder of their respective terms. A primary shall
19 be held to nominate candidates from the remaining districts where
20 necessary and commissioners shall be elected at large at the general
21 election. The persons elected as commissioners from the remaining
22 commissioner districts shall take office immediately after
23 qualification as defined under RCW ((29.01.135)) 29A.04.133.

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