
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5911

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Government Operations (originally sponsored by Senators Drew and C. Anderson; by request of Secretary of State)

Read first time 03/01/95.

1 AN ACT Relating to elections; amending RCW 29.15.020, 29.80.010,
2 29.80.020, 29.80.030, 29.80.040, and 29.80.080; adding a new section to
3 chapter 29.80 RCW; and repealing RCW 29.80.050 and 29.80.060.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29.15.020 and 1990 c 59 s 81 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 Except where otherwise provided by this title, declarations of
8 candidacy for the following offices shall be filed during regular
9 business hours with the filing officer no earlier than the ((fourth))
10 second Monday in July and no later than the following Friday in the
11 year in which the office is scheduled to be voted upon:

12 (1) Offices that are scheduled to be voted upon for full terms or
13 both full terms and short terms at, or in conjunction with, a state
14 general election; and

15 (2) Offices where a vacancy, other than a short term, exists that
16 has not been filled by election and for which an election to fill the
17 vacancy is required in conjunction with the next state general
18 election.

1 This section supersedes all other statutes that provide for a
2 different filing period for these offices.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29.80.010 and 1987 c 295 s 17 are each amended to read
4 as follows:

5 (1) As soon as possible before each state primary and state general
6 election (~~((at which federal or state officials are to be elected))~~) in
7 an even-numbered year, the secretary of state shall publish and mail to
8 each individual place of residence of the state a (~~((candidates'))~~)
9 pamphlet containing photographs and campaign statements of eligible
10 candidates or nominees who (~~((desire to participate therein))~~) submit a
11 statement, or a statement and a photograph, together with a campaign
12 mailing address and telephone number submitted by the candidate or
13 nominee (~~((at the nominee's option, and))~~).

14 (2) In even-numbered years (~~((containing))~~) the state general
15 election pamphlet must include a description of the office of precinct
16 committee officer and its duties(~~((, in order that voters will~~
17 ~~understand that the office is a state office and will be found on the~~
18 ~~ballot of the forthcoming general election))~~).

19 (3) In odd-numbered years (~~((no candidates'))~~) the secretary of state
20 shall publish a candidates pamphlet (~~((may be published unless))~~) for the
21 state primary and state general election only if an election is to be
22 held to fill a vacancy in one or more of the following (~~((state-wide~~
23 ~~elective))~~) offices: United States senator, governor, lieutenant
24 governor, secretary of state, state treasurer, state auditor, attorney
25 general, superintendent of public instruction, commissioner of public
26 lands, insurance commissioner, or justice of the supreme court.

27 **Sec. 3.** RCW 29.80.020 and 1984 c 54 s 2 are each amended to read
28 as follows:

29 (1) At a time or times to be determined by the secretary of state,
30 (~~((but in any event not later than forty five days before the applicable~~
31 ~~state general election,))~~) each candidate or nominee for the office of
32 president and vice-president, United States senator, United States
33 representative, governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state,
34 state treasurer, state auditor, attorney general, superintendent of
35 public instruction, commissioner of public lands, insurance
36 commissioner, state senator, state representative, justice of the
37 supreme court, judge of the court of appeals, or judge of the superior

1 court may file with the secretary of state a written statement
2 advocating his or her candidacy accompanied by the campaign mailing
3 address and telephone number submitted by the candidate or nominee (~~at~~
4 ~~the nominee's option~~)), and a photograph not more than five years old
5 and of a size and quality that the secretary of state determines to be
6 suitable for reproduction in the (~~voters'~~) pamphlet.

7 (2) The maximum number of words for the statements shall be
8 determined according to the offices sought as follows: State
9 representative, one hundred words; state senator, judge of the superior
10 court, judge of the court of appeals, justice of the supreme court, and
11 all state offices voted upon throughout the state, except that of
12 governor, two hundred words; president and vice-president, United
13 States senator, United States representative, and governor, three
14 hundred words. (~~No such statement or photograph may be printed in the~~
15 ~~candidates' pamphlet for any person who is the sole nominee for any~~
16 ~~nonpartisan or judicial office.~~)

17 **Sec. 4.** RCW 29.80.030 and 1979 ex.s. c 57 s 4 are each amended to
18 read as follows:

19 (1) The secretary of state shall reject any statement offered for
20 filing, (~~which, in his~~) that, in the secretary's opinion, contains
21 any obscene, profane, libelous or defamatory matter, or any language or
22 matter, the circulation of which through the mails is prohibited by
23 congress. (~~Nor shall any~~) No candidate or nominee may submit a
24 photograph showing the uniform or insignia of any organization
25 (~~which~~) that advocates or teaches racial or religious intolerance.

26 (2) Within five days after (~~such~~) the rejection of a statement
27 under this section, the person(~~s~~) submitting (~~such~~) the statement
28 for filing may appeal to (~~a board of review, consisting of the~~
29 ~~superintendent of public instruction, attorney general and the~~
30 ~~lieutenant governor. The decision of such board shall be final upon~~
31 ~~the acceptance or rejection of the matter thus in controversy~~) the
32 secretary of state. The office of administrative hearings shall
33 adjudicate the appeal under RCW 34.05.413 through 34.05.476.

34 **Sec. 5.** RCW 29.80.040 and 1984 c 54 s 3 are each amended to read
35 as follows:

36 The candidates' or nominees' statements, photographs, and the
37 addresses and telephone numbers submitted by them (~~as set forth in RCW~~

1 29.80.010 and 29.80.020)) shall be published by the secretary of state
2 as a ((~~candidates'~~)) pamphlet, the printing of which shall be completed
3 as soon as possible before the state primary or state general election
4 ((~~concerned~~)). The overall dimensions of the pamphlet shall be
5 determined by the secretary of state as those which in the secretary's
6 judgment best serve the voters, and whenever possible before the
7 applicable state general election, the candidates' ((~~pamphlet~~))
8 statement and photograph shall be combined with the voters' pamphlet as
9 a single publication.

10 NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. A new section is added to chapter 29.80 RCW
11 to read as follows:

12 The secretary of state shall allocate space in the pamphlet to
13 candidates or nominees according to the respective offices sought.
14 Candidates or nominees will equally share prorated space based on the
15 number of words allowed in the statement for that office under RCW
16 29.80.020.

17 **Sec. 7.** RCW 29.80.080 and 1981 c 243 s 1 are each amended to read
18 as follows:

19 Before the applicable state primary and state general election, the
20 secretary of state shall mail without charge taped transcripts of the
21 ((~~candidates'~~)) pamphlet to any requesting blind person or organization
22 representing the blind. Braille transcripts may also be mailed by the
23 secretary of state to such persons or organizations. Availability of
24 these transcripts shall be publicized by the secretary of state through
25 public service announcements and other appropriate means.

26 NEW SECTION. Sec. 8. The following acts or parts of acts are each
27 repealed:

28 (1) RCW 29.80.050 and 1971 ex.s c 145 s 3 & 1965 c 9 s 29.80.050;
29 and

30 (2) RCW 29.80.060 and 1965 c 9 s 29.80.060.

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