
SENATE BILL 5212

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senators Roach and West

Read first time 01/16/2001. Referred to Committee on State & Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to special county elections; and amending RCW
2 29.13.010.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29.13.010 and 1994 c 142 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) All state, county, city, town, and district general elections
7 for the election of federal, state, legislative, judicial, county,
8 city, town, district, and precinct officers, and for the submission to
9 the voters of the state, county, city, town, or district of any measure
10 for their adoption and approval or rejection, shall be held on the
11 first Tuesday after the first Monday of November, in the year in which
12 they may be called. A statewide general election shall be held on the
13 first Tuesday after the first Monday of November of each year:
14 PROVIDED, That the statewide general election held in odd-numbered
15 years shall be limited to (a) city, town, and district general
16 elections as provided for in RCW 29.13.020, or as otherwise provided by
17 law; (b) the election of federal officers for the remainder of any
18 unexpired terms in the membership of either branch of the congress of
19 the United States; (c) the election of state and county officers for

1 the remainder of any unexpired terms of offices created by or whose
2 duties are described in Article II, section 15, Article III, sections
3 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23, and Article IV, sections 3 and 5 of the
4 state Constitution and RCW 2.06.080; (d) the election of county
5 officers in any county governed by a charter containing provisions
6 calling for general county elections at this time; and (e) the approval
7 or rejection of state measures, including proposed constitutional
8 amendments, matters pertaining to any proposed constitutional
9 convention, initiative measures and referendum measures proposed by the
10 electorate, referendum bills, and any other matter provided by the
11 legislature for submission to the electorate.

12 (2) A county legislative authority may, if it deems an emergency to
13 exist, call a special county election by presenting a resolution to the
14 county auditor at least forty-five days prior to the proposed election
15 date. Except as provided in subsections (4) and (5) of this section,
16 a special election called by the county legislative authority shall be
17 held on one of the following dates as decided by such governing body:

- 18 (a) The first Tuesday after the first Monday in February;
- 19 (b) The second Tuesday in March;
- 20 (c) The fourth Tuesday in April;
- 21 (d) The third Tuesday in May;
- 22 (e) The day of the primary as specified by RCW 29.13.070; or
- 23 (f) The first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

24 (3) In addition to the dates set forth in subsection (2)(a) through
25 (f) of this section, a special election to validate an excess levy or
26 bond issue may be called at any time to meet the needs resulting from
27 fire, flood, earthquake, or other act of God. Such county special
28 election shall be noticed and conducted in the manner provided by law.

29 (4) If a special election is conducted in February, March, April,
30 or May under this chapter, the date on which any other special election
31 may be called by the county legislative authority under subsection (2)
32 of this section during the month of that special election including the
33 two weeks before or the three weeks after the month of that special
34 election is the date of that special election.

35 (5) In a presidential election year, if a presidential preference
36 primary is conducted in February, March, April, or May under chapter
37 29.19 RCW, the date on which a special election may be called by the
38 county legislative authority under subsection (2) of this section
39 during the month of that primary including the two weeks before or the

1 three weeks after the month of that primary is the date of the
2 presidential primary.

3 ~~((5))~~ (6) This section shall supersede the provisions of any and
4 all other statutes, whether general or special in nature, having
5 different dates for such city, town, and district elections, the
6 purpose of this section being to establish mandatory dates for holding
7 elections except for those elections held pursuant to a home-rule
8 charter adopted under Article XI, section 4 of the state Constitution.
9 This section shall not be construed as fixing the time for holding
10 primary elections, or elections for the recall of any elective public
11 officer.

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