
State Government & Tribal Affairs
Committee

HB 2398

Brief Description: Modifying election notice provisions.

Sponsors: Representatives Hunt and Armstrong.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Changes the notice requirements for primaries, general elections and special elections.

Hearing Date: 1/19/10

Staff: Tracey O'Brien (786-7196).

Background:

At least 35 days prior to a primary or general election, a county auditor must give notice of voter registration deadliness by publication in one newspaper of general circulation in the county.

In addition, not more than 10 days nor less than 3 days before the primary, the county auditor must publish notice of the primary in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the county. The notice must include a list of persons who have filed a declaration of candidacy for that primary, instructions for voting the applicable ballot, the polls hours, and a list of precinct polling places. The names of all candidates for nonpartisan office must be published separately. This is the only notice required for the holding of any primary. A similar notice requirement applies to any state, county, district, or municipal election, whether special or general.

As soon as practicable before a primary, special election, or general election, the county auditor (or city clerk of a first class or code city if appropriate) shall mail the local voters' pamphlet to every residence in each jurisdiction that has included information in the pamphlet. If more

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economical and a better distribution would result, he or she may choose to mail the pamphlet to each registered voter in each jurisdiction that has included information in the pamphlet.

Summary of Bill:

The timing is changed for notice for any state, county, district, or municipal primary or election (special or general). Notice must be given not more than 15 nor less than 5 days prior to the date of closing of the registration rolls to online or mail-in registrations by the county auditor or officer conducting the election.

The notice must still be published in at least one newspaper of general circulation. The information required to be in the notice is changed and includes, at minimum:

- the last date to register online or through the mail;
- the last date to register in person for first-time voters;
- information on where a person can register to vote;
- the type of election;
- the date of the election;
- whether the election will be conducted entirely by mail or with polling places;
- a list of all jurisdictions involved in the election, including positions and short titles for the ballot measures;
- times and dates of any public meetings associated with the election; and
- where additional information regarding the election may be obtained.

If the county or city chooses to mail a local voters' pamphlet to each residence, the notice required need only include the last date to register online or through the mail, the last date to transfer or update an existing registration, the last date to register in person for first time voters, information on where a person can register, and the times and dates of any public meetings associated with the election.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.