
SENATE BILL 6502

State of Washington 62nd Legislature 2012 Regular Session

By Senators Kastama, Prentice, Sheldon, Tom, Litzow, Schoesler, Harper, Regala, Chase, and Shin

Read first time 01/26/12. Referred to Committee on Government Operations, Tribal Relations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to information disclosed on ballots and voters'
2 pamphlets; amending RCW 29A.36.071 and 29A.32.241; and adding a new
3 section to chapter 81.112 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 81.112 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) Any proposition to be submitted to the voters shall address
8 either the capital projects or the maintenance and operation expenses.
9 The two topics shall not be combined in one proposition.

10 (2) The proposition for capital projects shall state that the tax
11 will cease upon redemption of the bonds for the capital project, which
12 must not exceed twenty years.

13 (3) The proposition for maintenance and operation expenses shall
14 state that the tax is permanent.

15 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.36.071 and 2006 c 311 s 9 are each amended to read
16 as follows:

17 (1) Except as provided to the contrary in RCW 82.14.036, 82.46.021,
18 or 82.80.090, the ballot title of any referendum filed on an enactment

1 or portion of an enactment of a local government and any other question
2 submitted to the voters of a local government consists of (~~three~~)
3 four elements: (a) An identification of the enacting legislative body
4 and a statement of the subject matter; (b) a concise description of the
5 measure; (~~and~~) (c) the duration of the tax, if one is being proposed;
6 and (d) a question. The ballot title must conform with the
7 requirements and be displayed substantially as provided under RCW
8 29A.72.050, except that the concise description must not exceed
9 seventy-five words; however, a concise description submitted on behalf
10 of a proposed or existing regional transportation investment district
11 may exceed seventy-five words. If the local governmental unit is a
12 city or a town, the concise statement shall be prepared by the city or
13 town attorney. If the local governmental unit is a county, the concise
14 statement shall be prepared by the prosecuting attorney of the county.
15 If the unit is a unit of local government other than a city, town, or
16 county, the concise statement shall be prepared by the prosecuting
17 attorney of the county within which the majority area of the unit is
18 located.

19 (2) A referendum measure on the enactment of a unit of local
20 government shall be advertised in the manner provided for nominees for
21 elective office.

22 (3) Subsection (1) of this section does not apply if another
23 provision of law specifies the ballot title for a specific type of
24 ballot question or proposition.

25 **Sec. 3.** RCW 29A.32.241 and 2011 c 10 s 29 are each amended to read
26 as follows:

27 The local voters' pamphlet shall include but not be limited to the
28 following:

29 (1) Appearing on the cover, the words "official local voters'
30 pamphlet," the name of the jurisdiction producing the pamphlet, and the
31 date of the election or primary;

32 (2) A list of jurisdictions that have measures or candidates in the
33 pamphlet;

34 (3) Information on how a person may register to vote and obtain a
35 ballot;

36 (4) The text of each measure accompanied by an explanatory
37 statement prepared by the prosecuting attorney for any county measure

1 or by the attorney for the jurisdiction submitting the measure if other
2 than a county measure. All explanatory statements for city, town, or
3 district measures not approved by the attorney for the jurisdiction
4 submitting the measure shall be reviewed and approved by the county
5 prosecuting attorney or city attorney, when applicable, before
6 inclusion in the pamphlet. If the text of a measure references another
7 document, the explanatory statement shall contain the referenced
8 document in its entirety and may not make reference to any other
9 documents;

10 (5) The arguments for and against each measure submitted by
11 committees selected pursuant to RCW 29A.32.280; and

12 (6) For partisan primary elections, information on how to vote the
13 applicable ballot format and an explanation that minor political party
14 candidates and independent candidates will appear only on the general
15 election ballot.

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