
HOUSE BILL 1919

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Representative S. Hunt

Read first time 02/02/15. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to the timing of special elections; and amending
2 RCW 29A.04.330, 29A.32.280, and 35.17.260.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.04.330 and 2013 c 11 s 9 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) All city, town, and district general elections shall be held
7 throughout the state of Washington on the first Tuesday following the
8 first Monday in November in the odd-numbered years.

9 This section shall not apply to:

10 (a) Elections for the recall of any elective public officer;

11 (b) Public utility districts, conservation districts, or district
12 elections at which the ownership of property within those districts
13 is a prerequisite to voting, all of which elections shall be held at
14 the times prescribed in the laws specifically applicable thereto;

15 (c) Consolidation proposals as provided for in RCW 28A.315.235
16 and nonhigh capital fund aid proposals as provided for in chapter
17 28A.540 RCW; and

18 (d) Special flood control districts consisting of three or more
19 counties.

20 (2) The county auditor, as ex officio supervisor of elections,
21 upon request in the form of a resolution of the governing body of a

1 city, town, or district, presented to the auditor prior to the
2 proposed election date, shall call a special election in such city,
3 town, or district, and for the purpose of such special election he or
4 she may combine, unite, or divide precincts. Such a special election
5 shall be held on one of the following dates as decided by the
6 governing body:

7 (a) The second Tuesday in February;

8 (b) The fourth Tuesday in April;

9 (c) The day of the primary election as specified by RCW
10 29A.04.311; or

11 (d) The first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

12 (3) A resolution calling for a special election on a date set
13 forth in subsection (2)(a) and (b) of this section must be presented
14 to the county auditor at least (~~forty-six~~) sixty days prior to the
15 election date. A resolution calling for a special election on a date
16 set forth in subsection (2)(c) of this section must be presented to
17 the county auditor no later than the Friday immediately before the
18 first day of regular candidate filing. A resolution calling for a
19 special election on a date set forth in subsection (2)(d) of this
20 section must be presented to the county auditor no later than the day
21 of the primary.

22 (4) In addition to subsection (2)(a) through (d) of this section,
23 a special election to validate an excess levy or bond issue may be
24 called at any time to meet the needs resulting from fire, flood,
25 earthquake, or other act of God, except that no special election may
26 be held between the first day for candidates to file for public
27 office and the last day to certify the returns of the general
28 election other than as provided in subsection (2)(c) and (d) of this
29 section. Such special election shall be conducted and notice thereof
30 given in the manner provided by law.

31 (5) This section shall supersede the provisions of any and all
32 other statutes, whether general or special in nature, having
33 different dates for such city, town, and district elections, the
34 purpose of this section being to establish mandatory dates for
35 holding elections.

36 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.32.280 and 2003 c 111 s 820 are each amended to
37 read as follows:

38 For each measure from a unit of local government that is included
39 in a local voters' pamphlet, the legislative authority of that

1 jurisdiction shall, not later than (~~forty-five days before the~~
2 ~~publication of the pamphlet~~) the resolution deadline, formally
3 appoint a committee to prepare arguments advocating voters' approval
4 of the measure and shall formally appoint a committee to prepare
5 arguments advocating voters' rejection of the measure. The authority
6 shall appoint persons known to favor the measure to serve on the
7 committee advocating approval and shall, whenever possible, appoint
8 persons known to oppose the measure to serve on the committee
9 advocating rejection. Each committee shall have not more than three
10 members, however, a committee may seek the advice of any person or
11 persons. If the legislative authority of a unit of local government
12 fails to make such appointments by the prescribed deadline, the
13 county auditor shall whenever possible make the appointments.

14 **Sec. 3.** RCW 35.17.260 and 1996 c 286 s 4 are each amended to
15 read as follows:

16 Ordinances may be initiated by petition of registered voters of
17 the city filed with the commission. If the petition accompanying the
18 proposed ordinance is signed by the registered voters in the city
19 equal in number to twenty-five percent of the votes cast for all
20 candidates for mayor at the last preceding city election, and if it
21 contains a request that, unless passed by the commission, the
22 ordinance be submitted to a vote of the registered voters of the
23 city, the commission shall either:

24 (1) Pass the proposed ordinance without alteration within twenty
25 days after the county auditor's certificate of sufficiency has been
26 received by the commission; or

27 (2) Immediately after the county auditor's certificate of
28 sufficiency for the petition is received, cause to be called a
29 special election to be held on the next election date, as provided in
30 RCW (~~29.13.020~~) 29A.04.330, (~~that occurs not less than forty-five~~
31 ~~days thereafter~~) provided that the resolution deadline for that
32 election has not passed, for submission of the proposed ordinance
33 without alteration, to a vote of the people unless a general election
34 will occur within ninety days, in which event submission must be made
35 on the general election ballot.

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