AN ACT Relating to the timing of state elections; and amending RCW 29A.04.311, 29A.24.050, and 29A.56.020.

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

Sec. 1. RCW 29A.04.311 and 2011 c 349 s 2 are each amended to read as follows:

Primaries for general elections to be held in November, and the election of precinct committee officers, must be held on the third Tuesday of the preceding (May) August.

Sec. 2. RCW 29A.24.050 and 2011 c 349 s 7 are each amended to read as follows:

Except where otherwise provided by this title, declarations of candidacy for the following offices shall be filed during regular business hours with the filing officer beginning the first Monday (two weeks before Memorial day) in March and ending the following Friday in the year in which the office is scheduled to be voted upon:

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

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

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

Sec. 3. RCW 29A.56.020 and 2003 c 111 s 1402 are each amended to
read as follows:

(1) On the (fourth) third Tuesday in May of each year in which
a president of the United States is to be nominated and elected, a
presidential primary shall be held at which voters may vote for the
nominee of a major political party for the office of president. The
secretary of state may propose an alternative date for the primary no
later than the first day of August of the year before the year in
which a president is to be nominated and elected.

(2) No later than the first day of September of the year before
the year in which a presidential nominee is selected, the state
committee of any major political party that will use the primary
results for candidates of that party may propose an alternative date
for that primary.

(3) If an alternative date is proposed under subsection (1) or
(2) of this section, a committee consisting of the chair and the vice
chair of the state committee of each major political party, the
secretary of state, the majority leader and minority leader of the
senate, and the speaker and the minority leader of the house of
representatives shall meet and, if affirmed by a two-thirds vote of
the members of the committee, the date of the primary shall be
changed. The committee shall meet and decide on the proposed
alternate date not later than the first day of October of the year
before the year in which a presidential nominee is selected. The
secretary of state shall convene and preside over the meeting of the
committee. A committee member other than a legislator may appoint, in
writing, a designee to serve on his or her behalf. A legislator who
is a member of the committee may appoint, in writing, another
legislator to serve on his or her behalf.

(4) If an alternate date is approved under this section, the
secretary of state shall adopt rules under RCW 29A.04.620 to adjust
the deadlines in RCW 29A.56.030 and related provisions of this
chapter to correspond with the date that has been approved.