

---

**SENATE BILL 5684**

---

**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Kauffman, Valdez, Hasegawa, and Nobles

Read first time 02/06/25. Referred to Committee on State Government,  
Tribal Affairs & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to prohibitions on electioneering near county  
2 auditor election offices; amending RCW 29A.84.510; and creating a new  
3 section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that every state,  
6 including Washington, has some form of restriction on political  
7 activities near polling places while voting is taking place. These  
8 electioneering prohibitions near voting centers, ballot drop boxes,  
9 and election offices create reasonable "buffer zones" and do not  
10 significantly impinge on First Amendment rights. These prohibitions  
11 are important tools to prevent intimidation and election fraud.

12 The legislature further finds that parking lots, which serve as  
13 corridors for voters seeking to register to vote and cast a ballot,  
14 are an extension of election offices and should not feature campaign  
15 signs or placards encouraging voters to cast votes for or against a  
16 candidate or ballot measure during the election period. This narrowly  
17 tailored prohibition protects both First Amendment rights of  
18 political campaigns and the right of voters to be free from any form  
19 of intimidation or influence while they attempt to cast a ballot.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.84.510 and 2022 c 69 s 3 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       (1) During the voting period that begins eighteen days before and  
4 ends the day of a special election, general election, or primary, no  
5 person may:

6       (a) Within a voting center or student engagement hub; or within  
7 the building which contains the division of elections for a county  
8 auditor's office, including any parking lot adjacent to the building  
9 and routinely used for parking at that building and any routes of  
10 access between the building and any parking lot; or in any public  
11 street or room in any public manner within 100 feet measured radially  
12 from the entrance to a voting center or student engagement hub or 25  
13 feet measured radially from a ballot drop box as described in RCW  
14 29A.40.170:

15       (i) Suggest or persuade or attempt to suggest or persuade any  
16 voter to vote for or against any candidate or ballot measure;

17       (ii) Circulate cards or handbills of any kind;

18       (iii) Solicit signatures to any kind of petition; or

19       (iv) Engage in any practice which interferes with the freedom of  
20 voters to exercise their franchise or disrupts the administration of  
21 the voting center;

22       (b) Engage in any activities restricted under (a) of this  
23 subsection through electronic amplification located more than 100  
24 feet from an entrance to a voting center or student engagement hub or  
25 25 feet from an entrance to a ballot drop box if the person is  
26 capable of being understood within 100 feet of the voting center or  
27 student engagement hub or 25 feet of the ballot drop box;

28       (c) Obstruct the doors or entries to a building in which a voting  
29 center or ballot drop location is located or prevent free access to  
30 and from any voting center or ballot drop location.

31       (2) The auditor shall post a sign at the point or points  
32 specified at each voting center as required by RCW 29A.40.160 during  
33 the voting period providing notice of the prohibition in subsection  
34 (1)(a) of this section.

35       (3) Any sheriff, deputy sheriff, or municipal law enforcement  
36 officer shall stop the prohibited activity, and may arrest any person  
37 engaging in the prohibited activity.

38       (4) Any violation of this section is a gross misdemeanor,  
39 punishable to the same extent as a gross misdemeanor that is

1 punishable under RCW 9A.20.021, and the person convicted may be  
2 ordered to pay the costs of prosecution.

3 (5) Nothing in this section may be construed to limit or  
4 otherwise restrict the access of an authorized political party  
5 observer to a voting center, student engagement hub, or ballot drop  
6 box for the purpose of observing the election process.

--- END ---