

WAC 434-324-107 Felony screening process—Contesting cancellation or canceling. (1) If a person under authority of DOC fails to contact the auditor within thirty days of the date of the letter, that person's voter registration must be canceled. If an election in which the person would otherwise be eligible to vote is scheduled to occur during the thirty days, the person must be allowed to vote a provisional ballot.

(2) The person's eligibility status may be resolved and the pending status reversed without scheduling a hearing if the person provides satisfactory documentation that the person's voting rights have been restored, the conviction is not a felony, the person convicted is not the registered voter, or the person is otherwise eligible to vote. The auditor must notify the voter, retain a scanned copy of all documentation provided, and notify the secretary. The secretary must flag the voter registration record to prevent future cancellation on the same basis.

(3) If the person under the authority of DOC requests a hearing, the auditor must schedule a public hearing to provide the person an opportunity to dispute the finding. In scheduling the hearing, the auditor may take into account whether an election in which the person would otherwise be eligible to vote is scheduled. The notice must be mailed to the person's last known registration mailing address and must be postmarked at least seven calendar days prior to the hearing date. Notice of the hearing must also be provided to the prosecuting attorney.

(4) The auditor must provide the prosecuting attorney a copy of all relevant registration and felony conviction information. The prosecuting attorney must obtain documentation, such as a copy of the judgment and sentence or custody or supervision information from the Washington department of corrections, the out-of-state court or prison, or the federal court or Bureau of Prisons, sufficient to prove by clear and convincing evidence that the person is ineligible to vote. It is not necessary that the copy of the document be certified.

(5) If the prosecuting attorney is unable to obtain sufficient documentation to ascertain the person's voting eligibility in time to hold a hearing prior to certification of an election in which the person would otherwise be eligible to vote, the prosecuting attorney must request that the auditor dismiss the current cancellation proceedings. The auditor must reverse the voter's pending status, cancel the hearing, and notify the voter. A provisional ballot voted in the pending election must be counted if otherwise valid. The prosecuting attorney must continue to research the person's voting eligibility. If the prosecuting attorney is unable to obtain sufficient documentation to ascertain the person's voting eligibility prior to the next election in which the person would otherwise be eligible to vote, the prosecuting attorney must notify the auditor. The auditor must notify the secretary, who must flag the voter registration record to prevent future cancellation on the same basis.

(6) A hearing to determine voting eligibility is an open public hearing pursuant to chapter 42.30 RCW. If the hearing occurs within thirty days before, or during the certification period of, an election in which the person would otherwise be eligible to vote, the hearing must be conducted by the county canvassing board. If the hearing occurs at any other time, the county auditor conducts the hearing. Before a final determination is made that the person is ineligible to vote, the prosecuting attorney must show by clear and convincing evi-

dence that the voter is ineligible to vote due to a felony conviction. The person must be provided a reasonable opportunity to respond. The hearing may be continued to a later date if continuance is likely to result in additional information regarding the person's voting eligibility. If the person is determined to be ineligible to vote due to felony conviction and lack of rights restoration, the voter registration must be canceled. If the voter is determined to be eligible to vote, the voter's pending status must be reversed and the secretary must flag the voter registration record to prevent future cancellation on the same basis. The person must be notified of the outcome of the hearing and the final determination is subject to judicial review pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW.

(7) If the person's voter registration is canceled after the person fails to contact the auditor within the thirty day period, the person may contact the auditor at a later date to request a hearing to dispute the cancellation. The auditor must schedule a hearing in substantially the same manner as provided in subsections (3) through (6) of this section.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 29A.04.611. WSR 20-13-043, § 434-324-107, filed 6/10/20, effective 7/11/20.]