<u>SB 6236</u> - S AMD **8**By Senators Kastama, Schmidt

ADOPTED 02/01/2006

- 1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the 2 following:
- 3 "Sec. 1. RCW 29A.04.311 and 2004 c 271 s 105 are each amended to 4 read as follows:
- Nominating primaries for general elections to be held in November, and the election of precinct committee officers, must be held on the
- 7 third Tuesday of the preceding ((September or on the seventh Tuesday
- 8 immediately preceding such general election, whichever occurs first))
- 9 August.
- 10 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.04.321 and 2004 c 271 s 106 are each amended to 11 read as follows:
- (1) All state, county, city, town, and district general elections 12 for the election of federal, state, legislative, judicial, county, 13 city, town, and district officers, and for the submission to the voters 14 15 of the state, county, city, town, or district of any measure for their adoption and approval or rejection, shall be held on the first Tuesday 16 17 after the first Monday of November, in the year in which they may be A statewide general election shall be held on the first 18 19 Tuesday after the first Monday of November of each year. However, the 20 statewide general election held in odd-numbered years shall be limited 21 to (a) city, town, and district general elections as provided for in 22 RCW 29A.04.330, or as otherwise provided by law; (b) the election of 23 federal officers for the remainder of any unexpired terms in the 24 membership of either branch of the Congress of the United States; (c) the election of state and county officers for the remainder of any 25 26 unexpired terms of offices created by or whose duties are described in 27 Article II, section 15, Article III, sections 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 28 and 23, and Article IV, sections 3 and 5 of the state Constitution and RCW 2.06.080; (d) the election of county officers in any county 29

- governed by a charter containing provisions calling for general county elections at this time; and (e) the approval or rejection of state including proposed constitutional amendments, pertaining to any proposed constitutional convention, initiative measures and referendum measures proposed by the electorate, referendum bills, and any other matter provided by the legislature for submission 7 to the electorate.
 - (2) A county legislative authority may((, if it deems an emergency to exist,)) call a special county election by presenting a resolution to the county auditor ((at least forty five days)) prior to the proposed election date. Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, a special election called by the county legislative authority shall be held on one of the following dates as decided by such governing body:
 - (a) The first Tuesday after the first Monday in February;
 - (b) The second Tuesday in March;

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- (c) The fourth Tuesday in April;
- (d) The third Tuesday in May;
- (e) The day of the primary as specified by RCW 29A.04.311; or
- (f) The first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. 20
 - (3) A resolution calling for a special election on a date set forth in subsection (2)(a) through (d) of this section must be presented to the county auditor at least fifty-two days prior to the election date. A resolution calling for a special election on a date set forth in subsection (2)(e) or (f) of this section must be presented to the county auditor at least eighty-four days prior to the election date.
 - (4) In addition to the dates set forth in subsection (2)(a) through (f) of this section, a special election to validate an excess levy or bond issue may be called at any time to meet the needs resulting from fire, flood, earthquake, or other act of God. Such county special election shall be noticed and conducted in the manner provided by law.
 - $((\frac{4}{1}))$ (5) In a presidential election year, if a presidential preference primary is conducted in February, March, April, or May under chapter 29A.56 RCW, the date on which a special election may be called by the county legislative authority under subsection (2) of this section during the month of that primary is the date of the presidential primary.

- (((5))) (6) This section shall supersede the provisions of any and 1 all other statutes, whether general or special in nature, having 2 different dates for such city, town, and district elections, the 3 purpose of this section being to establish mandatory dates for holding 4 elections except for those elections held pursuant to a home-rule 5 charter adopted under Article XI, section 4 of the state Constitution. 6 7 This section shall not be construed as fixing the time for holding primary elections, or elections for the recall of any elective public 8 9 officer.
- 10 **Sec. 3.** RCW 29A.04.330 and 2004 c 266 s 6 are each amended to read 11 as follows:
 - (1) All city, town, and district general elections shall be held throughout the state of Washington on the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November in the odd-numbered years.

This section shall not apply to:

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- (a) Elections for the recall of any elective public officer;
- (b) Public utility districts, conservation districts, or district elections at which the ownership of property within those districts is a prerequisite to voting, all of which elections shall be held at the times prescribed in the laws specifically applicable thereto;
- (c) Consolidation proposals as provided for in RCW 28A.315.235 and nonhigh capital fund aid proposals as provided for in chapter 28A.540 RCW.
 - (2) The county auditor, as ex officio supervisor of elections, upon request in the form of a resolution of the governing body of a city, town, or district, presented to the auditor ((at least forty five days)) prior to the proposed election date, may((, if the county auditor deems an emergency to exist,)) call a special election in such city, town, or district, and for the purpose of such special election he or she may combine, unite, or divide precincts. Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, such a special election shall be held on one of the following dates as decided by the governing body:
 - (a) The first Tuesday after the first Monday in February;
- 34 (b) The second Tuesday in March;
- 35 (c) The fourth Tuesday in April;
- 36 (d) The third Tuesday in May;

- 1 (e) The day of the primary election as specified by RCW ((29A.04.310)) 29A.04.311; or
 - (f) The first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

- (3) A resolution calling for a special election on a date set forth in subsection (2)(a) through (d) of this section must be presented to the county auditor at least fifty-two days prior to the election date. A resolution calling for a special election on a date set forth in subsection (2)(e) or (f) of this section must be presented to the county auditor at least eighty-four days prior to the election date.
- (4) In a presidential election year, if a presidential preference primary is conducted in February, March, April, or May under chapter 29A.56 RCW, the date on which a special election may be called under subsection (2) of this section during the month of that primary is the date of the presidential primary.
- $((\frac{4}{}))$ (5) In addition to subsection (2)(a) through (f) of this section, a special election to validate an excess levy or bond issue may be called at any time to meet the needs resulting from fire, flood, earthquake, or other act of God, except that no special election may be held between the first day for candidates to file for public office and the last day to certify the returns of the general election other than as provided in subsection (2)(e) and (f) of this section. Such special election shall be conducted and notice thereof given in the manner provided by law.
- ((+5))) (6) This section shall supersede the provisions of any and all other statutes, whether general or special in nature, having different dates for such city, town, and district elections, the purpose of this section being to establish mandatory dates for holding elections.
- **Sec. 4.** RCW 29A.20.121 and 2004 c 271 s 110 are each amended to 30 read as follows:
- 31 (1) Any nomination of a candidate for partisan public office by 32 other than a major political party may be made only: (a) In a 33 convention held not earlier than the ((last Saturday in June)) <u>first</u> 34 <u>Saturday in May</u> and not later than the ((first)) <u>second</u> Saturday in 35 ((July)) <u>May</u> or during any of the seven days immediately preceding the 36 first day for filing declarations of candidacy as fixed in accordance

with RCW 29A.28.041; (b) as provided by RCW 29A.60.021; or (c) as otherwise provided in this section. Minor political party and independent candidates may appear only on the general election ballot.

- (2) Nominations of candidates for president and vice president of the United States other than by a major political party may be made either at a convention conducted under subsection (1) of this section, or at a similar convention taking place not earlier than the first ((Sunday in July)) Saturday in June and not later than ((seventy days before)) the ((general election)) fourth Saturday in July. Conventions held during this time period may not nominate candidates for any public office other than president and vice president of the United States, except as provided in subsection (3) of this section.
- (3) If a special filing period for a partisan office is opened under RCW 29A.24.211, candidates of minor political parties and independent candidates may file for office during that special filing period. The names of those candidates may not appear on the general election ballot unless they are nominated by convention held no later than five days after the close of the special filing period and a certificate of nomination is filed with the filing officer no later than three days after the convention. The requirements of RCW 29A.20.131 do not apply to such a convention.
- (4) A minor political party may hold more than one convention but in no case shall any such party nominate more than one candidate for any one partisan public office or position. For the purpose of nominating candidates for the offices of president and vice president, United States senator, United States representative, or a statewide office, a minor party or independent candidate holding multiple conventions may add together the number of signatures of different individuals from each convention obtained in support of the candidate or candidates in order to obtain the number required by RCW 29A.20.141. For all other offices for which nominations are made, signatures of the requisite number of registered voters must be obtained at a single convention.
- **Sec. 5.** RCW 29A.24.040 and 2003 c 111 s 604 are each amended to read as follows:
- 36 A candidate may file his or her declaration of candidacy for an

- office by electronic means on a system specifically designed and authorized by a filing officer to accept filings.
- 3 (1) Filings that are received electronically must capture all information specified in RCW ((29A.24.030)) 29A.24.031 (1) through (4).
- 5 (2) Electronic filing may begin at 9:00 a.m. the ((fourth)) first 6 Monday in ((July)) June and continue through 4:00 p.m. the following 7 Friday.

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- (3) In case of special filing periods established in this chapter, electronic filings may be accepted beginning at 9:00 a.m. on the first day of the special filing period through 4:00 p.m. the last day of the special filing period.
- 12 **Sec. 6.** RCW 29A.24.050 and 2003 c 111 s 605 are each amended to 13 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 no earlier than the ((fourth)) first Monday in ((July)) June and no later than the following Friday in the year in which the office is scheduled to be voted upon:

- 19 (1) Offices that are scheduled to be voted upon for full terms or 20 both full terms and short terms at, or in conjunction with, a state 21 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.
- 28 **Sec. 7.** RCW 29A.24.171 and 2004 c 271 s 165 are each amended to read as follows:

Filings for a nonpartisan office shall be reopened for a period of three normal business days, such three-day period to be fixed by the election officer with whom such declarations of candidacy are filed and notice thereof given by notifying press, radio, and television in the county and by such other means as may now or hereafter be provided by law whenever before the ((sixth)) eleventh Tuesday prior to a primary:

(1) A void in candidacy occurs;

- 1 (2) A vacancy occurs in any nonpartisan office leaving an unexpired 2 term to be filled by an election for which filings have not been held; 3 or
- 4 (3) A nominee for judge of the superior court entitled to a 5 certificate of election pursuant to Article 4, section 29, Amendment 41 6 of the state Constitution, dies or is disqualified.

7 Candidacies validly filed within said three-day period shall appear 8 on the ballot as if made during the earlier filing period.

9 **Sec. 8.** RCW 29A.24.181 and 2004 c 271 s 166 are each amended to 10 read as follows:

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Filings for a nonpartisan office (other than judge of the supreme court or superintendent of public instruction) shall be reopened for a period of three normal business days, such three-day period to be fixed by the election officer with whom such declarations of candidacy are filed and notice thereof given by notifying press, radio, and television in the county and by such other means as may now or hereafter be provided by law, when:

- (1) A void in candidacy for such nonpartisan office occurs on or after the ((sixth)) eleventh Tuesday prior to a primary but prior to the ((sixth)) eleventh Tuesday before an election; or
- (2) A nominee for judge of the superior court eligible after a contested primary for a certificate of election by Article 4, section 29, Amendment 41 of the state Constitution, dies or is disqualified within the ten-day period immediately following the last day allotted for a candidate to withdraw; or
- (3) A vacancy occurs in any nonpartisan office on or after the ((sixth)) eleventh Tuesday prior to a primary but prior to the ((sixth)) eleventh Tuesday before an election leaving an unexpired term to be filled by an election for which filings have not been held.
- The candidate receiving a plurality of the votes cast for that office in the general election shall be deemed elected.
- 32 **Sec. 9.** RCW 29A.24.191 and 2004 c 271 s 167 are each amended to 33 read as follows:

A scheduled election shall be lapsed, the office deemed stricken from the ballot, no purported write-in votes counted, and no candidate certified as elected, when: 1 (1) In an election for judge of the supreme court or superintendent 2 of public instruction, a void in candidacy occurs on or after the 3 ((sixth)) eleventh Tuesday prior to a primary, public filings and the 4 primary being an indispensable phase of the election process for such 5 offices;

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- (2) Except as otherwise specified in RCW 29A.24.181, a nominee for judge of the superior court entitled to a certificate of election pursuant to Article 4, section 29, Amendment 41 of the state Constitution dies or is disqualified on or after the ((sixth)) eleventh Tuesday prior to a primary;
- 11 (3) In other elections for nonpartisan office a void in candidacy 12 occurs or a vacancy occurs involving an unexpired term to be filled on 13 or after the ((sixth)) eleventh Tuesday prior to an election.
- 14 **Sec. 10.** RCW 29A.24.211 and 2004 c 271 s 116 are each amended to read as follows:

Filings for a partisan elective office shall be opened for a period of three normal business days whenever, on or after the first day of the regular filing period and before the ((sixth)) eleventh Tuesday prior to a primary, a vacancy occurs in that office, leaving an unexpired term to be filled by an election for which filings have not been held.

Any such special three-day filing period shall be fixed by the election officer with whom declarations of candidacy for that office are filed. The election officer shall give notice of the special three-day filing period by notifying the press, radio, and television in the county or counties involved, and by such other means as may be required by law.

Candidacies validly filed within the special three-day filing period shall appear on the ballot as if filed during the regular filing period.

31 **Sec. 11.** RCW 29A.28.021 and 2004 c 271 s 192 are each amended to read as follows:

A vacancy caused by the death or disqualification of any candidate or nominee of a major or minor political party may be filled at any time up to and including the day prior to the election for that position. For state partisan offices in any political subdivision voted on solely by electors of a single county, an individual shall be appointed to fill such vacancy by the county central committee in the case of a major political party or by the state central committee or comparable governing body in the case of a minor political party. For other partisan offices, including federal or statewide offices, an individual shall be appointed to fill such vacancy by the state central committee or comparable governing body of the appropriate political party.

If the vacancy occurs no later than the ((sixth)) eleventh Tuesday prior to the state primary or general election concerned and the ballots have been printed, it shall be mandatory that they be corrected by the appropriate election officers. In making such correction, it shall not be necessary to reprint complete ballots if any other less expensive technique can be used and the resulting correction is reasonably clear.

If the vacancy occurs after the ((sixth)) eleventh Tuesday prior to the state primary or general election and time does not exist in which to correct ballots (including absentee ballots), either in total or in part, then the votes cast or recorded for the person who has died or become disqualified shall be counted for the person who has been named to fill such vacancy.

When the secretary of state is the person with whom the appointment by the major or minor political party is filed, the secretary shall, in certifying candidates or nominations to the various county officers insert the name of the person appointed to fill a vacancy.

If the secretary of state has already sent forth the certificate when the appointment to fill a vacancy is filed, the secretary shall forthwith certify to the county auditors of the proper counties the name and place of residence of the person appointed to fill a vacancy, the office for which the person is a candidate or nominee, the party the person represents, and all other pertinent facts pertaining to the vacancy.

- **Sec. 12.** RCW 29A.28.041 and 2004 c 271 s 118 are each amended to read as follows:
- 35 (1) Whenever a vacancy occurs in the United States house of 36 representatives or the United States senate from this state, the

governor shall order a special election to fill the vacancy. Minor political party candidates and independent candidates may be nominated through the convention procedures provided in chapter 29A.20 RCW.

- (2) Within ten days of such vacancy occurring, he or she shall issue a writ of election fixing a date for the special vacancy election not less than ninety days after the issuance of the writ, fixing a date for the primary for nominating major political party candidates for the special vacancy election not less than thirty days before the day fixed for holding the special vacancy election, fixing the dates for the special filing period, and designating the term or part of the term for which the vacancy exists. If the vacancy is in the office of United States representative, the writ of election shall specify the congressional district that is vacant.
- (3) If the vacancy occurs less than six months before a state general election and before the second Friday following the close of the filing period for that general election, the special primary, special vacancy election, and minor party and independent candidate nominating conventions must be held in concert with the state primary and state general election in that year.
- (4) If the vacancy occurs on or after the first day for filing under RCW 29A.24.050 and on or before the second Friday following the close of the filing period, a special filing period of three normal business days shall be fixed by the governor and notice thereof given to all media, including press, radio, and television within the area in which the vacancy election is to be held, to the end that, insofar as possible, all interested persons will be aware of such filing period. The last day of the filing period shall not be later than the ((third)) sixth Tuesday before the primary at which major political party candidates are to be nominated. The names of major political party candidates who have filed valid declarations of candidacy during this three-day period shall appear on the approaching primary ballot. The requirements of RCW 29A.20.131 do not apply to a minor political party or independent candidate convention held under this subsection.
- (5) If the vacancy occurs later than the second Friday following the close of the filing period, a special primary, special vacancy election, and the minor party and independent candidate conventions to fill the position shall be held after the next state general election

- 1 but, in any event, no later than the ninetieth day following the
- 2 November election.

- **Sec. 13.** RCW 29A.40.070 and 2004 c 266 s 13 are each amended to 4 read as follows:
- (1) Except where a recount or litigation under RCW ((29A.68.010)) 29A.68.011 is pending, the county auditor shall have sufficient absentee ballots available for absentee voters of that county, other than overseas voters and service voters, at least twenty days before any primary, general election, or special election. The county auditor must mail absentee ballots to each voter for whom the county auditor has received a request nineteen days before the primary or election at least eighteen days before the primary or election. For a request for an absentee ballot received after the nineteenth day before the primary or election, the county auditor shall make every effort to mail ballots within one business day, and shall mail the ballots within two business days.
 - (2) ((The county auditor shall make every effort to mail ballots to overseas and service voters earlier than eighteen days before a primary or election)) At least thirty days before any primary, general election, or special election, the county auditor shall mail ballots to all overseas and service voters. A request for a ballot made by an overseas or service voter after that day must be processed immediately.
 - (3) Each county auditor shall certify to the office of the secretary of state the dates the ballots prescribed in subsection (1) of this section were available and mailed.
 - (4) If absentee ballots will not be available or mailed as prescribed in subsection (1) of this section, the county auditor shall immediately certify to the office of the secretary of state when absentee ballots will be available and mailed. Copies of this certification must be provided to the county canvassing board, the press, jurisdictions with issues on the ballot in the election, and any candidates.
 - (5) If absentee ballots were not available or mailed as prescribed in subsection (1) of this section, for a reason other than a recount or litigation, the county auditor, in consultation with the certification and training program of the office of the secretary of state, shall submit a report to the office of the secretary of state outlining why

the deadline was missed and what corrective actions will be taken in future elections to ensure that absentee ballots are available and mailed as prescribed in subsection (1) of this section.

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- (6) Failure to have absentee ballots available and mailed as prescribed in subsection (1) of this section does not by itself provide a basis for an election contest or other legal challenge to the results of a primary, general election, or special election.
- 8 **Sec. 14.** RCW 29A.52.011 and 2004 c 271 s 172 are each amended to 9 read as follows:

Whenever it shall be necessary to hold a special election in an odd-numbered year to fill an unexpired term of any office which is scheduled to be voted upon for a full term in an even-numbered year, no ((September)) primary election shall be held in the odd-numbered year if, after the last day allowed for candidates to withdraw, either of the following circumstances exist:

- (1) No more than one candidate of each qualified political party has filed a declaration of candidacy for the same partisan office to be filled; or
- 19 (2) No more than two candidates have filed a declaration of 20 candidacy for a single nonpartisan office to be filled.

In either event, the officer with whom the declarations of candidacy were filed shall immediately notify all candidates concerned and the names of the candidates that would have been printed upon the ((September)) primary ballot, but for the provisions of this section, shall be printed as nominees for the positions sought upon the November general election ballot.

27 **Sec. 15.** RCW 29A.56.030 and 2003 c 111 s 1403 are each amended to 28 read as follows:

The name of any candidate for a major political party nomination for president of the United States shall be printed on the presidential preference primary ballot of a major political party only:

- (1) By direction of the secretary of state, who in the secretary's sole discretion has determined that the candidate's candidacy is generally advocated or is recognized in national news media; or
- 35 (2) If members of the political party of the candidate have 36 presented a petition for nomination of the candidate that has attached

to the petition a sheet or sheets containing the signatures of at least one thousand registered voters who declare themselves in the petition as being affiliated with the same political party as the presidential candidate. The petition shall be filed with the secretary of state not later than ((the thirty ninth day)) sixty days before the presidential preference primary. The signature sheets shall also contain the residence address and name or number of the precinct of each registered voter whose signature appears thereon and shall be certified in the manner prescribed in RCW 29A.72.230 and 29A.72.240.

The secretary of state shall place the name of the candidate on the ballot unless the candidate, at least ((thirty-five)) fifty-two days before the presidential preference primary, executes and files with the secretary of state an affidavit stating without qualification that he or she is not now and will not become a candidate for the office of president of the United States at the forthcoming presidential election. The secretary of state shall certify the names of all candidates who will appear on the presidential preference primary ballot to the respective county auditors on or before the fourth Tuesday in April of each presidential election year.

- **Sec. 16.** RCW 29A.60.190 and 2005 c 243 s 16 and 2005 c 153 s 12 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:
 - (1) Except as provided by subsection (3) of this section, ((ten)) fifteen days after a primary or special election and twenty-one days after a general election, the county canvassing board shall complete the canvass and certify the results. Each absentee ballot that was returned before the closing of the polls ((on the date of the primary or election for which it was issued)), and each absentee ballot ((with)) bearing a postmark on or before the date of the primary or election ((for which it was issued)) and received on or before the date on which the primary or election is certified, must be included in the canvass report.
 - (2) At the request of a caucus of the state legislature, the county auditor shall transmit copies of all unofficial returns of state and legislative primaries or elections prepared by or for the county canvassing board to either the secretary of the senate or the chief clerk of the house of representatives.

- 1 (3) On or before the thirtieth day after an election conducted 2 under the instant runoff voting method for the pilot project authorized 3 by RCW 29A.53.020, the canvassing board shall complete the canvass and 4 certify the results.
- **Sec. 17.** RCW 29A.60.190 and 2005 c 243 s 16 are each amended to 6 read as follows:

- (1) ((Ten)) Fifteen days after a primary or special election and twenty-one days after a general election, the county canvassing board shall complete the canvass and certify the results. Each absentee ballot that was returned before the closing of the polls ((on the date of the primary or election for which it was issued)), and each absentee ballot ((with)) bearing a postmark on or before the date of the primary or election ((for which it was issued)) and received on or before the date on which the primary or election is certified, must be included in the canvass report.
- (2) At the request of a caucus of the state legislature, the county auditor shall transmit copies of all unofficial returns of state and legislative primaries or elections prepared by or for the county canvassing board to either the secretary of the senate or the chief clerk of the house of representatives.
- **Sec. 18.** RCW 27.12.355 and 1987 c 138 s 1 are each amended to read 22 as follows:
 - (1) As provided in this section, a rural county library district, island library district, or intercounty rural library district may withdraw areas from its boundaries, or reannex areas into the library district that previously had been withdrawn from the library district under this section.
 - (2) The withdrawal of an area shall be authorized upon: (a) Adoption of a resolution by the board of trustees requesting the withdrawal and finding that, in the opinion of the board, inclusion of this area within the library district will result in a reduction of the district's tax levy rate under the provisions of RCW 84.52.010; and (b) adoption of a resolution by the city or town council approving the withdrawal, if the area is located within the city or town, or adoption of a resolution by the county legislative authority of the county within which the area is located approving the withdrawal, if the area

is located outside of a city or town. A withdrawal shall be effective at the end of the day on the thirty-first day of December in the year in which the resolutions are adopted, but for purposes of establishing boundaries for property tax purposes, the boundaries shall be established immediately upon the adoption of the second resolution.

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The authority of an area to be withdrawn from a library district as provided under this section is in addition, and not subject, to the provisions of RCW 27.12.380.

The withdrawal of an area from the boundaries of a library district shall not exempt any property therein from taxation for the purpose of paying the costs of redeeming any indebtedness of the library district existing at the time of the withdrawal.

(3) An area that has been withdrawn from the boundaries of a library district under this section may be reannexed into the library district upon: (a) Adoption of a resolution by the board of trustees proposing the reannexation; and (b) adoption of a resolution by the city or town council approving the reannexation, if the area is located within the city or town, or adoption of a resolution by the county legislative authority of the county within which the area is located approving the reannexation, if the area is located outside of a city or The reannexation shall be effective at the end of the day on the thirty-first day of December in the year in which the adoption of the second resolution occurs, but for purposes of establishing boundaries for property tax purposes, the boundaries shall be established immediately upon the adoption of the second resolution. Referendum action on the proposed reannexation may be taken by the voters of the area proposed to be reannexed if a petition calling for a referendum is filed with the city or town council, or county legislative authority, within a thirty-day period after the adoption of the second resolution, which petition has been signed by registered voters of the area proposed to be reannexed equal in number to ten percent of the total number of the registered voters residing in that area.

If a valid petition signed by the requisite number of registered voters has been so filed, the effect of the resolutions shall be held in abeyance and a ballot proposition to authorize the reannexation shall be submitted to the voters of the area at the next special election date ((specified in RCW 29.13.020 that occurs forty-five or more days after the petitions have been validated)) according to RCW

- 1 <u>29A.04.330</u>. Approval of the ballot proposition authorizing the
- 2 reannexation by a simple majority vote shall authorize the
- 3 reannexation.

Sec. 19. RCW 27.12.370 and 1982 c 123 s 14 are each amended to read as follows:

The county legislative authority or authorities shall by resolution call a special election to be held in such city or town at the next special election date ((provided in RCW 29.13.010 but not less than forty five days from the date of the declaration of such finding)) according to RCW 29A.04.321, and shall cause notice of such election to be given as provided for in RCW (($\frac{29.27.080}{29A.52.351}$).

The election on the annexation of the city or town into the library district shall be conducted by the auditor of the county or counties in which the city or town is located in accordance with the general election laws of the state and the results thereof shall be canvassed by the canvassing board of the county or counties. No person shall be entitled to vote at such election unless he or she is registered to vote in said city or town for at least thirty days preceding the date of the election. The ballot proposition shall be in substantially the following form:

"Shall the city or town of be annexed to and be
a part of library district?

YES □

NO □

If a majority of the persons voting on the proposition shall vote in favor thereof, the city or town shall thereupon be annexed and shall be a part of such library district.

Sec. 20. RCW 35.02.086 and 1986 c 234 s 11 are each amended to read as follows:

Each candidate for a city or town elective position shall file a declaration of candidacy with the county auditor of the county in which all or the major portion of the city or town is located((, not more than forty five nor less than thirty days)) prior to the primary election at which the initial elected officials are nominated, according to RCW 29A.24.050. The elective positions shall be as

provided in law for the type of city or town and form or plan of government specified in the petition to incorporate, and for the population of the city or town as determined by the county legislative authority or boundary review board where applicable. Any candidate may withdraw his or her declaration ((at any time within five days after the last day allowed for filing declaration of candidacy)) according to RCW 29A.24.131. All names of candidates to be voted upon shall be printed upon the ballot alphabetically in groups under the designation of the respective titles of offices for which they are candidates. Names of candidates printed upon the ballot need not be rotated.

Sec. 21. RCW 35.06.070 and 1994 c 81 s 8 are each amended to read 12 as follows:

A ballot proposition authorizing an advancement in classification of a town to a second class city shall be submitted to the voters of the town if either: (1) Petitions proposing the advancement are submitted to the town clerk that have been signed by voters of the town equal in number to at least ten percent of the voters of the town voting at the last municipal general election; or (2) the town council adopts a resolution proposing the advancement. The clerk shall immediately forward the petitions to the county auditor who shall review the signatures and certify the sufficiency of the petitions.

A ballot proposition authorizing an advancement shall be submitted to the town voters at the next ((municipal general)) special election ((occurring forty five or more days after the petitions are submitted)) date according to RCW 29A.04.330 if the county auditor certifies the petitions as having sufficient valid signatures. The town shall be advanced to a second class city if the ballot proposition is approved by a simple majority vote, effective when the corporation is actually reorganized and the new officers are elected and qualified. The county auditor shall notify the secretary of state if the advancement of a town to a second class city is approved.

Sec. 22. RCW 35.13.1821 and 1998 c 286 s 2 are each amended to 33 read as follows:

The annexation ordinance provided for in RCW 35.13.182 is subject to referendum for forty-five days after its passage. Upon the filing of a timely and sufficient referendum petition with the legislative

body, signed by qualified electors in number equal to not less than ten 1 2 percent of the votes cast in the last general state election in the area to be annexed, the question of annexation shall be submitted to 3 the voters of the area in a general election if one is to be held 4 5 within ninety days or at a special election called for that purpose ((not less than forty-five days nor more than ninety days after the 6 filing of the referendum petition)) according to RCW 29A.04.330. 7 Notice of the election shall be given as provided in RCW 35.13.080 and 8 9 the election shall be conducted as provided in the general election law. The annexation shall be deemed approved by the voters unless a 10 majority of the votes cast on the proposition are in opposition 11 thereto. 12

After the expiration of the forty-fifth day from but excluding the date of passage of the annexation ordinance, if no timely and sufficient referendum petition has been filed, the area annexed shall become a part of the city or town upon the date fixed in the ordinance of annexation.

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- Sec. 23. RCW 35.13.480 and 2003 c 299 s 2 are each amended to read 19 as follows:
 - (1) The legislative body of any county planning under chapter 36.70A RCW and subject to the requirements of RCW 36.70A.215 may initiate an annexation process with the legislative body of any other cities or towns that are contiguous to the territory proposed for annexation in RCW 35.13.470 if:
- (a) The county legislative body initiated an annexation process as 25 provided in RCW 35.13.470; and 26
 - (b) The affected city or town legislative body adopted a responsive resolution rejecting the proposed annexation or declined to create the requested interlocal agreement with the county; or
 - (c) More than one hundred eighty days have passed since adoption of a county resolution as provided for in RCW 35.13.470 and the parties have not adopted or executed an interlocal agreement providing for the annexation of unincorporated territory. The legislative body for either the county or an affected city or town may, however, pass a resolution extending the negotiation period for one or more six-month periods if a public hearing is held and findings of fact are made prior to each extension.

(2) Any county initiating the process provided for in subsection (1) of this section must do so by adopting a resolution commencing negotiations for an interlocal agreement as provided in chapter 39.34 RCW between the county and any city or town within the county. The annexation area must be within an urban growth area designated under RCW 36.70A.110 and at least sixty percent of the boundaries of the territory to be annexed must be contiguous to one or more cities or towns.

- (3) The agreement shall describe the boundaries of the territory to be annexed. A public hearing shall be held by each legislative body, separately or jointly, before the agreement is executed. Each legislative body holding a public hearing shall, separately or jointly, publish the agreement at least once a week for two weeks before the date of the hearing in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the territory proposed for annexation.
- (4) Following adoption and execution of the agreement by both legislative bodies, the city or town legislative body shall adopt an ordinance providing for the annexation. The legislative body shall cause notice of the proposed effective date of the annexation, together with a description of the property to be annexed, to be published at least once each week for two weeks subsequent to passage of the ordinance, in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the city and in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the territory to be annexed. If the annexation ordinance provides for assumption of indebtedness or adoption of a proposed zoning regulation, the notice shall include a statement of the requirements. Any area to be annexed through an ordinance adopted under this section is annexed and becomes a part of the city or town upon the date fixed in the ordinance of annexation, which date may not be less than forty-five days after adoption of the ordinance.
- (5) The annexation ordinances provided for in RCW 35.13.470(4) and subsection (4) of this section are subject to referendum for forty-five days after passage. Upon the filing of a timely and sufficient referendum petition with the legislative body, signed by registered voters in number equal to not less than fifteen percent of the votes cast in the last general state election in the area to be annexed, the question of annexation shall be submitted to the voters of the area in a general election if one is to be held within ninety days or at a

special election called for that purpose ((not less than forty-five days nor more than ninety days after the filing of the referendum petition)) according to RCW 29A.04.330. Notice of the election shall be given as provided in RCW 35.13.080 and the election shall be conducted as provided in the general election law. The annexation shall be deemed approved by the voters unless a majority of the votes cast on the proposition are in opposition thereto.

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After the expiration of the forty-fifth day from but excluding the date of passage of the annexation ordinance, if no timely and sufficient referendum petition has been filed, the area annexed shall become a part of the city or town upon the date fixed in the ordinance of annexation.

- (6) If more than one city or town adopts interlocal agreements providing for annexation of the same unincorporated territory as provided by this section, an election shall be held in the area to be annexed pursuant to RCW 35.13.070 and 35.13.080. In addition to the provisions of RCW 35.13.070 and 35.13.080, the ballot shall also contain a separate proposition allowing voters to cast votes in favor of annexation to any one city or town participating in an interlocal agreement as provided by this section. If a majority of voters voting on the proposition vote against annexation, the proposition is defeated. If, however, a majority of voters voting in the election approve annexation, the area shall be annexed to the city or town receiving the highest number of votes among those cast in favor of annexation.
- 26 (7) Costs for an election required under subsection (6) of this 27 section shall be borne by the county.
- 28 **Sec. 24.** RCW 35.61.360 and 1987 c 138 s 2 are each amended to read 29 as follows:
- 30 (1) As provided in this section, a metropolitan park district may 31 withdraw areas from its boundaries, or reannex areas into the 32 metropolitan park district that previously had been withdrawn from the 33 metropolitan park district under this section.
- 34 (2) The withdrawal of an area shall be authorized upon: (a)
 35 Adoption of a resolution by the park district commissioners requesting
 36 the withdrawal and finding that, in the opinion of the commissioners,
 37 inclusion of this area within the metropolitan park district will

result in a reduction of the district's tax levy rate under the provisions of RCW 84.52.010; and (b) adoption of a resolution by the city or town council approving the withdrawal, if the area is located within the city or town, or adoption of a resolution by the county legislative authority of the county within which the area is located approving the withdrawal, if the area is located outside of a city or town. A withdrawal shall be effective at the end of the day on the thirty-first day of December in the year in which the resolutions are adopted, but for purposes of establishing boundaries for property tax purposes, the boundaries shall be established immediately upon the adoption of the second resolution.

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The withdrawal of an area from the boundaries of a metropolitan park district shall not exempt any property therein from taxation for the purpose of paying the costs of redeeming any indebtedness of the metropolitan park district existing at the time of the withdrawal.

(3) An area that has been withdrawn from the boundaries of a metropolitan park district under this section may be reannexed into the metropolitan park district upon: (a) Adoption of a resolution by the park district commissioners proposing the reannexation; and (b) adoption of a resolution by the city or town council approving the reannexation, if the area is located within the city or town, adoption of a resolution by the county legislative authority of the county within which the area is located approving the reannexation, if the area is located outside of a city or town. The reannexation shall be effective at the end of the day on the thirty-first day of December in the year in which the adoption of the second resolution occurs, but for purposes of establishing boundaries for property tax purposes, the boundaries shall be established immediately upon the adoption of the second resolution. Referendum action on the proposed reannexation may be taken by the voters of the area proposed to be reannexed if a petition calling for a referendum is filed with the city or town council, or county legislative authority, within a thirty-day period after the adoption of the second resolution, which petition has been signed by registered voters of the area proposed to be reannexed equal in number to ten percent of the total number of the registered voters residing in that area.

If a valid petition signed by the requisite number of registered voters has been so filed, the effect of the resolutions shall be held

in abeyance and a ballot proposition to authorize the reannexation shall be submitted to the voters of the area at the next special election date ((specified in RCW 29.13.020 that occurs forty five or more days after the petitions have been validated)) according to RCW 29A.04.330. Approval of the ballot proposition authorizing the reannexation a simple majority vote authorize by shall the reannexation.

Sec. 25. RCW 35A.14.299 and 1967 ex.s. c 119 s 35A.14.299 are each 9 amended to read as follows:

Such annexation ordinance as provided for in RCW 35A.14.297 shall be subject to referendum for forty-five days after the passage thereof. Upon the filing of a timely and sufficient referendum petition with the legislative body, signed by qualified electors in number equal to not less than ten percent of the votes cast in the last general state election in the area to be annexed, the question of annexation shall be submitted to the voters of such area in a general election if one is to be held within ninety days or at a special election called for that purpose ((not less than forty five days nor more than ninety days after the filing of the referendum petition)) according to RCW 29A.04.330. Notice of such election shall be given as provided in RCW ((35A.14.060)) 35A.29.151. The annexation shall be deemed approved by the voters unless a majority of the votes cast on the proposition are in opposition thereto.

After the expiration of the forty-fifth day from but excluding the date of passage of the annexation ordinance, if no timely and sufficient referendum petition has been filed, the area annexed shall become a part of the code city upon the date fixed in the ordinance of annexation. From and after such date, if the ordinance so provided, property in the annexed area shall be subject to the proposed zoning regulation prepared and filed for such area as provided in RCW 35A.14.330 and 35A.14.340. If the ordinance so provided, all property within the area annexed shall be assessed and taxed at the same rate and on the same basis as the property of such annexing code city is assessed and taxed to pay for any then outstanding indebtedness of such city contracted prior to, or existing at, the date of annexation.

Sec. 26. RCW 35A.14.470 and 2003 c 299 s 4 are each amended to 2 read as follows:

- (1) The legislative body of any county planning under chapter 36.70A RCW and subject to the requirements of RCW 36.70A.215 may initiate an annexation process with the legislative body of any other cities or towns that are contiguous to the territory proposed for annexation in RCW 35A.14.460 if:
- (a) The county legislative body initiated an annexation process as provided in RCW 35A.14.460; and
- (b) The affected city legislative body adopted a responsive resolution rejecting the proposed annexation or declined to create the requested interlocal agreement with the county; or
- (c) More than one hundred eighty days have passed since adoption of a county resolution as provided for in RCW 35A.14.460 and the parties have not adopted or executed an interlocal agreement providing for the annexation of unincorporated territory. The legislative body for either the county or an affected city may, however, pass a resolution extending the negotiation period for one or more six-month periods if a public hearing is held and findings of fact are made prior to each extension.
- (2) Any county initiating the process provided for in subsection (1) of this section must do so by adopting a resolution commencing negotiations for an interlocal agreement as provided in chapter 39.34 RCW between the county and any city or town within the county. The annexation area must be within an urban growth area designated under RCW 36.70A.110 and at least sixty percent of the boundaries of the territory to be annexed must be contiguous to one or more cities or towns.
- (3) The agreement shall describe the boundaries of the territory to be annexed. A public hearing shall be held by each legislative body, separately or jointly, before the agreement is executed. Each legislative body holding a public hearing shall, separately or jointly, publish the agreement at least once a week for two weeks before the date of the hearing in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the territory proposed for annexation.
- (4) Following adoption and execution of the agreement by both legislative bodies, the city or town legislative body shall adopt an ordinance providing for the annexation. The legislative body shall

cause notice of the proposed effective date of the annexation, together with a description of the property to be annexed, to be published at least once each week for two weeks subsequent to passage of the ordinance, in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the city and in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the territory to be annexed. If the annexation ordinance provides for assumption of indebtedness or adoption of a proposed zoning regulation, the notice shall include a statement of the requirements. Any area to be annexed through an ordinance adopted under this section is annexed and becomes a part of the city or town upon the date fixed in the ordinance of annexation, which date may not be less than forty-five days after adoption of the ordinance.

(5) The annexation ordinances provided for in RCW 35A.14.460(4) and subsection (4) of this section are subject to referendum for forty-five days after passage. Upon the filing of a timely and sufficient referendum petition with the legislative body, signed by registered voters in number equal to not less than fifteen percent of the votes cast in the last general state election in the area to be annexed, the question of annexation shall be submitted to the voters of the area in a general election if one is to be held within ninety days or at a special election called for that purpose ((not less than forty five days nor more than ninety days after the filing of the referendum petition)) according to RCW 29A.04.330. Notice of the election shall be given as provided in RCW 35A.14.070 and the election shall be conducted as provided in the general election law. The annexation shall be deemed approved by the voters unless a majority of the votes cast on the proposition are in opposition thereto.

After the expiration of the forty-fifth day from but excluding the date of passage of the annexation ordinance, if no timely and sufficient referendum petition has been filed, the area annexed shall become a part of the city or town upon the date fixed in the ordinance of annexation.

(6) If more than one city or town adopts interlocal agreements providing for annexation of the same unincorporated territory as provided by this section, an election shall be held in the area to be annexed pursuant to RCW 35A.14.070. In addition to the provisions of RCW 35A.14.070, the ballot shall also contain a separate proposition allowing voters to cast votes in favor of annexation to any one city or

- town participating in an interlocal agreement as provided by this section. If a majority of voters voting on the proposition vote against annexation, the proposition is defeated. If, however, a majority of voters voting in the election approve annexation, the area shall be annexed to the city or town receiving the highest number of votes among those cast in favor of annexation.
- 7 (7) Costs for an election required under subsection (6) of this 8 section shall be borne by the county.

9 **Sec. 27.** RCW 36.24.190 and 1996 c 108 s 2 are each amended to read 10 as follows:

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In a county with a population of two hundred fifty thousand or more, the county legislative authority may, upon majority vote at an election called by the county legislative authority, adopt a system under which a medical examiner may be appointed to replace the office The county legislative authority must adopt a of the coroner. resolution or ordinance that creates the office of medical examiner at least thirty days prior to the first day of filing for the primary election for county offices. If a county adopts such a resolution or ordinance, the resolution or ordinance shall be referred to the voters for confirmation or rejection at the next date for a special election ((that is more than forty-five days from the date the resolution or ordinance was adopted)) according to RCW 29A.04.321. If the resolution or ordinance is approved by majority vote, no election shall be held for the position of coroner and the coroner's position is abolished following the expiration of the coroner's term of office or upon vacating of the office of the coroner for any reason. The county legislative authority shall appoint a medical examiner to assume the statutory duties performed by the county coroner and the appointment shall become effective following the expiration of the coroner's term of office or upon the vacating of the office of the coroner. appointed as a medical examiner pursuant to this section, a person must either be: (1) Certified as a forensic pathologist by the American board of pathology; or (2) a qualified physician eligible to take the American board of pathology exam in forensic pathology within one year of being appointed. A physician specializing in pathology who is appointed to the position of medical examiner and who is not certified

- as a forensic pathologist must pass the pathology exam within three years of the appointment.
- **Sec. 28.** RCW 36.93.030 and 1991 c 363 s 91 are each amended to 4 read as follows:

- (1) There is hereby created and established in each county with a population of two hundred ten thousand or more a board to be known and designated as a "boundary review board".
- (2) A boundary review board may be created and established in any other county in the following manner:
- (a) The county legislative authority may, by majority vote, adopt a resolution establishing a boundary review board; or
- (b) A petition seeking establishment of a boundary review board signed by qualified electors residing in the county equal in number to at least five percent of the votes cast in the county at the last county general election may be filed with the county auditor.

Upon the filing of such a petition, the county auditor shall examine the same and certify to the sufficiency of the signatures thereon. No person may withdraw his or her name from a petition after it has been filed with the auditor. Within thirty days after the filing of such petition, the county auditor shall transmit the same to the county legislative authority, together with his or her certificate of sufficiency.

After receipt of a valid petition for the establishment of a boundary review board, the county legislative authority shall submit the question of whether a boundary review board should be established to the electorate at the next ((county)) primary or ((county)) general election ((which occurs more than forty five days from the date of receipt of the petition)) according to RCW 29A.04.321. Notice of the election shall be given as provided in RCW ((29.27.080)) 29A.52.351 and shall include a clear statement of the proposal to be submitted.

If a majority of the persons voting on the proposition shall vote in favor of the establishment of the boundary review board, such board shall thereupon be deemed established.

- **Sec. 29.** RCW 42.12.040 and 2003 c 238 s 4 are each amended to read 35 as follows:
- 36 (1) If a vacancy occurs in any partisan elective office in the

- executive or legislative branches of state government or in any 1 2 partisan county elective office before the ((sixth)) eleventh Tuesday prior to the primary for the next general election following the 3 occurrence of the vacancy, a successor shall be elected to that office 4 at that general election. Except during the last year of the term of 5 office, if such a vacancy occurs on or after the ((sixth)) eleventh 6 7 Tuesday prior to the primary for that general election, the election of the successor shall occur at the next succeeding general election. The 8 elected successor shall hold office for the remainder of the unexpired 9 This section shall not apply to any vacancy occurring in a 10 charter county which has charter provisions inconsistent with this 11 12 section.
- 13 (2) If a vacancy occurs in any legislative office or in any partisan county office after the general election in a year that the position appears on the ballot and before the start of the next term, the term of the successor who is of the same party as the incumbent may commence once he or she has qualified as defined in RCW ((29.01.135)) 29A.04.133 and shall continue through the term for which he or she was elected.
- 20 **Sec. 30.** RCW 42.17.080 and 2005 c 184 s 1 are each amended to read 21 as follows:

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- (1) On the day the treasurer is designated, each candidate or political committee shall file with the commission and the county auditor or elections officer of the county in which the candidate resides, or in the case of a political committee, the county in which the treasurer resides, in addition to any statement of organization required under RCW 42.17.040 or 42.17.050, a report of all contributions received and expenditures made prior to that date, if any.
- (2) At the following intervals each treasurer shall file with the commission and the county auditor or elections officer of the county in which the candidate resides, or in the case of a political committee, the county in which the committee maintains its office or headquarters, and if there is no office or headquarters then in the county in which the treasurer resides, a report containing the information required by RCW 42.17.090:

- 1 (a) On the twenty-first day and the seventh day immediately 2 preceding the date on which the election is held; and
 - (b) On the tenth day of the first month after the $election((\div PROVIDED, That this report shall not be required following a primary election from:$
 - (i) A candidate whose name will appear on the subsequent general election ballot; or
 - (ii) Any continuing political committee)); and

(c) On the tenth day of each month in which no other reports are required to be filed under this section: PROVIDED, That such report shall only be filed if the committee has received a contribution or made an expenditure in the preceding calendar month and either the total contributions received or total expenditures made since the last such report exceed two hundred dollars.

When there is no outstanding debt or obligation, and the campaign fund is closed, and the campaign is concluded in all respects, and in the case of a political committee, the committee has ceased to function and has dissolved, the treasurer shall file a final report. Upon submitting a final report, the duties of the treasurer shall cease and there shall be no obligation to make any further reports.

The report filed twenty-one days before the election shall report all contributions received and expenditures made as of the end of the fifth business day before the date of the report. The report filed seven days before the election shall report all contributions received and expenditures made as of the end of the one business day before the date of the report. Reports filed on the tenth day of the month shall report all contributions received and expenditures made from the closing date of the last report filed through the last day of the month preceding the date of the current report.

(3) For the period beginning the first day of the fourth month preceding the date on which the special ((or general)) election is held, or for the period beginning the first day of the fifth month before the date on which the general election is held, and ending on the date of that special or general election, each Monday the treasurer shall file with the commission and the appropriate county elections officer a report of each bank deposit made during the previous seven calendar days. The report shall contain the name of each person contributing the funds so deposited and the amount contributed by each

person. However, contributions of no more than twenty-five dollars in the aggregate from any one person may be deposited without identifying the contributor. A copy of the report shall be retained by the treasurer for his or her records. In the event of deposits made by a deputy treasurer, the copy shall be forwarded to the treasurer for his or her records. Each report shall be certified as correct by the treasurer or deputy treasurer making the deposit.

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- (4) If a city requires that candidates or committees for city offices file reports with a city agency, the candidate or treasurer so filing need not also file the report with the county auditor or elections officer.
- (5) The treasurer or candidate shall maintain books of account 12 13 accurately reflecting all contributions and expenditures on a current basis within five business days of receipt or expenditure. During the 14 eight days immediately preceding the date of the election the books of 15 account shall be kept current within one business day. As specified in 16 17 the committee's statement of organization filed under RCW 42.17.040, the books of account must be open for public inspection by appointment 18 at the designated place for inspections between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. 19 on any day from the eighth day immediately before the election through 20 21 the day immediately before the election, other than Saturday, Sunday, 22 or a legal holiday. It is a violation of this chapter for a candidate or political committee to refuse to allow and keep an appointment for 23 24 an inspection to be conducted during these authorized times and days. 25 The appointment must be allowed at an authorized time and day for such inspections that is within twenty-four hours of the time and day that 26 27 is requested for the inspection.
 - (6) The treasurer or candidate shall preserve books of account, bills, receipts, and all other financial records of the campaign or political committee for not less than five calendar years following the year during which the transaction occurred.
 - (7) All reports filed pursuant to subsection (1) or (2) of this section shall be certified as correct by the candidate and the treasurer.
 - (8) Copies of all reports filed pursuant to this section shall be readily available for public inspection for at least two consecutive hours Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays, between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., as specified in the committee's statement of

organization filed pursuant to RCW 42.17.040, at the principal headquarters or, if there is no headquarters, at the address of the treasurer or such other place as may be authorized by the commission.

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- (9) After January 1, 2002, a report that is filed with the commission electronically need not also be filed with the county auditor or elections officer.
- (10) The commission shall adopt administrative rules establishing requirements for filer participation in any system designed and implemented by the commission for the electronic filing of reports.
- 10 **Sec. 31.** RCW 42.17.710 and 2003 c 164 s 3 are each amended to read 11 as follows:
 - (1) During the period beginning on the thirtieth day before the date a regular legislative session convenes and continuing ((thirty days past)) through the date of final adjournment, and during the period beginning on the date a special legislative session convenes and continuing through the date that session adjourns, no state official or a person employed by or acting on behalf of a state official or state legislator may solicit or accept contributions to a public office fund, to a candidate or authorized committee, or to retire a campaign debt.
- 20 (2) This section does not apply to activities authorized in RCW 21 43.07.370.
- 22 **Sec. 32.** RCW 52.02.080 and 1989 c 63 s 6 are each amended to read as follows:
- The election on the formation of the district and to elect the 24 25 initial fire commissioners shall be conducted by the election officials of the county or counties in which the proposed district is located in 26 accordance with the general election laws of the state. This election 27 shall be held at the next general election date((, as specified under 28 29 RCW 29.13.020)) according to RCW 29A.04.321 and 29A.04.330, that occurs 30 ((forty five or more days)) after the date of the action by the boundary review board, or county legislative authority or authorities, 31 32 approving the proposal.
- 33 **Sec. 33.** RCW 52.04.056 and 1989 c 63 s 11 are each amended to read as follows:
- 35 (1) As provided in this section, a fire protection district may

withdraw areas from its boundaries, or reannex areas into the fire protection district that previously had been withdrawn from the fire protection district under this section.

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(2) The withdrawal of an area shall be authorized upon: (a) Adoption of a resolution by the board of fire commissioners requesting the withdrawal and finding that, in the opinion of the board, inclusion of this area within the fire protection district will result in a reduction of the district's tax levy rate under the provisions of RCW 84.52.010; and (b) adoption of a resolution by the city or town council approving the withdrawal, if the area is located within the city or town, or adoption of a resolution by the county legislative authority or authorities of the county or counties within which the area is located approving the withdrawal, if the area is located outside of a city or town. A withdrawal shall be effective at the end of the day on the thirty-first day of December in the year in which the resolutions are adopted, but for purposes of establishing boundaries for property tax purposes, the boundaries shall be established immediately upon the adoption of the second resolution.

The authority of an area to be withdrawn from a fire protection district as provided under this section is in addition, and not subject, to the provisions of RCW 52.04.101.

The withdrawal of an area from the boundaries of a fire protection district shall not exempt any property therein from taxation for the purpose of paying the costs of redeeming any indebtedness of the fire protection district existing at the time of the withdrawal.

(3) An area that has been withdrawn from the boundaries of a fire protection district under this section may be reannexed into the fire protection district upon: (a) Adoption of a resolution by the board of fire commissioners proposing the reannexation; and (b) adoption of a resolution by the city or town council approving the reannexation, if the area is located within the city or town, or adoption of a resolution by the county legislative authority or authorities of the county or counties within which the area is located approving the reannexation, if the area is located outside of a city or town. The reannexation shall be effective at the end of the day on the thirty-first day of December in the year in which the adoption of the second resolution occurs, but for purposes of establishing boundaries for property tax purposes, the boundaries shall be established immediately

upon the adoption of the second resolution. Referendum action on the proposed reannexation may be taken by the voters of the area proposed to be reannexed if a petition calling for a referendum is filed with the city or town council, or county legislative authority or authorities, within a thirty-day period after the adoption of the second resolution, which petition has been signed by registered voters of the area proposed to be reannexed equal in number to ten percent of the total number of the registered voters residing in that area.

If a valid petition signed by the requisite number of registered voters has been so filed, the effect of the resolutions shall be held in abeyance and a ballot proposition to authorize the reannexation shall be submitted to the voters of the area at the next special election date ((specified in RCW 29.13.020 that occurs forty five or more days after the petitions have been validated)) according to RCW 29A.04.330. Approval of the ballot proposition authorizing the reannexation by a simple majority vote shall authorize the reannexation.

Sec. 34. RCW 52.04.071 and 1984 c 230 s 16 are each amended to read as follows:

The county legislative authority or authorities shall by resolution call a special election to be held in the city or town and in the fire protection district at the next date ((provided in RCW 29.13.010 but not less than forty five days from the date of the declaration of the finding)) according to RCW 29A.04.321, and shall cause notice of the election to be given as provided for in RCW ((29.27.080)) 29A.52.351.

The election on the annexation of the city or town into the fire protection district shall be conducted by the auditor of the county or counties in which the city or town and the fire protection district are located in accordance with the general election laws of the state. The results thereof shall be canvassed by the canvassing board of the county or counties. No person is entitled to vote at the election unless he or she is a qualified elector in the city or town or unless he or she is a qualified elector within the boundaries of the fire protection district. The ballot proposition shall be in substantially the following form:

36 "Shall the city or town of be annexed to and be a part of fire protection district?

1	YES	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
2	NO											"

If a majority of the persons voting on the proposition in the city or town and a majority of the persons voting on the proposition in the fire protection district vote in favor thereof, the city or town shall be annexed and shall be a part of the fire protection district.

Sec. 35. RCW 53.04.110 and 1998 c 240 s 1 are each amended to read 8 as follows:

Any port district now existing or which may hereafter be organized under the laws of the state of Washington is hereby authorized to change its corporate name under the following conditions and in the following manner:

- (1) On presentation((, at least forty five days before any general port election to be held in the port district,)) of a petition to the commissioners of any port district now existing or which may hereafter be established under the laws of the state of Washington, signed by at least ten percent of the total number of voters of the port district who voted at the last general port election and asking that the corporate name of the port district be changed, it shall be the duty of the commissioners to submit to the voters of the port district the proposition as to whether the corporate name of the port shall be changed. The proposition shall be submitted at the next general port election according to RCW 29A.04.330.
- (2) The petition shall contain the present corporate name of the port district and the corporate name which is proposed to be given to the port district.
- (3) On submitting the proposition to the voters of the port district it shall be the duty of the port commissioners to cause to be printed on the official ballot used at the election the following proposition:

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"Shall the corporate name, 'Port of . . . . ' be

changed to 'Port of . . . . ' YES

"Shall the corporate name, 'Port of . . . . ' be

changed to 'Port of . . . . ' NO"
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35 (4) At the time when the returns of the general election shall be

canvassed by the commissioners of the port district, it shall be the duty of the commissioners to canvass the vote upon the proposition so submitted, recording in their record the result of the canvass.

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(5) Should a majority of the registered voters of the port district voting at the general port election vote in favor of the proposition it shall be the duty of the port commissioners to certify the fact to the auditor of the county in which the port district shall be situated and to the secretary of state of the state of Washington, under the seal of the port district. On and after the filing of the certificate with the county auditor as aforesaid and with the secretary of state of the state of Washington, the corporate name of the port district shall be changed, and thenceforth the port district shall be known and designated in accordance therewith.

14 **Sec. 36.** RCW 54.08.010 and 1985 c 469 s 55 are each amended to read as follows:

At any general election held in an even-numbered year, the county legislative authority of any county in this state may, or, on petition of ten percent of the qualified electors of the county based on the total vote cast in the last general county election held in an evennumbered year, shall, by resolution, submit to the voters of the county the proposition of creating a public utility district which shall be coextensive with the limits of the county as now or hereafter established. A form of petition for the creation of a public utility district shall be submitted to the county auditor within ten months prior to the election at which the proposition is to be submitted to the voters. Petitions shall be filed with the county auditor not less than four months before the election and the county auditor shall within thirty days examine the signatures thereof and certify to the sufficiency or insufficiency thereof. If the petition be found to be insufficient, it shall be returned to the persons filing the same, who may amend or add names thereto for ten days, when the same shall be returned to the county auditor, who shall have an additional fifteen days to examine the same and attach his certificate thereto. No person having signed the petition shall be allowed to withdraw his name therefrom after the filing of the same with the county auditor: PROVIDED, That each signature shall be dated and that no signature dated prior to the date on which the form of petition was submitted to

the county auditor shall be valid. Whenever the petition shall be 1 2 certified to as sufficient, the county auditor shall forthwith transmit the same, together with his certificate of sufficiency attached 3 thereto, to the county legislative authority which shall submit the 4 5 proposition to the voters of the county at the next general election in an even-numbered year ((occurring forty-five days after submission of 6 7 the proposition to the legislative authority)) according to RCW 29A.04.330. The notice of the election shall state the boundaries of 8 the proposed public utility district and the object of such election, 9 and shall in other respects conform to the requirements of the general 10 laws of the state of Washington, governing the time and manner of 11 12 holding elections. In submitting the question to the voters for their 13 approval or rejection, the proposition shall be expressed on the ballot 14 substantially in the following terms:

Public Utility District No. YES

16 Public Utility District No. NO

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Any petition for the formation of a public utility district may describe a less area than the entire county in which the petition is filed, the boundaries of which shall follow the then existing precinct boundaries and not divide any voting precinct; and in the event that such a petition is filed the county legislative authority shall fix a date for a hearing on such petition, and shall publish the petition, without the signatures thereto appended, for two weeks prior to the date of the hearing, together with a notice stating the time of the meeting when the petition will be heard. The publication, and all other publications required by chapter 1, Laws of 1931, shall be in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the district is The hearing on the petition may be adjourned from time to time, not exceeding four weeks in all. If upon the final hearing the county legislative authority shall find that any lands have been unjustly or improperly included within the proposed public utility district and will not be benefited by inclusion therein, it shall change and fix the boundary lines in such manner as it shall deem reasonable and just and conducive to the public welfare and convenience, and make and enter an order establishing and defining the boundary lines of the proposed public utility district: PROVIDED, That no lands shall be included within the boundaries so fixed lying outside the boundaries described in the petition, except upon the written

request of the owners of those lands. Thereafter the same procedure shall be followed as prescribed in this chapter for the formation of a public utility district including an entire county, except that the petition and election shall be confined solely to the lesser public utility district.

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No public utility district created after September 1, 1979, shall include any other public utility district within its boundaries: PROVIDED, That this paragraph shall not alter, amend, or modify provisions of chapter 54.32 RCW.

10 **Sec. 37.** RCW 54.08.070 and 1979 ex.s. c 240 s 2 are each amended 11 to read as follows:

Any district which does not own or operate electric facilities for the generation, transmission or distribution of electric power on March 25, 1969, or any district which hereafter does not construct or acquire such electric facilities within ten years of its creation, shall not construct or acquire any such electric facilities without the approval of such proposal by the voters of such district: PROVIDED, That a district shall have the power to construct or acquire electric facilities within ten years following its creation by action of its commission without voter approval of such action.

At any general election held in an even-numbered year, the proposal to construct or acquire electric facilities may be submitted to the voters of the district by resolution of the public utility district commission or shall be submitted to the voters of the district by the county legislative authority on petition of ten percent of the qualified electors of such district, based on the total vote cast in the last general county election held in an even-numbered year. A form of petition for the construction or acquisition of electric facilities by the public utility district shall be submitted to the county auditor within ten months prior to the election at which such proposition is to be submitted to the voters. Petitions shall be filed with the county auditor not less than four months before such election and the county auditor shall within thirty days examine the signatures thereof and certify to the sufficiency or insufficiency thereof. If such petition is found to be insufficient, it shall be returned to the persons filing the same, who may amend and add names thereto for ten days, when the same shall be returned to the county auditor, who shall have an

additional fifteen days to examine the same and attach his certificate 1 2 No person having signed such petition shall be allowed to withdraw his name therefrom after the filing of the same with the 3 county auditor: PROVIDED, That each signature shall be dated and that 4 5 no signature dated prior to the date on which the form of petition was submitted to the county auditor shall be valid. Whenever such petition 6 7 shall be certified to as sufficient, the county auditor shall forthwith transmit the same, together with his certificate of sufficiency 8 9 attached thereto, to the county legislative authority which shall submit such proposition to the voters of said district at the next 10 general election in an even-numbered year ((occurring forty-five days 11 after submission of the proposition to said legislative authority)) 12 13 according to RCW 29A.04.330. The notice of the election shall state the object of such election, and shall in other respects conform to the 14 requirements of the general laws of Washington, governing the time and 15 16 manner of holding elections.

The proposal submitted to the voters for their approval or rejection, shall be expressed on the ballot substantially in the following terms:

20 Shall Public Utility District No. . . . of County 21 construct or acquire electric facilities for the generation, 22 transmission or distribution of electric power?

23 Yes \square 24 No \square

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Within ten days after such election, the election board of the county shall canvass the returns, and if at such election a majority of the voters voting on such proposition shall vote in favor of such construction or acquisition of electric facilities, the district shall be authorized to construct or acquire electric facilities.

Sec. 38. RCW 57.04.050 and 1999 c 153 s 1 are each amended to read as follows:

Upon entry of the findings of the final hearing on the petition if one or more county legislative authorities find that the proposed district will be conducive to the public health, welfare, and convenience and will benefit the land therein, they shall present a resolution to the county auditor calling for a special election to be

held at a date ((specified under RCW 29.13.020, that occurs forty five 1 2 or more days after the resolution is presented)) according to RCW 29A.04.330, at which a ballot proposition authorizing the district to 3 be created shall be submitted to voters for their approval or 4 rejection. The commissioners shall cause to be published a notice of 5 the election for four successive weeks in a newspaper of general 6 7 circulation in the proposed district, which notice shall state the hours during which the polls will be open, the boundaries of the 8 district as finally adopted and the object of the election, and the 9 notice shall also be posted ten days in ten public places in the 10 proposed district. The district shall be created if the ballot 11 12 proposition authorizing the district to be created is approved by a 13 majority of the voters voting on the proposition.

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A separate ballot proposition authorizing the district, if created, to impose a single-year excess levy for the preliminary expenses of the district shall be submitted to voters for their approval or rejection at the same special election, if the petition to create the district also proposed that a ballot proposition authorizing an excess levy be submitted to voters for their approval or rejection. The excess levy shall be proposed in the amount specified in the petition to create the district, not to exceed one dollar and twenty-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value, and may only be submitted to voters for their approval or rejection if the special election is held in February, March, April, or May. The proposition to be effective must be approved in the manner set forth in Article VII, section 2(a) of the state Constitution.

- **Sec. 39.** RCW 70.44.235 and 1987 c 138 s 4 are each amended to read 27 as follows: 28
- (1) As provided in this section, a public hospital district may 30 withdraw areas from its boundaries, or reannex areas into the public 31 hospital district that previously had been withdrawn from the public hospital district under this section. 32
- (2) The withdrawal of an area shall be authorized upon: 33 Adoption of a resolution by the hospital district commissioners 34 requesting the withdrawal and finding that, in the opinion of the 35 36 commissioners, inclusion of this area within the public hospital district will result in a reduction of the district's tax levy rate 37

under the provisions of RCW 84.52.010; and (b) adoption of a resolution 1 2 by the city or town council approving the withdrawal, if the area is located within the city or town, or adoption of a resolution by the 3 county legislative authority of the county within which the area is 4 located approving the withdrawal, if the area is located outside of a 5 city or town. A withdrawal shall be effective at the end of the day on 6 7 the thirty-first day of December in the year in which the resolutions are adopted, but for purposes of establishing boundaries for property 8 9 tax purposes, the boundaries shall be established immediately upon the 10 adoption of the second resolution.

The withdrawal of an area from the boundaries of a public hospital district shall not exempt any property therein from taxation for the purpose of paying the costs of redeeming any indebtedness of the public hospital district existing at the time of the withdrawal.

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(3) An area that has been withdrawn from the boundaries of a public hospital district under this section may be reannexed into the public hospital district upon: (a) Adoption of a resolution by the hospital district commissioners proposing the reannexation; and (b) adoption of a resolution by the city or town council approving the reannexation, if the area is located within the city or town, or adoption of a resolution by the county legislative authority of the county within which the area is located approving the reannexation, if the area is located outside of a city or town. The reannexation shall be effective at the end of the day on the thirty-first day of December in the year in which the adoption of the second resolution occurs, but for purposes of establishing boundaries for property tax purposes, the boundaries shall be established immediately upon the adoption of the second resolution. Referendum action on the proposed reannexation may be taken by the voters of the area proposed to be reannexed if a petition calling for a referendum is filed with the city or town council, or county legislative authority, within a thirty-day period after the adoption of the second resolution, which petition has been signed by registered voters of the area proposed to be reannexed equal in number to ten percent of the total number of the registered voters residing in that area.

If a valid petition signed by the requisite number of registered voters has been so filed, the effect of the resolutions shall be held in abeyance and a ballot proposition to authorize the reannexation

- 1 shall be submitted to the voters of the area at the next special
- 2 election date ((specified in RCW 29.13.020 that occurs forty-five or
- 3 more days after the petitions have been validated)) according to RCW
- 4 29A.04.330. Approval of the ballot proposition authorizing the
- 5 reannexation by a simple majority vote shall authorize the
- 6 reannexation.
- 7 NEW SECTION. Sec. 40. RCW 29A.04.158 (September primary) and 2004
- 8 c 271 s 187 are each repealed.
- 9 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 41.** Sections 1 through 16 and 18 through 40 of
- 10 this act take effect January 1, 2007.
- 11 NEW SECTION. Sec. 42. Section 16 of this act expires July 1,
- 12 2013.
- 13 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 43.** Section 17 of this act takes effect July 1,
- 14 2013."

SB 6236 - S AMD

By Senators Kastama, Schmidt

ADOPTED 02/01/2006

- On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "deadlines;" strike the
- remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 29A.04.311, 29A.04.321,
- 17 29A.04.330, 29A.20.121, 29A.24.040, 29A.24.050, 29A.24.171, 29A.24.181,
- 18 29A.24.191, 29A.24.211, 29A.28.021, 29A.28.041, 29A.40.070, 29A.52.011,
- 19 29A.56.030, 29A.60.190, 27.12.355, 27.12.370, 35.02.086, 35.06.070,
- 20 35.13.1821, 35.13.480, 35.61.360, 35A.14.299, 35A.14.470, 36.24.190,
- 21 36.93.030, 42.12.040, 42.17.080, 42.17.710, 52.02.080, 52.04.056,
- 22 52.04.071, 53.04.110, 54.08.010, 54.08.070, 57.04.050, and 70.44.235;
- 23 reenacting and amending RCW 29A.60.190; repealing RCW 29A.04.158;
- 24 providing effective dates; and providing an expiration date."

--- END ---