

**SSB 5499** - S AMD TO S AMD (KAST HESS 012)101  
By Senator Roach

1 On page 1 after line 3 of the amendment, insert the following:

2 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The uniform application of election laws,  
3 rules, and procedures is of the paramount importance to the citizens of  
4 this state. It is the intent of the legislature to make the position  
5 of county auditor, and of the chief elections official, however named,  
6 in all counties an elective office. This act therefore applies to all  
7 counties, including without limitation counties operating under a home  
8 rule charter.

9 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.04.216 and 2004 c 271 s 104 are each amended to  
10 read as follows:

11 The county auditor, as chief elections officer, of each county  
12 shall be ex officio the supervisor of all primaries and elections,  
13 general or special, and it shall be the county auditor's duty to  
14 provide places for holding such primaries and elections; to appoint the  
15 precinct election officers and to provide for their compensation; to  
16 provide the supplies and materials necessary for the conduct of  
17 elections to the precinct election officers; and to publish and post  
18 notices of calling such primaries and elections in the manner provided  
19 by law. The notice of a primary held in an even-numbered year must  
20 indicate that the office of precinct committee officer will be on the  
21 ballot. The auditor shall also apportion to each city, town, or  
22 district, and to the state of Washington in the odd-numbered year, its  
23 share of the expense of such primaries and elections. This section  
24 does not apply to general or special elections for any city, town, or  
25 district that is not subject to RCW 29A.04.321 and 29A.04.330, but all  
26 such elections must be held and conducted at the time, in the manner,  
27 and by the officials (with such notice, requirements for filing for  
28 office, and certifications by local officers) as provided and required  
29 by the laws governing such elections.

1       **Sec. 3.** RCW 36.16.030 and 1996 c 108 s 1 are each amended to read  
2 as follows:

3       Except as provided elsewhere in this section, in every county there  
4 shall be elected from among the qualified voters of the county a county  
5 assessor, a county auditor, a county clerk, a county coroner, three  
6 county commissioners, a county prosecuting attorney, a county sheriff  
7 and a county treasurer, except that in each county with a population of  
8 less than forty thousand no coroner shall be elected and the  
9 prosecuting attorney shall be ex officio coroner. Whenever the  
10 population of a county increases to forty thousand or more, the  
11 prosecuting attorney shall continue as ex officio coroner until a  
12 coroner is elected, at the next general election at which the office of  
13 prosecuting attorney normally would be elected, and assumes office as  
14 provided in RCW ((~~29.04.170~~)) 29A.20.040. In any county where the  
15 population has once attained forty thousand people and a current  
16 coroner is in office and a subsequent census indicates less than forty  
17 thousand people, the county legislative authority may maintain the  
18 office of coroner by resolution or ordinance. If the county  
19 legislative authority has not passed a resolution or enacted an  
20 ordinance to maintain the office of coroner, the elected coroner shall  
21 remain in office for the remainder of the term for which he or she was  
22 elected, but no coroner shall be elected at the next election at which  
23 that office would otherwise be filled and the prosecuting attorney  
24 shall be the ex officio coroner. In a county with a population of two  
25 hundred fifty thousand or more, the county legislative authority may  
26 replace the office of coroner with a medical examiner system and  
27 appoint a medical examiner as specified in RCW 36.24.190. A noncharter  
28 county may have five county commissioners as provided in RCW 36.32.010  
29 and 36.32.055 through 36.32.0558."

30       Renumber the sections consecutively and correct any internal  
31 references accordingly.

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2 By Senator Roach

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4 On page 20, on line 20 of the title amendment, after "RCW", insert  
5 "29A.04.216, 36.16.030,"

6 On page 20, line 26 of the title amendment, after "RCW;" insert  
7 "creating a new section;"

« END ---

**EFFECT:** (1) Requires that all county auditors, including carter  
counties, are an elective office;  
(2) Requires that the county auditor be the chief elections  
officer.