
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2807

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By House State Government & Tribal Affairs (originally sponsored by Representatives Schual-Berke, Hunt, Lantz, Cody, Hudgins, Ormsby, Miloscia, Appleton, Green, Wood, Hankins, and Kagi)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/08.

1 AN ACT Relating to voters' pamphlets; amending RCW 29A.32.010,
2 29A.32.031, 29A.32.110, and 29A.32.210; and adding new sections to
3 chapter 29A.32 RCW.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.32.010 and 2003 c 111 s 801 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 The secretary of state shall, whenever at least one statewide
8 measure or office is scheduled to appear on the general election
9 ballot, print and distribute a voters' pamphlet.

10 The secretary of state shall distribute the voters' pamphlet to
11 each household in the state, to public libraries, and to any other
12 locations he or she deems appropriate. The secretary of state shall
13 also produce taped or Braille transcripts of the voters' pamphlet,
14 publicize their availability, and mail without charge a copy to any
15 person who requests one.

16 The secretary of state (~~may~~) shall make the material required to
17 be distributed by this chapter available to the public (~~in electronic~~
18 ~~form~~) on his or her web site. The secretary of state may provide

1 ((the)) material in electronic form to computer bulletin boards, print
2 and broadcast news media, community computer networks, and similar
3 services at the cost of reproduction or transmission of the data.

4 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.32.031 and 2008 c 1 s 12 (Initiative Measure No.
5 960) are each amended to read as follows:

6 The voters' pamphlet must contain:

7 (1) Information about each measure for an advisory vote of the
8 people and each ballot measure initiated by or referred to the voters
9 for their approval or rejection as required by RCW 29A.32.070;

10 (2) In even-numbered years, statements, if submitted, advocating
11 the candidacies of nominees for the office of president and vice
12 president of the United States, United States senator, United States
13 representative, governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state,
14 state treasurer, state auditor, attorney general, commissioner of
15 public lands, superintendent of public instruction, insurance
16 commissioner, state senator, state representative, justice of the
17 supreme court, judge of the court of appeals, or judge of the superior
18 court. Candidates may also submit a campaign mailing address and
19 telephone number and a photograph not more than five years old and of
20 a size and quality that the secretary of state determines to be
21 suitable for reproduction in the voters' pamphlet. Candidates are
22 encouraged to submit digital photographs and statements electronically;

23 (3) In odd-numbered years, if any office voted upon statewide
24 appears on the ballot due to a vacancy, then statements and photographs
25 for candidates for any vacant office listed in subsection (2) of this
26 section must appear;

27 (4) In even-numbered years, a section explaining how voters may
28 participate in the election campaign process; the address and telephone
29 number of the public disclosure commission established under RCW
30 42.17.350; and a summary of the disclosure requirements that apply when
31 contributions are made to candidates and political committees;

32 (5) In even-numbered years the name, address, and telephone number
33 of each political party with nominees listed in the pamphlet, if filed
34 with the secretary of state by the state committee of a major political
35 party or the presiding officer of the convention of a minor political
36 party;

1 (6) In each odd-numbered year immediately before a year in which a
2 president of the United States is to be nominated and elected,
3 information explaining the precinct caucus and convention process used
4 by each major political party to elect delegates to its national
5 presidential candidate nominating convention. The pamphlet must also
6 provide a description of the statutory procedures by which minor
7 political parties are formed and the statutory methods used by the
8 parties to nominate candidates for president;

9 (7) An application form for an absentee ballot;

10 (8) A brief statement explaining the deletion and addition of
11 language for proposed measures under RCW 29A.32.080;

12 (9) Any additional information pertaining to elections as may be
13 required by law or in the judgment of the secretary of state is deemed
14 informative to the voters.

15 **Sec. 3.** RCW 29A.32.110 and 2003 c 111 s 811 are each amended to
16 read as follows:

17 All photographs of candidates submitted for publication must
18 conform to standards established by the secretary of state by rule.
19 Candidates are encouraged to submit digital photographs and statements
20 electronically. No photograph may reveal clothing or insignia
21 suggesting the holding of a public office.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 29A.32 RCW
23 to read as follows:

24 The secretary of state must make available on its web site an
25 electronic voters' pamphlet for every primary election and general
26 election in which any office listed under RCW 29A.32.031 is scheduled
27 to appear on the primary or general election ballot, including any
28 office appearing on the ballot due to a vacancy. The information
29 included in the electronic voters' pamphlet shall conform to the
30 requirements of this chapter.

31 **Sec. 5.** RCW 29A.32.210 and 2003 c 111 s 813 are each amended to
32 read as follows:

33 At least ninety days before any primary or general election, or at
34 least forty days before any special election held under RCW
35 (~~29A.04.320~~) 29A.04.321 or 29A.04.330, the legislative authority of

1 any county or first-class or code city may adopt an ordinance
2 authorizing the publication and distribution of a local voters'
3 pamphlet. The pamphlet shall provide information on all measures
4 (~~within that jurisdiction and may, if specified in the ordinance,~~
5 ~~include information on~~) and candidates within that jurisdiction,
6 including judicial candidates. If both a county and a first-class or
7 code city within that county authorize a local voters' pamphlet for the
8 same election, the pamphlet shall be produced jointly by the county and
9 the first-class or code city. If no agreement can be reached between
10 the county and first-class or code city, the county and first-class or
11 code city may each produce a pamphlet. Any ordinance adopted
12 authorizing a local voters' pamphlet may be for a specific primary,
13 special election, or general election or for any future primaries or
14 elections. The format of any local voters' pamphlet shall, whenever
15 applicable, comply with the provisions of this chapter regarding the
16 publication of the state candidates' and voters' pamphlets.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 29A.32 RCW
18 to read as follows:

19 Each county elections department must make available on the
20 county's web site a primary voters' pamphlet and a general election
21 voters' pamphlet any time in which any office within that county not
22 covered in RCW 29A.32.031 is scheduled to appear on the primary or
23 general election ballot, including judicial office and any office on
24 the ballot due to a vacancy. The electronic voters' pamphlets shall
25 include information on all measures within that jurisdiction and
26 candidates' statements and photographs. Candidates' statements may not
27 be more than one hundred fifty words. The information included in the
28 electronic voters' pamphlets shall conform to the requirements of this
29 chapter. Candidates are encouraged to submit digital photographs and
30 statements electronically. If the secretary of state has candidate
31 information required under RCW 29A.32.031 that is applicable to the
32 county, the county shall use the secretary of state's information or
33 provide a link from the county's electronic voters' pamphlet to the
34 secretary of state's electronic voters' pamphlet.

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