
SENATE BILL 6610

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Senators Kuderer, Hunt, Pedersen, and Wilson, C.

Read first time 01/24/20. Referred to Committee on State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to advisory votes; amending RCW 29A.32.031,
2 29A.32.070, 29A.64.090, 29A.72.040, 29A.72.250, and 29A.72.290;
3 creating a new section; repealing RCW 29A.72.283, 29A.72.285, and
4 43.135.041; and providing an expiration date.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.32.031 and 2013 c 283 s 2 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 The voters' pamphlet published or distributed under RCW
9 29A.32.010 must contain:

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

13 (2) In even-numbered years, statements, if submitted, from
14 candidates for the office of president and vice president of the
15 United States, United States senator, United States representative,
16 governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, state treasurer,
17 state auditor, attorney general, commissioner of public lands,
18 superintendent of public instruction, insurance commissioner, state
19 senator, state representative, justice of the supreme court, judge of
20 the court of appeals, or judge of the superior court. Candidates may
21 also submit campaign contact information and a photograph not more

1 than five years old in a format that the secretary of state
2 determines to be suitable for reproduction in the voters' pamphlet;

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

7 (4) Contact information for the public disclosure commission
8 established under RCW 42.17A.100, including the following statement:
9 "For a list of the people and organizations that donated to state and
10 local candidates and ballot measure campaigns, visit www.pdc.wa.gov."
11 The statement must be placed in a prominent position, such as on the
12 cover or on the first two pages of the voters' pamphlet. The
13 secretary of state may substitute such language as is necessary for
14 accuracy and clarity and consistent with the intent of this section;

15 (5) Contact information for major political parties;

16 (6) A brief statement explaining the deletion and addition of
17 language for proposed measures under RCW 29A.32.080; and

18 (7) Any additional information pertaining to elections as may be
19 required by law or in the judgment of the secretary of state is
20 deemed informative to the voters.

21 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.32.070 and 2016 c 83 s 1 are each amended to
22 read as follows:

23 The secretary of state shall determine the format and layout of
24 the voters' pamphlet published under RCW 29A.32.010. The secretary of
25 state shall print the pamphlet in clear, readable type on a size,
26 quality, and weight of paper that in the judgment of the secretary of
27 state best serves the voters. The pamphlet must contain a table of
28 contents. Measures and arguments must be printed in the order
29 specified by RCW 29A.72.290.

30 The secretary of state's name may not appear in the voters'
31 pamphlet in his or her official capacity if the secretary is a
32 candidate for office during the same year. His or her name may only
33 be included as part of the information normally included for
34 candidates.

35 The voters' pamphlet must provide the following information for
36 each statewide issue on the ballot (~~except measures for an advisory~~
37 ~~vote of the people whose requirements are provided in subsection (11)~~
38 ~~of this section~~):

- 1 (1) The legal identification of the measure by serial designation
2 or number;
- 3 (2) The official ballot title of the measure;
- 4 (3) A statement prepared by the attorney general explaining the
5 law as it presently exists;
- 6 (4) A statement prepared by the attorney general explaining the
7 effect of the proposed measure if it becomes law;
- 8 (5) The fiscal impact statement prepared under RCW 29A.72.025;
- 9 (6) The total number of votes cast for and against the measure in
10 the senate and house of representatives, if the measure has been
11 passed by the legislature;
- 12 (7) An argument advocating the voters' approval of the measure
13 together with any statement in rebuttal of the opposing argument;
- 14 (8) An argument advocating the voters' rejection of the measure
15 together with any statement in rebuttal of the opposing argument;
- 16 (9) Each argument or rebuttal statement must be followed by the
17 names of the committee members who submitted them, and may be
18 followed by a telephone number that citizens may call to obtain
19 information on the ballot measure;
- 20 (10) The full text of the measure((†
- 21 ~~(11) Two pages shall be provided in the general election voters'~~
22 ~~pamphlet for each measure for an advisory vote of the people under~~
23 ~~RCW 43.135.041 and shall consist of the serial number assigned by the~~
24 ~~secretary of state under RCW 29A.72.040, the short description~~
25 ~~formulated by the attorney general under RCW 29A.72.283, the tax~~
26 ~~increase's most up-to-date ten-year cost projection, including a~~
27 ~~year-by-year breakdown, by the office of financial management under~~
28 ~~RCW 43.135.031, and the names of the legislators, and their contact~~
29 ~~information, and how they voted on the increase upon final passage so~~
30 ~~they can provide information to, and answer questions from, the~~
31 ~~public. For the purposes of this subsection, "names of legislators,~~
32 ~~and their contact information" includes each legislator's position~~
33 ~~(senator or representative), first name, last name, party affiliation~~
34 ~~(for example, Democrat or Republican), city or town they live in,~~
35 ~~office phone number, and office email address)).~~

36 **Sec. 3.** RCW 29A.64.090 and 2016 c 204 s 1 are each amended to
37 read as follows:

38 When the official canvass of returns of any election reveals that
39 the difference in the number of votes cast for the approval of a

1 statewide measure and the number of votes cast for the rejection of
2 such measure is less than two thousand votes and also less than one-
3 half of one percent of the total number of votes cast on such
4 measure, the secretary of state shall direct that a recount of all
5 votes cast on such measure be made on such measure, in the manner
6 provided by RCW 29A.64.041 and 29A.64.061, and the cost of such
7 recount will be at state expense. (~~This section does not apply to~~
8 ~~any statewide advisory vote of the people that was placed on the~~
9 ~~ballot pursuant to RCW 43.135.041 and the secretary of state shall~~
10 ~~not direct any recount for any statewide advisory vote of the~~
11 ~~people.~~)

12 **Sec. 4.** RCW 29A.72.040 and 2008 c 1 s 7 are each amended to read
13 as follows:

14 The secretary of state shall give a serial number to each
15 initiative, referendum bill, or referendum measure, (~~or measure for~~
16 ~~an advisory vote of the people,~~) using a separate series for
17 initiatives to the legislature, initiatives to the people, referendum
18 bills, and referendum measures, (~~and measures for an advisory vote~~
19 ~~of the people,~~) and forthwith transmit one copy of the measure
20 proposed bearing its serial number to the attorney general.
21 Thereafter a measure shall be known and designated on all petitions,
22 ballots, and proceedings as "Initiative Measure No.,"
23 "Referendum Bill No.," or "Referendum Measure No.
24 (~~r~~).)" (~~or "Advisory Vote No."~~)

25 **Sec. 5.** RCW 29A.72.250 and 2013 c 11 s 75 are each amended to
26 read as follows:

27 If a referendum or initiative petition for submission of a
28 measure to the people is found sufficient, the secretary of state
29 shall at the time and in the manner that he or she certifies to the
30 county auditors of the various counties the names of candidates for
31 state and district officers certify to each county auditor the serial
32 numbers and ballot titles of the several initiative and referendum
33 measures (~~and serial numbers and short descriptions of measures~~
34 ~~submitted for an advisory vote of the people~~) to be voted upon at
35 the next ensuing general election or special election ordered by the
36 legislature.

1 **Sec. 6.** RCW 29A.72.290 and 2013 c 11 s 76 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 The county auditor of each county shall print the serial numbers
4 and ballot titles certified by the secretary of state on the official
5 ballots for the election at which initiative and referendum measures
6 (~~and measures for an advisory vote of the people~~) are to be
7 submitted to the people for their approval or rejection(~~(, the serial~~
8 ~~numbers and ballot titles certified by the secretary of state and the~~
9 ~~serial numbers and short descriptions of measures for an advisory~~
10 ~~vote of the people)~~). They must appear under separate headings in the
11 order of the serial numbers as follows:

- 12 (1) Initiatives to the people;
- 13 (2) Referendum measures;
- 14 (3) Referendum bills;
- 15 (4) Initiatives to the legislature;
- 16 (5) Initiatives to the legislature and legislative alternatives;
- 17 (6) (~~Advisory votes;~~
- 18 ~~(7)~~) Proposed constitutional amendments.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** (1) The advisory vote task force is
20 established to provide recommendations to the legislature on how best
21 to gather and report public input on legislation with significant
22 fiscal impact.

23 (2) The advisory vote task force must consist of:

24 (a) Two members from the house of representatives, with one
25 member appointed from each of the two largest caucuses of the house
26 of representatives by the speaker of the house of representatives and
27 the minority leader of the house of representatives;

28 (b) Two members from the senate, with one member appointed from
29 each of the two largest caucuses of the senate by the majority leader
30 and minority leader of the senate;

31 (c) The secretary of state;

32 (d) Three county elections officials, appointed by the Washington
33 state association of county officials; and

34 (e) Four members of the public, with one member appointed by each
35 of the four major caucuses of the legislature.

36 (3) The task force shall meet at least four times. The meetings
37 of the task force must be scheduled and conducted in accordance with
38 the requirements of both the senate and the house of representatives.
39 The expenses of the task force shall be paid jointly by the senate

1 and the house of representatives. Task force meetings and
2 expenditures are subject to approval by the senate facilities and
3 operations committee and the house of representatives executive rules
4 committee, or their successor committees.

5 (4) Legislative members of the task force may be reimbursed for
6 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative
7 members, except those representing an employer, governmental entity,
8 or other organization, are entitled to be reimbursed for travel
9 expenses as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

10 (5) Staff support for the task force shall be provided by the
11 office of the secretary of state.

12 (6) The task force shall report its findings and recommendations
13 to the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2020.

14 (7) This section expires December 31, 2020.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The following acts or parts of acts are
16 each repealed:

17 (1) RCW 29A.72.283 (Advisory vote on tax legislation—Short
18 description) and 2008 c 1 s 8;

19 (2) RCW 29A.72.285 (Advisory vote on tax legislation—Short
20 description filing and transmittal) and 2008 c 1 s 9; and

21 (3) RCW 43.135.041 (Tax legislation—Advisory vote—Duties of the
22 attorney general and secretary of state—Exemption) and 2013 c 1 s 6,
23 2016 c 1 s 5, 2010 c 4 s 3, & 2008 c 1 s 6.

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