Washington State House of Representatives Office of Program Research



State Government & Tribal Relations Committee

HB 2032

Brief Description: Reducing the size of yard signs that are exempt from certain political advertising disclosure requirements.

Sponsors: Representatives Cheney, Low and Ramos.

Brief Summary of Bill

• Narrows the exemption from requirements to display sponsors and donors on political advertisement yard signs to apply only to signs that are 24 inches by 18 inches or smaller, rather than to signs no greater than 8 feet by 4 feet.

Hearing Date: 1/10/24

Staff: Jason Zolle (786-7124).

Background:

Under state law, political advertisements for candidates or ballot propositions must include certain disclosures:

- All advertisements must include the name of the sponsor.
- For candidates for partisan office, the candidate's party or independent preference must be included.
- If the advertisement is undertaken by someone other than a political party, it must state that no candidate authorized the advertisement, and it must include the name of who paid for it.
- If the advertisement is sponsored by a political committee, it must include a list of the committee's top five contributors; and if any of those contributors are political committees,

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a list of the top three donors to each committee must be included, and so on.

State law regulates the location, size, and display of such disclosures in visual or print advertisements.

Political advertisement yard signs that are 8 feet by 4 feet in size or smaller are exempt from the requirement to include the name of the sponsor, as well as the the committee's top five contributors and the top three donors to political committees.

Summary of Bill:

The exemption from disclosure requirements for political advertisement yard signs is narrowed to apply only to signs that are 24 inches by 18 inches or smaller.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.