
HOUSE BILL 1174

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Representatives Simmons, Farivar, Reed, Street, Bateman, Ramel, Macri, Reeves, Lekanoff, Davis, and Ormsby

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1 AN ACT Relating to improving access and removing barriers to
2 jail-based voting; adding a new section to chapter 29A.04 RCW; and
3 adding a new chapter to Title 29A RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 29A.04
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 "Jail" means a county, city, or tribal jail located in
8 Washington.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) Each county auditor's office must
10 designate one employee as the jail voting coordinator for the county.

11 (2) Each jail must designate one employee as the jail voting
12 coordinator for the jail.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) Each county auditor must create a jail
14 voting plan for each jail within the county. The plan must be created
15 in consultation with the jail voting coordinator at each jail and
16 with the office of the secretary of state.

17 (2) The jail voting plan must include, at a minimum, details
18 about how the jail will help people who are incarcerated to:

- 1 (a) Register to vote or update their voter registration
2 information;
- 3 (b) Access proof of their identification or residency as may be
4 necessary to register to vote;
- 5 (c) Access information about, and materials necessary for,
6 eligibility for voting and voting rights restoration;
- 7 (d) Access information about candidates and other nonpartisan
8 voter education materials, including the relevant voters' pamphlets;
- 9 (e) Access the necessary writing materials to fill out ballots;
10 and
- 11 (f) Complete their ballots in secret.
- 12 (3) The jail voting plans must also include, at a minimum,
13 details about how the jail will:
- 14 (a) Provide visible information regarding registering to vote and
15 accessing a ballot for people who are incarcerated;
- 16 (b) Ensure that all people who are incarcerated are made aware of
17 key dates for registering to vote and returning a ballot; and
- 18 (c) Accommodate people with disabilities to register to vote and
19 fill out ballots.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) Jails must provide people who are
21 incarcerated with access to voter registration information, ballot-
22 related information, and ballots in accordance with their jail voting
23 plan developed under section 3 of this act. Ballots must be made
24 accessible to registered voters starting at least 18 days before a
25 primary or election.

26 (2) Jails must permit election officials from the county
27 auditor's office and the secretary of state's office to enter the
28 jail at least 30 days in advance of each primary and election in
29 order to provide voter registration outreach and education to people
30 who are incarcerated.

31 (3) Jails must provide information about, and materials necessary
32 for, registering to vote to all people who are released from the
33 jail's custody at the time of their release.

34 (4) Jails must document all voting-related requests and
35 complaints made by people who are incarcerated.

36 (5) County auditors and jails must collect data related to voter
37 registration and ballot return from people who are incarcerated.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 2 through 4 of this act
2 constitute a new chapter in Title 29A RCW.

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